
Minutes of the Meeting on June 23, 2020

OPENING ITEMS

Murray provided introductory remarks, including instructions for how to listen to and provide public comment during the meeting.

1. Call to Order.

Murray called the Ethics Commission meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and welcomed Commissioner Daar to his first meeting.

Present: President Melinda Murray
Vice President Andrea Sheridan Ordin
Commissioner Jeffery Daar
Commissioner Shedrick Davis
Commissioner Laura Genao

2. Multiple agenda item comment.

Public comment was provided by Manuel Diaz regarding Item 6.

3. Approval of minutes for the meeting on February 18, 2020.

Ordin moved to approve the minutes, and Genao seconded. The minutes were approved 5-0.

No public comment was received.

4. 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

- 5. Proposed stipulations in Case No. 2019-27, *In the Matter of Urban Strategy Group, Inc.*, and Case No. 2019-29, *In the Matter of Arturo Gonzalez* (alleged failures to register as lobbying entities and file lobbying disclosure reports).**

Staff recommended approving two stipulated orders imposing administrative penalties totaling \$30,000.

No public comment was received.

Action: Davis moved to approve the stipulations, and Ordin seconded. The stipulations were approved 5-0.

- 6. Proposed stipulations in Case No. 2018-05, *In the Matter of FE Design & Consulting*, and Case No. 2019-14, *In the Matter of Manuel Diaz* (alleged failures to register as lobbying entities and file lobbying disclosure reports).**

Staff recommended approving two stipulated orders imposing administrative penalties totaling \$42,500.

Public comment was received from Manuel Diaz.

Action: Ordin moved to approve the stipulations, noting the need for flexibility in collecting the penalty over the course of the 12-month payment plan, and Davis seconded. The stipulations were approved 4-1 (Genao voting no).

- 7. Proposed stipulation in Case No. 2019-30, *In the Matter of Courtenay Durham* (alleged failure to obtain approval for outside employment).**

Staff recommended approving a stipulated order imposing administrative penalties totaling \$18,750.

No public comment was received.

Action: Daar moved to approve the stipulation, and Genao seconded. The stipulation was approved 5-0.

- 8. Review of recusals by Eileen Decker, the president of the Board of Police Commissioners.**

Staff provided an analysis of the financial interests that led to a Charter § 707 recusal review for President Decker 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 Daar seconded. The resolution was adopted 5-0.

9. Professional services agreement for court reporter services.

Staff recommended approving an amended and restated professional services agreement with Kennedy Court Reporters, Inc. (No. C-133822-RA1), with a one-year term and payments by the City not to exceed \$20,000.

No public comment was received.

Action: Genao moved to adopt a resolution approving the agreement and authorizing the executive director to execute it, and Ordin seconded. The resolution was adopted 5-0.

INFORMATION ITEMS

10. Review of recusals by Michael Newhouse, the president of the West Los Angeles Area Planning Commission.

The staff report was received and filed.

No public comment was received.

11. Election update (regular 2020 City and LAUSD elections).

The staff report was received and filed.

No public comment was received.

12. Lobbying summary (1st quarter 2020).

The staff report was received and filed.

No public comment was received.

13. Recusal summary (1st quarter 2020).

The staff report was received and filed.

No public comment was received.

14. Pre-confirmation statements of economic interests.

The staff report was received and filed.

No public comment was received.

15. Policy and legislation update.

Staff provided a summary of the status of policy items and conflict of interests codes that have been transmitted to the City Council.

No public comment was received.

16. Executive director's report.

The executive director welcomed Commissioner Daar and two new staff members and commended the entire staff for continuing to move the agency's work forward during the challenges associated with the pandemic.

No public comment was received.

CLOSING ITEMS

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

No announcements or requests for future items were made.

18. Adjournment.

Genao moved to adjourn, and Ordin seconded. The meeting was adjourned by a vote of 5-0 at 10:37 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.