
Minutes of the Meeting on August 21, 2018

OPENING ITEMS

1. Call to Order.

Oberstein called the Ethics Commission meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

Present: Vice President Serena Oberstein
Commissioner Shedrick Davis
Commissioner Melinda Murray
Commissioner Andrea Sheridan Ordin

Absent: Commissioner Araceli Campos

2. Election of president and vice president for Fiscal Year 2018-19, pursuant to Los Angeles City Charter sections 700(b) and 503(a).

Murray nominated Oberstein for president, and Ordin seconded. Oberstein was elected 4-0. Oberstein nominated Murray for vice president, and Ordin seconded. Murray was elected 4-0.

Public comment was received from Rob Quan.

On advice from the City Attorney's office, Ordin moved to reconsider the votes following public comment, and Murray seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Murray nominated Oberstein for president, and Ordin seconded. Oberstein was elected 4-0. Oberstein nominated Murray for vice president, and Ordin seconded. Murray was elected 4-0.

3. Approval of minutes for the meetings on June 19 and July 23, 2018.

Ordin moved to approve the minutes for both meetings, and Oberstein seconded. The minutes were approved 4-0.

4. Possible discussion with authorized neighborhood council representatives.

No neighborhood council resolutions or community impact statements were submitted or discussed.

ACTION ITEMS

5. Proposed stipulation in Case No. 2017-08, *In the Matter of Christopher Pak* (alleged excess contributions).

Staff recommended approving a stipulated order imposing administrative penalties of \$15,000.

Public comment was received from Rob Quan.

Action: Oberstein moved to approve the proposed stipulation, and Murray seconded. The stipulation was approved 4-0.

6. Continued review of key campaign finance laws, including contributions, disclosure, and the matching funds program.

A staff report summarized previous discussions, public comments, and data. It also presented draft ordinance language to implement possible amendments.

Public comment was received from Nick Greif, Michael Shenk, Sean McMorris, Carolina Goodman, Rob Quan, Calvin Sloan, Mylene Carberry, Carlos Marroquin, David Levitus, Shaheen Dhanji, Anthony Conley, Wayne Spindler, and Herman.

Actions: Ordin moved to reduce to 100 the number of in-district contributions a candidate must receive to qualify for matching funds, and Oberstein seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Ordin moved to maintain the existing aggregate contribution thresholds for matching funds qualification, and Oberstein seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Ordin moved to require matching funds candidates to participate in a debate or a town hall and that a town hall be defined as an event that is open to the public, the media, and other candidates, at which the public can ask the candidates questions, and Oberstein seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Oberstein moved to provide a 6:1 match rate to all qualified matching funds candidates in both primary and general elections and eliminate the signature requirement, and Ordin seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Murray moved to adjust the maximum funding available to qualified matching funds candidates according to the CPI formula in the Campaign Finance Ordinance and annually thereafter, and Oberstein seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Ordin moved to maintain the existing maximum amount per contributor that may be matched with public funds, and Murray seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Oberstein moved to consolidate the two existing contributor certifications and make them mandatory under penalty of perjury, and Murray seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Ordin moved to continue the discussion regarding a ban on developer contributions and a related recusal requirement until the next meeting so that a subcommittee could further consider the issues, and Oberstein seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Oberstein moved to maintain the existing per-person contribution limits and reassess them after the 2020 elections, and Murray seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Ordin moved to eliminate the Campaign Finance Ordinance references to Los Angeles City Charter § 470(c)(6) in the wake of the *McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission* ruling, and Oberstein seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Murray moved to approve the recommended technical updates, including streamlining and eliminating unnecessary language in the Campaign Finance Ordinance and the Los Angeles Administrative Code, and Ordin seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

INFORMATION ITEMS

7. Lobbying summary (2nd Quarter 2018).

The staff report was received and filed.

Public comment was received from Wayne from Encino and Herman.

8. Recusal summary (2nd Quarter 2018).

The staff report was received and filed.

Public comment was received from Wayne from Encino and Herman.

9. Pre-confirmation statements of economic interests.

The staff report was received and filed.

Public comment was received from Wayne from Encino and Herman.

10. Policy and legislation report.

The staff report was received and filed.

Public comment was received from Wayne from Encino and Herman.

11. Executive director's report.

The report was received and filed. The executive director introduced new staff and highlighted the Ethics Commission website, which won a technology award.

Public comment was received from Wayne from Encino and Herman.

CLOSING ITEMS

12. General public comment.

Public comment was received from Wayne from Encino and Herman.

13. Announcements and requests to schedule items on future agendas.

No announcements or requests for future items were made.

14. Adjournment.

Ordin moved to adjourn the meeting, and Oberstein seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m. by a vote of 4-0.

A complete recording of this meeting, excluding closed sessions, is on file as a public record and may be accessed at ethics.lacity.org.