

**WEST HOLLYWOOD  
ETHICS REFORM TASK FORCE  
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022  
5:00 P.M.**

**VIA TELECONFERENCE**

\*IN AN EFFORT TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS), AB 361 HAS AUTHORIZED PUBLIC MEETINGS TO TAKE PLACE VIA TELECONFERENCE BECAUSE STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS ARE RECOMMENDING MEASURES TO PROMOTE SOCIAL DISTANCING.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

TELECONFERENCE AUDIO MEETING & PROVIDING PUBLIC COMMENT BY TELEPHONE OR VIA THE ZOOM PLATFORM:

You are strongly encouraged to email Melissa Crowder at [mcrowder@weho.org](mailto:mcrowder@weho.org) by 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup> to be added to the Public Speaker List for the meeting. Please include your name, the phone number from which you will be calling if applicable, and which item you would like to speak on.

To provide public comment via the Zoom Platform – When you enter the meeting, please make sure to turn off your video and mute your audio.

- If you wish to make a public comment, please use the ‘raise hand’ feature in the Zoom application. You will be called at the appropriate time. Please turn on your video and audio to make your public comment.
- Join Zoom Meeting: <https://bit.ly/ERTF022422>

To provide public comment via telephone, please call in and remember to place your phone on mute:

- Dial-in phone number: (669) 900-6833
- Meeting ID: 858 1335 1124; then press #
- Dial-in 10 minutes before the meeting starts.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Roll Call
- C. Approval of the Minutes (January 6, 2020)

- 2. PUBLIC COMMENT:** This time is set aside for members of the public to address the Task Force on matters related to ethics reform and the City’s regulations. The City Council created the Task Force to develop recommendations relating generally to regulation of campaign finance, government ethics, and lobbyists. The Task Force is looking to hear from community members and all other interested persons on these topics. **Please note that you may also email your comments to the Ethics Reform Task Force at [EthicsReformTaskForce@weho.org](mailto:EthicsReformTaskForce@weho.org).** Emails sent to the Task Force are public records; therefore, please do not include personal information that you do not wish to be published to the City’s website or provided pursuant to the California Public Records Act.

**3. Discussion of Task Force Work Plan and Items for Task Force Consideration at Future Meetings:**

- **Consideration of Amendments to City’s Lobbyist Regulations and Reporting Requirements, Including Providing Input on Direction from City Council to Prepare an Ordinance Prohibiting Campaign Consultants from Serving as Lobbyists**
- **Consideration of Limitations on City Co-Sponsorships with Organizations that Endorse Candidates in City Council Elections**
- **Contract between the City and the Fair Political Practices Commission for Enforcement Services**
- **Consideration of Limitations on Campaign Contributions by Developers**
- **Exploration of a Public Financing System**
- **Consideration of an Ordinance Requiring Campaign Committees to File Campaign Communications**

**4. COMMENTS FROM STAFF**

This time is set aside for staff to provide any announcements or updates relevant to the Task Force’s business and to confirm the next meeting date.

**5. ADJOURNMENT** – The Ethics Reform Task Force will adjourn to its next meeting.

**ETHICS REFORM TASK FORCE MEMBERS:** Joseph Guardarrama, Max Kanin, and Elizabeth Ralston.

**STAFF:** Melissa Crowder, City Clerk; Melissa Crosthwaite, Assistant City Attorney

If special assistance to participate in this meeting is required, (e.g., an American Sign Language interpreter for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing), you must call or submit your request in writing to the Office of the City Clerk at (323) 848-6409 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. The City TTY line is (323) 848-6496.

This agenda was posted at City Hall, the West Hollywood Library on San Vicente Boulevard, and the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station.

If you would like additional information on any item appearing on this agenda, please contact Melissa Crowder at (323) 848-6356 or via email at [mcrowder@weho.org](mailto:mcrowder@weho.org).

**WEST HOLLYWOOD  
ETHICS REFORM TASK FORCE  
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA  
MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2020  
6:00 P.M.**

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Guardarrama called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
  - A. Chair Guardarrama led the Pledge of Allegiance.
  - B. Roll Call –  
PRESENT: Task Force Members: Ralston, Kanin, and Guardarrama.  
ALSO PRESENT: Asst. City Clerk Crowder, City Clerk Quarker, and Assistant City Attorney Langer.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

TED GREEN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke about his experience as a campaign manager. He noted that he is a lobbyist. He expressed concern with Recommendations 1 and 8 in the Task Force Recommendations to the City Council.

GENEVIEVE MORRILL, PRESIDENT/CEO OF THE WEST HOLLYWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, spoke regarding the definition of lobbyist. She expressed concern with the Chamber's contract with the City if the definition of lobbyist is changed.

MARK LEHMANN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke about the definition of a lobbyist.

3. Chair Guardarrama spoke about Recommendation 1 and the need for all campaign communications to be submitted to the City for legal compliance. He shared that both the cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco require it. Task Force Member Kanin also noted that it is educational to the public. Task Force Member Ralston noted that it's also valuable to other candidates. Chair Guardarrama also noted that one of the recommendations is that the City enter into a contract with the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) for enforcement services.

Ms. Morrill spoke about the Chamber of Commerce's PAC noting that it is separate from the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Green commented that submitting all campaign communications to the City is burdensome. He further commented that ballot initiatives should not be subject to the requirement. Mr. Guardarrama responded to Mr. Green's comments.

Chair Guardarrama spoke about Recommendation 8 and indicated that the City Council asked the Task Force to look into whether campaign consultants should lobby in the City. The Task Force noted that they needed a compelling reason to regulate and found none. He shared that the Task Force recommends the same requirements as the State requires of lobbyists.

Chair Guardarrama introduced Recommendation 3. He commented that the City is behind other cities including Beverly Hills and Los Angeles. The City currently requires registration; however, the City does not require reporting of money received or expended to influence municipal action.

ED LEVIN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in opposition to Recommendation 3.

Chair Guardarrama noted that many other cities require professionals like Mr. Levin's profession to register as a lobbyist. He shared that administrative testimony would not meet the threshold of lobbyist unless there are ex parte communications. Task Force Member Kanin spoke about the reason for setting a monetary threshold. Chair Guardarrama mentioned the City of Los Angeles' Ethics Commission and the two-page FAQ for land use professionals. He also noted that these recommendations were made to the City Council in 2015 as well. Ms. Morrill inquired if the Task Force is open to other definitions of lobbyist.

Chair Guardarrama asked his fellow Task Force members if they are open to exploring the definition of lobbyist. Task Force Member Kanin read the definition of lobbyist into the record. Mr. Lehman requested that the definition be less broad. He noted that the dollar amount threshold isn't the issue. Chair Guardarrama indicated that the Task Force is open to discussing further and encouraged feedback from those that spoke under public comment. Ms. Morrill commented the Chamber of Commerce advocates not lobbyist.

SHERRIE FRANKLIN, UNKNOWN, spoke about other Chambers of Commerce in the area.

A discussion ensued regarding whether the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce would be subject to the definition of lobbyist.

A discussion ensued regarding the proposed reporting requirements. Chair Guardarrama commented that the Task Force is recommending quarterly reporting of who paid them, what topic areas they lobbied, and how much they were paid. Mr. Lehman expressed concern with attorney/client privilege. Chair Guardarrama responded. The Task Force discussed the possibility of adding reporting thresholds be considered for lobbyists i.e., if less than 20% of your work is lobbying then there isn't a reporting requirement.

The Task Force indicated that the Chamber of Commerce and its members be given two to three months to provide their comments about the changes to the lobbyist definition and the proposed reporting requirements.

Assistant City Attorney Langer noted for the record that Recommendation 3 in the draft City Council Staff Report will be removed from the report until further discussion with the public. The other recommendations will move forward to the City Council.

Task Force Member Kanin responded to Mr. Green's earlier comments about campaign communication reporting recommendations to the City Council.

Assistant City Attorney and Assistant City Clerk Crowder spoke about scheduling the next Ethics Reform Task Force meeting with the Task Force.

**4. COMMENTS FROM STAFF**

**5.**

Assistant City Attorney and Assistant City Clerk Crowder spoke about scheduling the next Ethics Reform Task Force meeting with the Task Force.

**5. ADJOURNMENT** – The Ethics Reform Task Force meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.