
Minutes of the Meeting on December 10, 2019

OPENING ITEMS

1. Call to Order.

Murray called the Ethics Commission meeting to order at 9:43 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 October 22, 2019.

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

No public comment was received.

3. Possible discussion with authorized neighborhood council representatives.

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

No public comment was received.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Proposed stipulations in Case No. 2019-31, *In the Matter of Gary Benjamin and Alchemy Planning, LLC* (alleged failure to register as a lobbying entity and file lobbying disclosure reports).

Staff recommended approving a stipulated order imposing administrative penalties totaling \$37,500.

Public comment was received from Bradley Hertz.

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

5. Review of recusals by Joseph Halper, a member of the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners.

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

No public comment was received.

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

6. Review of recusals by Edward Renwick, the vice president of the Board of Harbor Commissioners.

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

No public comment was received.

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

7. Determination regarding the sufficiency of the matching funds trust fund for the regular 2020 elections.

Staff provided an analysis of the matching funds trust fund and recommended finding that the fund balance is sufficient to provide full funding to all qualified candidates in the regular 2020 elections.

Public comment was received from Rob Quan and Sean McMorris.

Action: Ordin moved to adopt a resolution finding that qualified candidates are eligible to receive 100 percent of the maximum funding available to them in the regular 2020 primary and general elections, and Campos seconded. The resolution was adopted 4-0.

8. Professional services agreement with the California Office of Administrative Hearings.

Staff recommended approving a professional services agreement with the Office of Administrative Hearings, with a five-year term and payments by the City not to exceed \$48,000.

No public comment was received.

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

9. Regular meeting schedule for 2020.

Staff recommended dates for regular commission meetings in 2020.

Public comment was received from Rob Quan.

Action: Ordin moved to approve the recommended schedule and evaluate other possible meeting dates, and Davis seconded. The motion was approved 4-0.

INFORMATION ITEMS

10. Election Update (regular 2020 City and LAUSD elections).

The staff report was received and filed.

No public comment was received.

11. Lobbying Summary (3rd quarter 2019).

The staff report was received and filed.

No public comment was received.

12. Recusal Summary (3rd quarter 2019).

The staff report was received and filed.

No public comment was received.

13. Pre-confirmation statements of economic interests.

The staff report was received and filed.

No public comment was received.

14. Policy and legislation update.

The staff report was received and filed.

No public comment was received.

15. Executive director's report.

The executive director highlighted work accomplished in 2019 and welcomed new investigator Rodney Stewart.

No public comment was received.

CLOSING ITEMS

16. General public comment.

No general public comment was received.

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

No announcements or requests for future items were made.

18. Adjournment.

Murray adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

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