

**WEST HOLLYWOOD
ETHICS REFORM TASK FORCE
MINUTES
THURSDAY, JULY 12, 2018
6:30 P.M.**

**CITY HALL COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM
8300 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Ralston called the meeting to order at 6:43 p.m. and reminded everyone to turn off their mobile devices.
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance - Chair Ralston led the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - B. Roll Call - Task Force Members Present: Joseph Guardarrama, Elizabeth Ralston, and Max Kanin. Staff Members Present: Assistant City Attorney Lauren Langer, City Clerk Yvonne Quarker, and Assistant City Clerk Melissa Crowder.
 - C. Approval of the Minutes (May 23, 2018) – Chair Ralston commented that under “Governmental Ethics, first paragraph that “evidence of corruption” should be changed to better reflect the discussion. Member Guardarrama suggested that it read “that no evidence presented at the meeting”. Chair Ralston suggested that language be added that states “that the perception of corruption may exist”. Ms. Ralston also commented that in addition to raising the campaign limits that it should also be indexed for inflation. Assistant City Clerk Crowder also noted a change under future meeting dates Section 7 that it should read June 14th and July 12th (they were backwards).

Motion by Task Force Member Guardarrama, seconded by Task Force Member Kanin, and approved.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

DAN MORIN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding the definition of ethics. He commented on the actions of the previous Ethics Reform Task Force. He mentioned “deputygate” and his thoughts on it. Finally, he briefly discussed the City’s Code of Conduct for Elected and Appointed Officials and unethical requests of City staff.

Task Force Members Kanin and Guardarrama responded to some of Mr. Morin’s comments. A brief discussion ensued regarding enforcement of the City’s policy.

3. **A. Lobbyist Regulations**

The Task Force discussed “registration equivalent” for lobbyist. Ms. Ralston inquired about the current Lobbyist log. The Task Force recommended that the Lobbyist list be made public and place it on the City’s website.

The Task Force discussed a de minimis threshold for lobbyist reporting. They also discussed the definition of a “lobbyist” and if there is a need to change it.

The Task Force recommended a change to Municipal Code § 2.72.010 “Lobbyist – Defined” to state, “lobbyists being retained for \$1,000 or more in a calendar month, cumulative from any number of clients.” **Task Force approved by consensus.**

B. Enforcement

Task Force Member Guardarrama mentioned a current bill in the legislature, AB-2880 Political Reform Act of 1974: local enforcement that would allow cities to contract with the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC).

Task Force Member Kanin commented that this is an excellent idea. It reduces stress on the City Attorney's and District Attorney's Offices. Also, the public knows that it is independent of City staff and the enforcement process is never politicized.

Assistant City Attorney Langer indicated that the process is currently independent not politicized; but to avoid the appearance of any politicizing enforcement activities, outside enforcement can be considered and recommended to the Council under new bill if adopted. , ..

Task Force Member Guardarrama will continue to monitor the bill.

DAN MORIN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding the cost of the City contracting with the FPPC for enforcement.

If approved, the Task Force can consider a recommendation to the City Council to contract with FPPC for enforcement services.

Additional Topics for Discussion

Follow-up discussions for Possible Recommendations to City Council

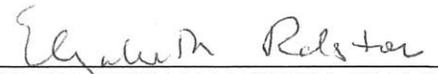
- **Netfile** – The Task Force will recommend to City Council adoption of a regulation requiring all campaign advertisements to be sent to the City and maintained on Netfile.
- **AB 249 – California Disclose Act** – After discussion, the Task Force recommended that this item be TABLED. Task for member Kanin may provide additional documentation on the his legal opinion on the constitutionality of the Disclose Act
- **Campaign Contribution Limits** – The Task Force recommended that the contribution limit be raised to \$1,000 and it be raised each election cycle by the cumulative CPI.
- **Public Financing System** – The Task Force recommended that the City adopt a Public Financing System if the law is adopted by the State and that the City create another Task Force to implement. There is a legal challenge pending to the state rules and that challenge is currently up on appeal.
- **Campaign Contributions from City Contractors** – After discussion, the Task Force recommended that this item be TABLED.

4. COMMENTS FROM STAFF

Assistant City Clerk Crowder informed the Task Force of the item on the City Council's July 16th meeting agenda directing the Ethics Reform Task Force to evaluate the creation of a Code of Ethics for consultants and contractors and to research policies of other agencies regarding service on nonprofit boards of directors.

5. ADJOURNMENT – The Ethics Reform Task Force adjourned at 8:15 p.m. to its next meeting.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE ETHICS REFORM TASK FORCE ON THIS 17TH DAY
OF SEPTEMBER, 2018.


ELIZABETH RALSTON, CHAIR



MELISSA CROWDER, SECRETARY