

CITY OF OAKLAND
PUBLIC ETHICS COMMISSION
One Frank Ogawa Plaza (City Hall)
Regular Commission Meeting
Teleconference
Monday, July 6, 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

PEC MEETING MINUTES

1. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum.

The meeting was held via teleconference.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

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

Absent: Tuman

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

City Attorney Staff: Trish Shafie

2. Staff and Commission Announcements.

Commissioner Maxson-Velázquez announced this would be her last meeting since she is moving out of Oakland.

Whitney Barazoto, Executive Director, announced the projected timeline for recruiting new commissioners for the open vacancy.

There were two public speakers.

3. Open Forum.

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There were no public speakers.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Approval of Commission Meeting Draft Minutes.

a. May 4, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Vote: Passed 5-0

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

Noes: None

Abstain: Butler

Absent: Tuman

5. Lobbyist Registration Online Filing System Demonstration.

Suzanne Doran, Lead Analyst, provided a live demonstration of the PEC's new online filing system for Oakland lobbyists that was created in partnership with the City's Department of Information Technology.

Butler congratulated the team on this project.

There were no public speakers.

The item was accepted as an information item.

6. Campaign Statement Electronic Filing Process.

Ms. Doran provided an overview of changes being made to the campaign filing process to simplify electronic filing and streamline in-person contact in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

There were no public speakers.

Maxson-Velázquez moved, and MacDonald seconded to approve the changes.

Vote: Passed 6-0

Ayes: Jackson, Maxson-Velázquez, Butler, MacDonald, Ramachandran, Yan

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Noes: None
Absent: Tuman

7. In the Matter of Dorian Gray; (Case No. 18-03).

Kellie Johnson, Chief Enforcement, presented the matter and recommended that the PEC approve the No Contest Stipulation and impose an \$8,000 penalty as part of a global settlement in coordination with the Alameda County District Attorney's Office.

Commissioners had several questions about the case.

There was one public speaker.

Ramachandran moved, and Butler seconded to approve the stipulation.

Vote: Passed 6-0

Ayes: Jackson, Maxson-Velázquez, Butler, MacDonald, Ramachandran, Yan

Noes: None

Absent: Tuman

8. In the Matter of The City of Oakland Police Department, (Case No. 16-15).

Ms. Johnson recommended that the Commission close this matter without further action.

There was one public speaker.

MacDonald moved, and Maxson-Velázquez seconded to close the mediation.

Vote: Passed 6-0

Ayes: Jackson, Maxson-Velázquez, Butler, MacDonald, Ramachandran, Yan

Noes: None

Absent: Tuman

9. In the Matter of the City of Oakland Department of Building and Planning (Case No. M2019-17).

Ms. Johnson recommended this mediation be closed and that Enforcement Staff will open a formal investigation of possible violations of the California Public Records Act and the Oakland Sunshine Ordinance.

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There was one public speaker: Alexis Schroeder, the complainant, shared her support for the closure of the mediation and opening of an investigation.

Yan moved, and Maxson-Velázquez seconded to accept the recommendation.

Vote: Passed 6-0

Ayes: Jackson, Maxson-Velázquez, Butler, MacDonald, Ramachandran, Yan

Noes: None

Absent: Tuman

DISCUSSION ITEMS

10. Reports on Subcommittees and Commissioner Assignments.

- a. Sunshine Review Subcommittee** (*ad hoc*/temporary, created on May 8, 2020)
– Michael MacDonald (Chair), Jill Butler and Joe Tuman

MacDonald shared that the ad hoc committee met on June 17, 2020 via Zoom teleconference. The ad hoc committee will meet again on July 8, 2020.

INFORMATION ITEMS

11. Disclosure and Engagement.

Ms. Doran provided a report of recent education, outreach, disclosure and data illumination activities. There were no public speakers.

12. Enforcement Program.

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

There was one public speaker.

13. Executive Director’s Report.

Ms. Barazoto reported on overall projects, priorities, and significant activities since the Commission’s last meeting.

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There was one public speaker.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.