

CITY OF OAKLAND
PUBLIC ETHICS COMMISSION
One Frank Ogawa Plaza (City Hall)
Regular Commission Meeting
Teleconference
Monday, May 4, 2020
6:30 p.m.



Commissioners: James E.T. Jackson (Chair), Nayeli Maxson Velázquez (Vice-Chair), Jill M. Butler, Michael MacDonald, Janani Ramachandran, Joseph Tuman, and Jerett Yan

Commission Staff to attend: Whitney Barazoto, Executive Director; Suzanne Doran, Lead Analyst – Civic Technology and Engagement; Kellie Johnson, Enforcement Chief; Simon Russell, Investigator

City Attorney Staff: Trish Shafie, Deputy City Attorney

PUBLIC ETHICS COMMISSION (PEC or COMMISSION)
MEETING MINUTES

1. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum.

The meeting was held via teleconference.

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

Members present: Commissioners Jackson, Maxson Velázquez, MacDonald, Ramachandran, Tuman, and Yan.

Absent: Butler

Staff present: Whitney Barazoto, Suzanne Doran, Kellie Johnson and Ana Lara-Franco.

City Attorney Staff: Trish Shafie

2. Staff and Commission Announcements.

Whitney Barazoto, Executive Director, shared the process on how to participate in the virtual meeting for members of the public.

3. Open Forum.

There was one public speaker.

ACTION ITEMS

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4. Approval of Commission Meeting Draft Minutes.

- a. March 2, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

Executive Director Whitney Barazoto mentioned the need to fix two typos: Page 2 (the word Public), Page 3 (vote incorrectly listed).

There were no public speakers.

MacDonald moved and Ramachandran seconded to adopt the minutes as amended.

Vote: Passed 5-0

Ayes: Jackson, MacDonald, Ramachandran, Tuman, Yan

Noes: None

Abstain: Maxson Velázquez

Absent: Butler

5. Public Ethics Commission Annual Report.

Commissioners reviewed the annual report summarizing the PEC's activities in 2019.

Ms. Barazoto presented the report and offered suggested edits based on feedback received by two commissioners. Commissioners discussed and made additional suggested edits.

There were no public speakers.

Maxson Velázquez moved and Tuman seconded to approve the annual report, with directions to staff regarding suggested edits.

Vote: Passed 6-0

Ayes: Jackson, MacDonald, Maxson Velázquez, Ramachandran, Tuman, Yan

Noes: None

Absent: Butler

6. Limited Public Financing Program Guide for City Council District Candidates.

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Ms. Barazoto presented the Limited Public Financing Guide for the 2020 election season, including suggested edits based on input from commissioners.

Commissioners reviewed and asked questions about the Guide.

There were no public speakers.

Tuman moved and Maxon Velázquez seconded to approve the Guide with staff and commissioner edits.

Vote: Passed 6-0

Ayes: Jackson, MacDonald, Maxson Velázquez, Ramachandran, Tuman, Yan

Noes: None

Absent: Butler

7. *In the Matter of City of the Department of Building and Planning; (Mediation Case No. M2019-17).*

Kellie Johnson, Enforcement Chief, presented and recommended that the Commission close the mediation without further action.

Commissioners discussed and asked questions regarding the mediation and process, expressing concern about the department's failure to produce records.

There was one public speaker, Alexis Schroeder, the requestor in this matter.

Ramachandran moved and Tuman seconded to keep the mediation open so that staff can explore the Commission's options as discussed.

Vote: Passed 6-0

Ayes: Jackson, MacDonald, Maxson Velázquez, Ramachandran, Tuman, Yan

Noes: None

Absent: Butler

8. *In the Matter of The Economic and Workforce Development Department; (Mediation Case No. M2020-05).*

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Ms. Johnson presented the item and recommended that the Commission close the mediation without further action.

There were no public speakers.

MacDonald moved and Maxson Velázquez seconded to close the mediation.

Vote: Passed 6-0

Ayes: Jackson, MacDonald, Maxson Velázquez, Ramachandran, Tuman, Yan

Noes: None

Absent: Butler

DISCUSSION ITEMS

9. Reports on Subcommittees and Commissioner Assignments.

- a. **Limited Public Finance Policy Development Subcommittee** (ad hoc) – Nayeli Maxson Velázquez (Chair), Jill M. Butler and James Jackson

Commissioner Maxon Velázquez shared that there is ongoing outreach and research for 2020 in coordination with Bay Area Political Equality Collaborative (BayPEC) and California Common Cause.

There were no public speakers.

INFORMATION ITEMS

10. Disclosure and Engagement.

Suzanne Doran, Lead Analyst, provided a report of recent education, outreach, disclosure and data illumination activities. She highlighted that the 2020 first quarter lobbyist reporting deadline passed, and outreach and assistance was provided to registered lobbyists.

The training for Candidates and Treasurers scheduled for April had been cancelled due to the COVID-19 shelter in place order but has been rescheduled.

There were no public speakers.

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11. Enforcement Program.

Ms. Johnson reported on the Commission’s enforcement work since the last regular Commission meeting.

There were no public speakers.

12. Executive Director’s Report.

Ms. Barazoto reported on overall projects, priorities, and significant activities since the Commission’s last meeting. She shared the new date for candidates and treasurers will be May 28 from 10am to 12pm on Zoom.

There were no public speakers.

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.