

Item #11 - Disclosure Report



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Whitney Barazoto, Executive Director

TO: Public Ethics Commission
FROM: Suzanne Doran, Lead Analyst
Jelani Killings, Ethics Analyst
Whitney Barazoto, Executive Director
DATE: June 26, 2020
RE: Disclosure and Engagement Report for the July 6, 2020, PEC Meeting

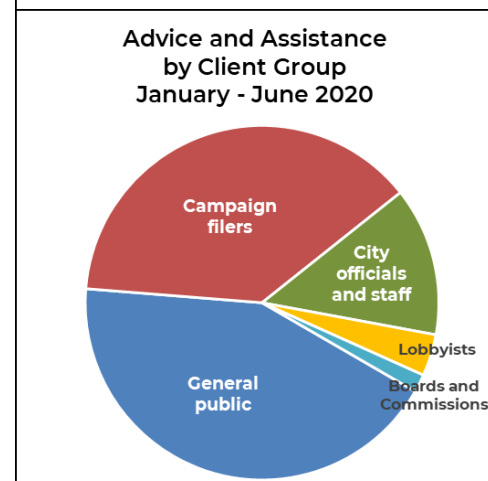
This memorandum provides a summary of the Public Ethics Commission's (PEC or Commission) Disclosure and Engagement program activities since the last monthly meeting. Commission staff disclosure activities focus on improving online tools for public access to local campaign finance and other disclosure data, enhancing compliance with disclosure rules, and conducting data analysis for PEC projects and programs as required. 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 opportunity for dialogue between the Commission and community members.

Advice and Engagement

Advice and Assistance – Commission staff continues to respond to email and phone advice calls and requests for assistance, which amount to 184 requests to date this year. Inquiries by community members about issues of police misconduct were responsible for a large uptick in June contacts with staff.

Candidates and Campaigns – Ten local positions are up for election on Oakland's November ballot. Thirty-nine candidates have submitted statements of intent to run for office, and 20 have registered campaign committees.

On May 28, staff conducted a joint candidate and treasurer training with representatives from the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC). The 26 attendees received a two-hour training on the CA Political Reform Act and the Oakland Campaign Reform Act. Topics covered included campaign forms, committee IDs, campaign bank accounts, recordkeeping, contribution rules, and advertising disclosures. Attendees expressed appreciation for the training and the information that was provided. The training



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was recorded and added to the PEC's website as a resource available for new candidates and committees.

As part of our campaign education efforts, staff provides monthly advisories to ensure that candidates and committees are aware of local rules during the election season. The June advisory highlights rules specific to ballot measure and officeholder committees. In addition, staff drafted a hand-out outlining campaign finance requirements for ballot measure committees that can be distributed when residents initiate the process to qualify a local referendum.

Ethics – On June 11, staff facilitated a live ethics discussion via Zoom for the City's quarterly Supervisory Academy. The discussions are intended to allow for more meaningful dialogue concerning ethical values in decision making with a focus on identifying ethical dilemmas that City staff face in carrying out their daily duties. Staff provided an overview of the Government Ethics Act including conflicts of interests, gift restrictions, and post-employment restrictions.

On June 26, staff will conduct an ethics training for new employees of the Oakland Parks, Recreation, and Youth Development Department during their summer staff orientation.

Newsletter – Staff is drafting the ninth issue of the PEC's newsletter **Public Trust** to be published in July. The latest newsletter covers a range of topics including campaign rules, use of city resources, and PEC program activities.

Social Media – Communications in June focused on sharing the Commission's 2019 accomplishments and annual report.

Illuminating Disclosure Data

Lobbyist E-filing – The online lobbyist registration and reporting app is now live on the City's OakApps platform. Going forward, all lobbyist registration and quarterly activity reports will be submitted electronically. An advisory to Oakland lobbyists with account set-up instructions will go out the last week of June. Commission staff will present a demonstration of the app at the July 6 Commission meeting, with Oakland's Chief Information Officer, Andrew "Pete" Peterson, joining in attendance.

Open Disclosure – Updates to the www.OpenDisclosure.io campaign finance app for the November 2020 election are ongoing until the qualification period for Oakland candidates closes in mid-August and the November ballot is finalized. Campaign finance data for the first half of 2020 will be available on the site after the July 31st campaign statement deadline. OpenDisclosure is a project of OpenOakland volunteers in partnership with the Public Ethics Commission. OpenOakland is part of Code for America, a national network of community organizers and technologists seeking to put technology to work for the benefit of their local communities.