

Item #8 - Disclosure Report



Michael B. MacDonald, Chair
Jerett Yan, Vice-Chair
Avi Klein
Arvon Perteet
Janani Ramachandran
Joe Tuman

Whitney Barazoto, Executive Director

TO: Public Ethics Commission
FROM: Suzanne Doran, Lead Analyst
Jelani Killings, Ethics Analyst
Whitney Barazoto, Executive Director
DATE: January 22, 2021
RE: Disclosure and Engagement Report for the February 1, 2021, PEC Meeting

This memorandum provides a summary of major accomplishments in the Public Ethics Commission's (PEC or Commission) Disclosure and Engagement program activities since the last monthly meeting. Commission staff disclosure activities focus on improving online tools for public access to local campaign finance and other disclosure data, enhancing 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

Contribution and Voluntary Expenditure Limits Adjustment – On January 13, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics released the 2020 CPI data used for the annual contribution and expenditure limit adjustments pursuant to the Oakland Campaign Reform Act (OCRA). Staff calculated the annual adjustment and published the new limits for 2021 as required by OCRA. The annual calculation resulted in increases in expenditure limits for Oakland offices, but the contribution limits for individuals and broad-based committees remained the same.

Campaign Finance Disclosure – In a non-election year, campaign committees must file two semi-annual campaign statements ([FPPC Form 460](#)). January 31 is the filing deadline for semi-annual campaign statements covering the period from July 1 through December 31, 2020. All active campaign committees registered with the City of Oakland must file. In addition, any individuals or entities that do not qualify as recipient committees but made political contributions or independent expenditures totaling \$10,000 or more in 2020 (major donors) must also file a campaign statement ([FPPC Form 461](#)). Outreach to campaign filers this month included email notices of the upcoming deadline and reminders via our social media accounts.

Campaign statements are available to view and download at the PEC's [Public Portal for Campaign Finance Disclosure](#).

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. January 31

Item #8 - Disclosure Report

is the deadline for annual lobbyist registration renewal and January 30 is the deadline for quarterly lobbyist activity reports covering the period from October 1 through December 31, 2020. Outreach to lobbyists this month included email notices of the upcoming deadline and reminders via our social media accounts.

An up-to-date list of registered lobbyists and lobbyist activity reports with links to view and download individual reports is available at the PEC's [Lobbyist Dashboard and Data](#) webpage.

Behested Payments (FPPC Form 803) – California law requires Oakland elected officials to file an FPPC Form 803 report any time they fundraise or otherwise solicit payments for a legislative, governmental or charitable purpose that total \$5,000 or more in a calendar year from a single source (one individual or organization) to be given to another individual or organization.

In January, the Commission received a single filing from the Mayor's Office reporting a solicited contribution of \$20,053 to Bay Area Community Services (BACS). The stated purpose was ongoing COVID-19 relief and homelessness prevention for Oakland residents.

Illuminating Disclosure Data

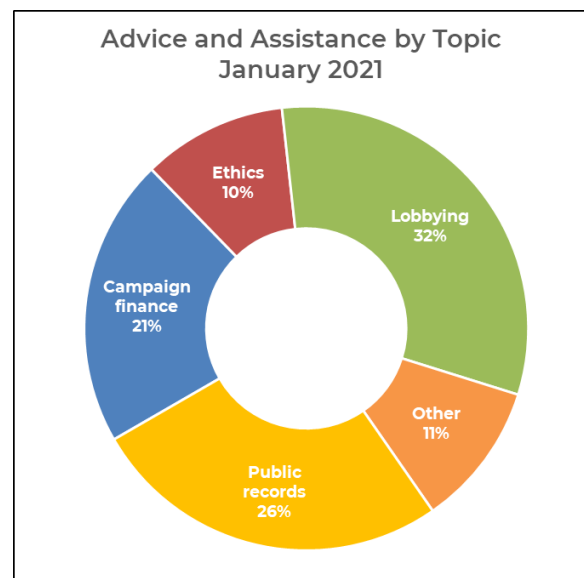
Lobbyist Disclosure – Commission staff is working with the IT Department to publish the data collected through the lobbyist reporting app to [OakData](#), the City's open data portal. New datasets will be published incrementally throughout 2021 including a client directory, contacts with public officials by subject, and political contributions to Oakland candidates and elected officials solicited by lobbyists.

Show Me the Money App – In October 2020, Commission staff released the [Show Me the Money](#) campaign finance app on OakData, Oakland's open data platform. New features allowing users to explore campaign expenditures info along with contributions to learn how candidates and committees spend their campaign money were released by the developers in December. Commission staff is collaborating with the IT Department to make expenditure data from the campaign finance database available through the app so residents can use this interactive tool to more easily view candidates' contribution and expenditure activity.

Advice and Engagement

Advice and Technical Assistance – In January, Commission staff responded to 19 requests for information, advice or assistance regarding campaign finance, ethics, lobbyist registration or public records issues.

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). On December 15, staff trained a total of 38 new employees on GEA provisions. On January 8, Staff attended the Department of Human Resources Management's (DHRM) New Employee Orientation



Item #8 - Disclosure Report

(NEO) overview and yearly recap. Staff along with other department representatives discussed the continued virtual format for 2021 and best practices to engage participants during presentations.

Boards and Commissions – On January 7, staff made an ethics presentation at the request of the City’s Cannabis Regulatory Commission. Staff provided board members with information about the Commission and its services and gave an overview of the Government Ethics Act including Form 700 filing requirements, conflicts of interests, and misuse of City resources/position.

On January 9, staff attended the Community Policing Review Board’s annual retreat and provided an ethics presentation and introduction to the Commission and its services.

Online Engagement

Social Media – Each month Commission staff post social media content to highlight specific PEC policy areas, activities or client-groups. In January, our posts focused on campaign finance disclosure deadlines, lobbyist registration and disclosure deadlines, and introducing the new Commission chair, vice chair, and new members.