

SUBJECT: INITIATION OF COMPREHENSIVE ETHICS REFORM AND
CREATION OF AN ETHICS TASK FORCE

INITIATED BY: COUNCILMEMBER LINDSEY HORVATH
(Kiran Hashmi, Council Deputy) *SB FOR FH*

MAYOR JOHN D'AMICO
(Michelle Rex, Council Deputy) *SB FOR MR*

STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT:

The City Council will consider the creation of an Ethics Task Force to develop a comprehensive plan to implement ethics reform as it applies to elected officials, appointed officials, City Hall staff, and those who do business with the City, including lobbyists and consultants.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Authorize the City Manager to form an Ethics Task Force comprised of the following subject matter experts: Bob Stern from the Center for Governmental Studies, who is the former President of the Center for Governmental Studies and Principal Co-Author of the Political Reform Act of 1974; Joseph Guardarrama from Kaufman Legal Group, who is an expert on governmental ethics and previously served as a West Hollywood Commissioner; and a third member, who is yet to be named. The Ethics Task Force will be staffed by Christi Hogin from the City Attorney's office and Guy Vespoint from the City Clerk's office, who will advise the Task Force but will not be voting members.
- 2) Approve the use of City venues for such events and a waiver of event permits, parking validations and associated fees.
- 3) Direct the Ethics Task Force to provide Quarterly updates to the City Council, and to produce a final report for approval by the City Council by the first Quarter of 2016.
- 4) Direct the Ethics Task Force, with support from City staff, to host at least one community meeting to seek input in regard to the comprehensive plan for ethics reform.
- 5) Authorize the Director of Finance and Technology Services to allocate \$5,000 from unallocated General Fund reserves to account 100-1-01-00-531019 (New Initiatives), to cover costs associated with the Ethics Task Force.

6) Authorize the City Manager to sign all required documents relating to this item.
BACKGROUND ANALYSIS:

The City Council has adopted various ethics related items in the past, including having a Campaign Finance Reform Committee. This item initiates ethics reform for elected and appointed officials, City Staff, and those who do business with the City by creating an Ethics Task Force comprised of independent and professional subject matter experts to develop recommendations for the City Council's consideration. This proposal outlines the key issues areas with the goal of developing and implementing a comprehensive ethics reform plan.

The Task Force will hear testimony from various stakeholders who would come before the group to present their experiences and points of view. These stakeholders will include those who have run for office, who have been appointed to office, and anyone who does business with the City, including lobbyists and consultants.

The Ethics Task Force will be comprised of professionals who are highly knowledgeable on the topic of governmental and political ethics reform. It will include expertise from the public, academic, and private sectors. The proposed subject matter experts are as follows: Bob Stern from the Center for Governmental Studies, who co-authored the Political Reform Act of 1974; Joseph Guardarrama from Kaufman Legal Group, who is an expert on governmental ethics and previously served as a West Hollywood Commissioner; and a third member who is yet to be named. The Ethics Task Force will be staffed by Christi Hogin from the City Attorney's office and Guy Vespoint from the City Clerk's office, who will advise the Task Force but will not be voting members.

The key issue areas to be addressed by the Ethics Task Force are grouped into in four parts:

1. **Governmental Ethics:** Includes topics of disclosures, recusals, and behested payments.
2. **Campaign Finance:** Includes the topics of electronic filings, matching funds, Independent Expenditure disclosures, requirements for signatures, and regulation of contributions from lobbyists and city contractors.
3. **Lobbyists:** Includes the topics of reporting and best practices.
4. **Enforcement:** The Task Force will make recommendations on how the proposed reforms shall be enforced in an on-going manner.

The Task Force will have the liberty to develop additional areas of discussion as needed to meet their goals of preparing a strong and comprehensive proposal for ethics reform in the City of West Hollywood. The Task Force will host at least one community meeting to seek input from resident stakeholders and will provide

Quarterly updates to the City Council detailing the progress of the Task Force discussions. The Task Force will convene for one year beginning May 2015, and will produce a final report for consideration by the West Hollywood City Council no later than the first Quarter of 2016.

EVALUATION:

The City Manager will report back on the development of the Ethics Task Force and updates from their findings.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH:

N/A

CONFORMANCE WITH VISION 2020 AND THE GOALS OF THE WEST HOLLYWOOD GENERAL PLAN:

This item conforms to the following Ongoing Strategic Goal: **Institutional Integrity**. This item also conforms with the following West Hollywood General Plan Goal: **G-2: Maintain transparency and integrity in West Hollywood's decision-making process.**

OFFICE OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY:

Office of Councilmember Lindsey Horvath and Mayor John D'Amico.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item authorizes the Director of Finance and Technology Services to allocate \$5,000 from unallocated General Fund reserves to account 100-1-01-00-531019 (New Initiatives), to cover costs associated with the Ethics Task Force.

General Fund Supplemental Appropriations
7/1/14 - 6/30/15

Revenues		
3/2/2015	MID-YEAR BUDGET ADJUSTMENT	\$ 1,250,000
Appropriated Revenues		\$ 1,250,000
Prior Approved Supplemental Expenditures		
6/23/14	TRANSFER TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND FOR 1123-27 DETROIT	\$ 1,000,000
10/22/2014	SIGNALIZED PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALKS AND SAFETY MEASURES	\$ 1,015,525
11/3/2014	INCREASE GRANTS IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM	\$ 14,000
11/17/2014	RELOCATION ASSISTANCE - LA LGBT CENTER'S THE SPOT	\$ 65,000
1/20/2015	FUNDING FOR JUNE 2, 2015, SPECIAL COUNCIL ELECTION	\$ 155,000
4/6/2015	INCREASE SPECIAL COUNCIL PROGRAMS BUDGET	\$ 4,500
4/6/2015	CDD AND PUBLIC WORKS MANAGEMENT STUDIES	\$ 63,920
Total Approved Supplemental Expenditures		\$ 2,317,945
Proposed Supplemental Expenditures		
4/20/2015	INCREASE SPECIAL COUNCIL PROGRAMS BUDGET	\$ 5,000
4/20/2015	INITIATION OF ETHICS REFORM & CREATION OF AN ETHICS TASK FORCE	\$ 5,000
Total Proposed Supplemental Expenditures		\$ 10,000
Appropriations Surplus/(Deficit) Proposed		\$ (1,077,945)