

CITY OF OAKLAND
PUBLIC ETHICS COMMISSION
One Frank Ogawa Plaza (City Hall)
Regular Commission Meeting
Hearing Room 1
Wednesday, May 10, 2023
6:30 p.m.



Commissioners: Ryan Micik (Chair), Charlotte Hill (Vice-Chair), Alea Gage, Arvon Perteet, Vincent Steele, and Francis Upton IV.

Commission Staff to attend: Suzanne Doran, Acting Executive Director/Lead Analyst; Ana Lara-Franco, Commission Analyst; Simon Russell, Enforcement Chief; Chris Nardi, Law Clerk.

City Attorney Staff: Trish Shafie, Deputy City Attorney.

PUBLIC ETHICS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

1. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Micik, Hill, Gage, Perteet, Steele, Upton IV.

Perteet left at 7:56 pm.

Staff present: Suzanne Doran, Ana Lara-Franco, Chris Nardi, and Simon Russell.

City Attorney Staff: Tricia Shafie.

2. Staff and Commission Announcements.

Micik announced the appointment of Public Ethics Commission's new Executive Director, Nicolas Heidorn. Nicolas Heidorn introduced himself.

3. Open Forum.

Public comment: None.

A full recording of public comments is available in the meeting video. Video recordings are posted on the meeting webpage, which may be found at www.oaklandca.gov/pec.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Approval of Commission Meeting Draft Minutes.

- a. April 12, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes.

Public comment: None.

Hill moved, and Upton IV seconded to approve the minutes.

Ayes: Hill, Gage, Perteet, Steele, Upton IV, Micik.

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Noes: None.

Vote: Passed 6-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Reports on Subcommittees and Commissioner Assignments..

a. Transparency and Public Records Subcommittee (ad hoc, created March 8, 2023) - Francis Upton IV (Chair) and Arvon Perteet.

Upton IV reported the subcommittee met staff and is discussing how to improve the process of mediation and how other jurisdictions handle complaints over public records requests. The subcommittee will review recent data on public records request performance and is preparing questions to various City departments to learn more about issues impacting public records request response.

Public comment: None.

b. Measure W Equity and Outreach Subcommittee (ad hoc, created on March 8, 2023) – Charlotte Hill (Chair), Alea Gage, Vincent Steele.

Hill reported the subcommittee is collaborating with staff to draft high level outreach goals as well as outlining an outreach plan aligned with the Public Ethics' Commissions goals and principles.

The subcommittee also met with David Shor of Common Cause and discussed how other organizations can partner with the PEC to achieve outreach goals.

Public comment: None.

c. Measure W Implementation Subcommittee (ad hoc, created December 14, 2022) – Arvon Perteet (Chair), Ryan Micik, Francis Upton IV.

Perteet reported the subcommittee met and discussed the impact of the Mayor's proposed budget and delay of implementation of the Democracy Dollars program until the 2026 election, as well as potential alternatives the Commission could propose as the budget goes to City Council. Perteet shared options for a Democracy Dollars pilot with a reduced budget.

Public Comment: None

6. Measure W Implementation - Oakland Fair Elections Act.

Acting Director Doran provided an update on staff activities related to Measure W

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implementation and recommended the Commission pursue funding for a pilot program with just Council District elections in 2024. The Commissioners expressed their consensus to support the staff recommendation and directed staff to pursue a budget funding for a Measure W pilot program for the 2024 election with reduced budget.

Public Comment: Mathan Carter Griffin, Gail Wallace, Pedro Hernandez, and Nicolas Heidorn.

INFORMATION ITEMS

7. Disclosure and Engagement.

Ana Lara-Franco, Commission Analyst, provided a summary of compliance with disclosure requirements, education and advice, general outreach, and data illumination activities since the last regular Commission meeting.

Public Comment: None.

8. Enforcement Program.

Simon Russell, Enforcement Chief, provided a summary of the Commission's ongoing enforcement work, including overall caseload status, informal complaint intake, and enforcement-related litigation, as well as an overview of Enforcement's new policy of placing certain matters on hold due to a staffing shortage noting some cases will be on hold due to staffing challenges.

Chief Russell introduced new Commission Assistant, Chris Gonzales who joined the Public Ethics Commission in April 2023.

Public Comment: None.

9. Executive Director's Report.

Acting Executive Director Doran reported on overall priorities and PEC activities, such as budget, staffing, and PEC legislative and policy initiative not covered in other staff reports. Doran welcomed incoming Executive Director Nicolas Heidorn and thanked the Commissioners and PEC staff for their generous support during her service as Acting ED.

Public Comment: None.

10. Future Meeting Business.

Public Comment: Mathan Carter Griffin.

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.