

Item #8 - Disclosure Report



Michael B. MacDonald, Chair
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Whitney Barazoto, Executive Director

TO: Public Ethics Commission
FROM: Suzanne Doran, Lead Analyst
Jelani Killings, Ethics Analyst
Whitney Barazoto, Executive Director
DATE: August 19, 2021
RE: Disclosure and Engagement Report for the September 2, 2021, PEC Meeting

This memorandum provides a summary of major accomplishments in the Public Ethics Commission's (PEC or Commission) Disclosure and Engagement program since the last monthly meeting. Commission staff disclosure activities focus on managing and improving online tools for public access to local campaign finance and other disclosure data, ensuring compliance with disclosure rules, and conducting data analysis for PEC projects and programs as needed. Engagement activities include training and resources provided to the regulated community, as well as general outreach to Oakland residents to raise awareness of the Commission's role and services and to provide opportunities for dialogue between the Commission and community members.

Filing Officer - Compliance

Campaign Finance Disclosure – In non-election years, campaign committees must file two semi-annual campaign statements ([FPPC Form 460](#)). August 2 was the deadline for semi-annual campaign statements covering the period from January 1 through June 30, 2021. All active campaign committees registered with the City of Oakland must file. Campaign statements are available to view and download at the PEC's [Public Portal for Campaign Finance Disclosure](#).

Approximately 69 percent of committees timely filed their campaign statements by the August 2 deadline. Staff will conduct outreach and provide assistance to bring any non-filers into compliance.

Lobbyist Registration and Reporting Program – The Oakland Lobbyist Registration Act (LRA) requires any person that qualifies as a lobbyist to register annually with the Public Ethics Commission before conducting any lobbying activity. It also requires lobbyists to submit quarterly reports disclosing their lobbying activities to ensure that the public knows who is trying to influence City decisions. To date, there are 65 individuals registered to lobby the City of Oakland. An up-to-date list of registered lobbyists with links to their client lists is available at the PEC's [Lobbyist Dashboard and Data](#) webpage.

The 2021 second quarter lobbyist activity report deadline passed on July 31. To date, 64 reports have been filed, 75 percent timely. Commission staff is reaching out to non-filers to gain compliance. Lobbyist activity reports may be viewed online at the PEC's [Lobbyist Dashboard and Data](#) webpage.

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Advice and Engagement

Advice and Technical Assistance – Since the last monthly report, Commission staff responded to 52 requests for information, advice or assistance regarding campaign finance, ethics, lobbyist registration or public records issues, for a total of 177 requests fulfilled in 2021 to date.

OPRYD Ethics Training – On June 26, Staff conducted an ethics training for 66 new employees of the Oakland Parks, Recreation, and Youth Development Department during their summer staff orientation.

New Employee Orientation – Staff continues to make presentations at the City’s monthly New Employee Orientation (NEO) providing new employees with an introduction to the PEC and overview of the Government Ethics Act (GEA). Since the last report, Commission staff has made 3 presentations and trained a total of 79 new employees on GEA provisions.

Conflicts of Interests Training – On July 7, at the request of the Planning and Building Department, Staff conducted a live training via Zoom during their weekly all-staff meeting. The training focused on conflicts of interests, Form 700 requirements, gift rules, and post-employment restrictions. 136 employees were in attendance.

Diversion Program – On July 22, Staff conducted the first live training for the Commission’s new enforcement diversion program. Staff provided participants with an overview of GEA provisions related to Form 700 requirements and conflicts of interest rules. The training provided an opportunity for participants to ask questions to gain a better understanding of ethics rules and requirements as well as share feedback regarding current City processes.

