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## *Minutes of the Meeting on February 19, 2019*

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### **OPENING ITEMS**

#### **1. Call to Order.**

Murray called the Ethics Commission meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Present: President Melinda Murray  
Vice President Andrea Sheridan Ordin  
Commissioner Araceli Campos  
Commissioner Shedrick Davis

Absent: None

#### **2. Approval of minutes for the meeting on December 18, 2018.**

Ordin moved to approve the minutes, and Davis seconded. The minutes were approved 4-0.

#### **3. Possible discussion with authorized neighborhood council representatives.**

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

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **4. Proposed stipulation in Case No. 2017-10, *In the Matter of J. Roy Garcia, J. Roy Garcia for City Council #6 2013, and Hardy Henriquez* (alleged acceptance of laundered contributions, filing of a fraudulent request for public matching funds, and misuse of matching funds).**

Staff recommended approving a stipulated order imposing administrative penalties of \$38,371 and requiring the return of \$2,000 in public matching funds.

No public comment was received.

Action: Ordin moved to approve the order, and Davis seconded. The order was approved 4-0.

**5. Review of recusals by Jill Banks Barad, a member of the Board of Water and Power Commissioners.**

Staff provided an analysis of the financial interests that led to a Charter § 707 recusal review for Commissioner Banks Barad and recommended finding that the conflict is not significant at this time.

No public comment was received.

Action: Davis moved to adopt a resolution finding that a significant conflict does not exist at this time, and Campos seconded. The resolution was adopted 4-0.

**6. Restrictions on campaign contributions and behested payments.**

Staff presented options for regulating contributions from and fundraising by developers and non-individuals. Staff also presented options for regulating behested payments.

Public comment was received from Trent Lange, Councilmember David Ryu, Yasmine Ross, Katherine Carpio, Jill Stewart, Jane Hirsch, David Levitus, Rob Quan, Mylene Carberry, Torene Svitil, Kati Phillips, David Burke, Ileana Wachtel, Sean McMorris, Kiyana Asemanfar, Carolina Goodman, Sam Turley, Richard King, Wayne Williams, Jane Cook, Brad Kane, Eric Preven, and Jeanine Rohn.

Action: Campos moved to approve the recommendations regarding contributions from and fundraising by non-individuals, and Ordin seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Ordin moved to modify the definition of “principal” so that it maintains the existing definition for bidders and contractors and adds persons identified in a land use entitlement application as members of the project team and to approve the remaining recommendations regarding contributions from and fundraising by developers, except for the recommendations regarding the time lines for the ban and the moratorium for violators. Davis seconded, and the motion passed 4-0.

Davis moved to approve the recommendations regarding the time lines for the ban and the moratorium for violators and to add language authorizing the Ethics Commission to adopt regulations regarding mitigating circumstances related to the imposition of a moratorium. Ordin seconded, and the motion passed 4-0.

Campos moved to reduce the disclosure threshold for behested payments to \$1,000, and Ordin seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Ordin moved to approve the recommendation to ban the solicitation of behested payments from restricted sources, and Davis seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Ordin moved to approve the recommendation to require more disclosure regarding persons who make behested payments, and Campos seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

**7. Modifications to the qualification requirements for candidates participating in the matching funds program.**

Staff presented options for reducing the aggregate contribution threshold, recommended clarifications to the debate and town hall requirement, and recommended technical amendments.

Public comment was received from Trent Lange, Yasmine Ross, Katherine Carpio, Eric Preven, David Levitus, Mylene Carberry, Rob Quan, Kati Phillips, David Burke, Sean McMorris, Kiyana Asemanfar, Ileana Wachtel, Wayne Williams, Sam Turley, David Graham-Caso, and Jill Stewart.

Action: Campos moved to reduce the aggregate contribution threshold to reflect the number of contributions identified in the motion introduced by Councilmember Bonin, and Ordin seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Ordin moved to approve the recommendations to clarify the debate and town hall requirement and to add language requiring the events to last at least 60 minutes, and Davis seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Ordin moved to approve the recommended technical amendments, and Davis seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

**8. Determination regarding the sufficiency of the matching funds trust fund for the 2019 special primary election in City Council District 12.**

Staff provided an analysis of the matching funds trust fund and recommended finding that the trust fund is sufficient to provide maximum funding to all candidates in the 2019 special primary and general elections in Council District 12.

No public comment was received.

Action: Ordin moved to adopt a resolution finding that the trust fund is sufficient to provide maximum funding to all candidates in the 2019 special primary and general elections in City Council District 12, and Campos seconded. The resolution was adopted 4-0.

**9. Amended Lexis-Nexis contract.**

Staff recommended approving an amended contract, which extends the term through December 31, 2020, and authorizing the executive director to execute the contract.

No public comment was received.

Action: Ordin moved to adopt a resolution approving the contract and authorizing the executive director to execute it, and Campos seconded. The resolution was adopted 4-0.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **10. Election update (special 2019 City and LAUSD elections and regular 2020 City and LAUSD elections).**

The staff report was received and filed.

No public comment was received.

### **11. Recusal summary (4th quarter 2018).**

The staff report was received and filed.

No public comment was received.

### **12. Pre-confirmation statements of economic interests.**

The staff report was received and filed.

No public comment was received.

### **13. Policy and legislation update.**

The staff report was received and filed.

No public comment was received.

### **14. Executive director's report.**

The staff report was received and filed.

No public comment was received.

## **CLOSING ITEMS**

### **15. General public comment.**

No general public comment was received.

### **16. Announcements and requests to schedule items on future agendas.**

No announcements or requests for future items were made.

### **17. Adjournment.**

Ordin moved to adjourn the meeting, and Campos seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:26 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](http://ethics.lacity.org).*