



Item 9 - Executive Director's Report

Arvon Perteet, Chair
Ryan Micik, Vice Chair
Charlotte Hill
Joe Tuman
Francis Upton IV

Kellie Johnson, Executive Director

TO: Public Ethics Commission
FROM: Kellie Johnson, Executive Director
DATE: August 31, 2022
RE: Executive Director's Report for the September 14, 2022, PEC Meeting

This memorandum provides an overview of the Public Ethics Commission's (PEC or Commission) significant activities this past month that are not otherwise covered by other program reports. The attached overview of Commission Programs and Priorities includes the ongoing goals and key projects in 2022 for each program area. (Commission Programs and Priorities Attached)

PEC Staffing

Administrative Analyst I

The Commission received one new position in the 2022-23 FY budget for Administrative Analyst I. This new position will primarily support the Enforcement program. Recruiting for the Administrative Analyst position began on July 1, 2022. Staff has begun the process of arranging interviews of candidates.

Enforcement Chief

With this new vacancy, Commission staff engaged the Department of Human Resources Management to open recruitment to fill the position expeditiously. Staff is working closely with the HR analyst to ensure the job posting will go up very soon so we can begin to accept applications and review potential candidates. My current estimate for making the new appointment is approximately 2 months.

Temporary Enforcement Investigator

Staff has also engaged the Department of Human Resources Management to open recruitment for a temporary/part-time investigator to assist with ethics investigations, utilizing funds from salary savings gained with the selection of a new Executive Director. Staff and our HR analyst are preparing the required class specifications for the new position.

Commissioner Trainings: "Formal Hearings"

Commission staff is preparing a training on conducting "Formal Hearings" for Commissioners. The session will cover hearing procedures, due process for quasi-judicial boards, scheduling procedures, preliminary hearing requirements, credibility determinations, and an overview of findings of facts, penalties, and final orders. Staff will arrange with the Commission the date and way the training will be conducted.

Agenda Subscribers Update

In July, Staff was notified that an agenda subscriber had not received their email copy of the Commission's public meeting agenda, notice or attachments for the regular and special meetings in June and August 2022. Staff verified that the subscriber's email was not in the record of email recipients and that the change occurred when the Citywide Communications department transferred the PEC's email subscriber lists to a new customer relations management system in late May. Staff immediately contacted Communications Department staff about the issue and made sure the subscriber was added back to the list. In addition, all PEC subscribers from the original list were added to the subscriber list on the new system as a precaution. Communications Department staff is researching why the PEC agenda subscriber list was inadvertently altered in the transfer, and a representative from the Communications department will be available to answer questions at the upcoming meeting. Commission staff is comparing the original agenda subscriber list to the records for the affected mailings to determine how many subscribers were affected and will provide an update.

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PUBLIC ETHICS COMMISSION Programs and Priorities 2022

Program	Goal	Desired Outcome	Key Projects for 2022
Lead/ Collaborate (Policy, Systems, Culture)	PEC facilitates changes in City policies, laws, systems, and technology and leads by example to ensure fairness, openness, honesty, integrity and innovation.	Effective campaign finance, ethics, and transparency policies, procedures, and systems are in place across City agencies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. City Ticket Policy Ordinance 2. Limited Public Financing Act Amendment 3. Campaign Public Finance Redesign 4. Public Records Performance Tool
Educate/ Advise	Oakland public servants, candidates for office, lobbyists, and City contractors understand and comply with City campaign finance, ethics, and transparency laws.	The PEC is a trusted and frequent source for information and assistance on government ethics, campaign finance, and transparency issues; the PEC fosters and sustains ethical culture throughout City government.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ethics onboarding/exit process improvement 2. Ethics training and advice: a) elected officials, b) City employees (1000), b) board/commission members, and c) consultants 3. Campaign Finance Training 4. Limited Public Financing Act Training and Program Implementation 5. Sunshine training – Open meetings; public records 6. New trainings as needed for diversion
Outreach/ Engage	Citizens and regulated community know about the PEC and know that the PEC is responsive to their complaints/questions about government ethics, campaign finance, or transparency concerns.	The PEC actively engages with clients and citizens demonstrating a collaborative transparency approach that fosters two-way interaction between citizens and government to enhance mutual knowledge, understanding, and trust.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public Records mediations 2. PEC Outreach – Commissioner-led public outreach 3. Communications/outreach to client groups – targeted and training and compliance 4. PEC social media outreach – focused on sharing ethics-related data and PEC services and outcomes 5. Website – PEC dashboards for enforcement cases and mediations
Disclose/ Illuminate	<p>PEC website and disclosure tools are user-friendly, accurate, up-to-date, and commonly used to view government integrity data.</p> <p>Filing tools collect and transmit data in an effective and user-friendly manner.</p>	<p>Citizens can easily access accurate, complete campaign finance and ethics-related data in a user-friendly, understandable format.</p> <p>Filers can easily submit campaign finance, lobbyist, and ethics-related disclosure information.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Filing Officer/Compliance – assess, follow-up, and refer 2. Government Integrity E-Data Project – Lobbyist Registration, Form 700, Form 803, Show Me the Money App, Behested Payments 3. Open Disclosure – continue coordination and development 4. Campaign Finance Data – focus on pushing out data using Socrata, City Open Data Portal, and PEC dashboards where possible for the 2022 Election

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<p>Detect/ Deter</p>	<p>PEC staff proactively detects potential violations and efficiently investigates complaints of non-compliance with laws within the PEC's jurisdiction.</p>	<p>Public servants, candidates, lobbyists, and City contractors are motivated to comply with the laws within the PEC's jurisdiction.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investigations 2. Collaborate with other government law enforcement agencies
<p>Prosecute</p>	<p>Enforcement is swift, fair, consistent, and effective.</p>	<p>Obtain compliance with campaign finance, ethics, and transparency laws, and provide timely, fair, and consistent enforcement that is proportional to the seriousness of the violation.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct legal analyses, assess penalty options, negotiate settlements, make recommendations to PEC 2. Case priority: 1) the extent of Commission authority to issue penalties, 2) the impact of a Commission decision, 3) public interest, timing, and relevancy, and 4) Commission resources. 3. Resolve all 2016 and 2017 cases 4. Enforcement Subcommittee – discussion of process improvements
<p>Administration/ Management</p>	<p>PEC staff collects and uses performance data to guide improvements to program activities, motivate staff, and share progress toward PEC goals.</p>	<p>PEC staff model a culture of accountability, transparency, innovation, and performance management.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual Report 2. PEC Retreat 3. Budget – new Administrative Analyst position 4. Enforcement database upgrade 5. Review data to adjust activities throughout the year 6. Ongoing: professional development and staff reviews