

Disclosure Report



James E.T. Jackson, Chair
Nayeli Maxson Velázquez, Vice-Chair
Jill M. Butler
Michael B. MacDonald
Janani Ramachandran
Joe Tuman
Jerett Yan

Whitney Barazoto, Executive Director

TO: Public Ethics Commission
FROM: Suzanne Doran, Lead Analyst
Jelani Killings, Ethics Analyst
Whitney Barazoto, Executive Director
DATE: July 24, 2020
RE: Disclosure and Engagement Report for the August 3, 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.

Filing Officer/Disclosure

A summary of campaign and lobbying activity during the first half of 2020 will be included in the next Disclosure report when the data is available.

Campaign Finance – Mid-July marked the beginning of the nominations process for the ten local positions on Oakland's November ballot. Forty-eight candidates have now submitted statements of intent to run for office, and 27 have registered campaign committees. July 31 marks the first campaign finance deadline in 2020 for all registered committees with activity between January 1 and June 30. All committees received deadline notifications, and staff is reaching out to new committees to ensure they are prepared to file their reports electronically.

Commission staff successfully implemented changes in advance of the July 31 filing deadline to streamline the procedures for submitting campaign statements and reports and approving electronic signatures. The changes allow all campaign filings to be submitted without any in-person contact, which is particularly important during the COVID-19 pandemic but will continue indefinitely. In addition, updates to the City's electronic filing system, NetFile, were deployed to simplify the process for submitting campaign filings online.

Lobbyist Registration and Reporting – The second quarter lobbyist activity report deadline is on July 30, 2020. The new Lobbyist Registration and Reporting app was announced to lobbyists in early July. Since the announcement, Commission staff have been providing support to lobbyists as they create their new accounts and first reports, and the transition to the new system is proceeding smoothly.

Behested Payment¹ Disclosure – During the second quarter, the Mayor’s Office reported 24 behested payments totaling \$13,541,780 in solicited contributions for local charitable programs. A total of \$16,265,780 in contributions have been reported this year.

Behested payment reports are available for public viewing through the [Public Portal for Campaign Finance and Lobbyist Disclosure](#). A search for filings by a public official’s name will return any behested payment reports in the database submitted by that official (identified as Form 803).

Advice and Engagement

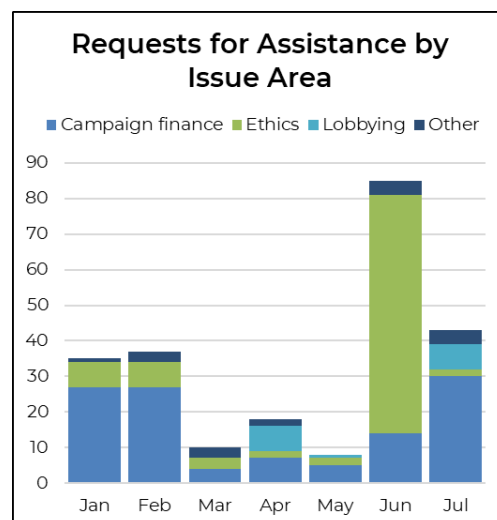
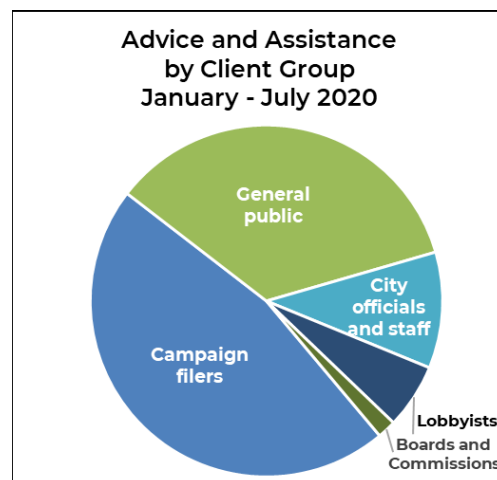
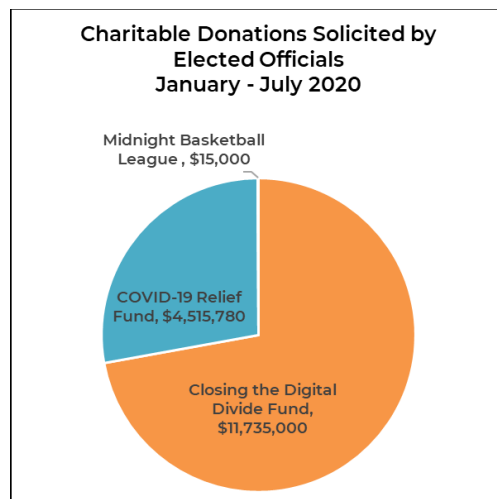
Advice and Assistance – Commission staff responded to 43 requests for advice and assistance during the month of July. Sixty-five percent were related to campaign rules, reporting requirements, and access to candidate disclosures. Commission staff has fulfilled 236 phone advice calls and requests for assistance this year.

Candidates and Campaigns – The nomination period for candidates seeking to qualify for the November 2020 ballot commenced on July 13 and ends on August 7. Commission staff provided the Office of the City Clerk with materials to provide with the candidate nomination packet including our candidate checklist and LPF Program informational flyer.

As part of our continuing campaign education efforts, staff issues monthly advisories to ensure that candidates and committees are aware of local rules during this election season. On July 8, staff issued an advisory regarding rules specific to ballot measure committees to inform treasurers and committees about state and local disclosure requirements. Upcoming advisories include officeholder committee rules and participation in the Limited Public Financing (LPF) program.

Ethics – On June 26, Staff conducted an ethics training for 60 new employees of the Oakland Parks, Recreation, and Youth Development Department during their summer staff orientation.

After a four-month pause due to COVID-19, the Department of Human Resources Management resumed their new employee orientation (NEO) program. Participation in the NEO provides new



¹ “Behested payments” are payments made to a charity upon the solicitation of an elected official. Behested Payment Reports must be filed with the campaign filing officer within 30 days on FPPC Form 803.

employees with an introduction to the PEC and overview of the Government Ethics Act (GEA). On July 15, staff trained a total of 16 new employees on GEA provisions.

On July 29, PEC staff will conduct a live Government Ethics Training for Form 700 Filers via Zoom. The training is being hosted by the Department of Human Resources and will serve as an alternative for employees that have not completed the PEC's online training.

Newsletter – The latest edition of the PEC newsletter [Public Trust](#) was published in July. The July newsletter covers a range of topics including campaign rules, use of city resources, and PEC program activities.

Social Media – Communications in July focused on raising awareness of filing deadlines and online resources for candidates and lobbyists.

Illuminating Disclosure Data

Open Disclosure – This month OpenDisclosure volunteers finalized a new election summary page with a campaign finance overview for the election. Data points include total contributions reported, the three most expensive races, the candidates with the largest proportion of small contributions, and a breakdown of contributions overall by source. Campaign finance data for the first half of 2020 will be available on the site after the July 31st campaign statement deadline.

Work on the [OpenDisclosure](#) campaign finance app continues as we wait for the nominations period to close and the November ballot to be finalized. OpenDisclosure is a project of OpenOakland volunteers in partnership with the Public Ethics Commission.