



Item 11 - Executive Director's Report

Arvon Perteet, Chair
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Whitney Barazoto, Executive Director

TO: Public Ethics Commission
FROM: Whitney Barazoto, Executive Director
DATE: May 26, 2022
RE: Executive Director's Report for the June 8, 2022, PEC Meeting

This memorandum provides an overview of the Public Ethics Commission's (PEC or Commission) significant activities this past month that are not otherwise covered by other program reports. Also included is a more extensive performance plan and priorities document for PEC review.

PEC Priorities

Following the Commission's retreat on April 21 and 22, Commission staff updated its work plan to note new projects completed in recent years and reflect current priority projects that are in progress or on the horizon. Attached is the performance plan for Commissioner review that includes program objectives and goals, key performance indicators and results by year, and projects for PEC focus going forward. Overall, 5 main areas for current PEC focus include the following, subject to change following the appointment of a new Executive Director:

1. Executive Director interviews/hiring,
2. Commissioner outreach,
3. Democracy Dollars policy and (potential) implementation project,
4. Proactive prevention (including Ticket Policy ordinance education, ethics onboarding, and candidate education and committee compliance for the 2022 Election), and
5. Focused enforcement to prioritize cases and bring certain cases to hearings before the full commission.

The attached plan includes more detail on each of our program areas. Please note that the plan is not a full picture of all the PEC's ongoing work but instead a brief synopsis of key projects and priorities in the context of broader language around the PEC's mission, goals, and activities at this moment in time.

Oakland Fair Elections Act

Following the PEC's review and formal support of the proposed Oakland Fair Elections Act at the PEC's April 13, 2022, meeting, Commission staff has been working with the assigned PEC subcommittee, Councilmember offices, and also members of the Bay Area Political Equality Collaborative coalition to clarify language, funding, and other implementation details as

written in the proposal. Staff will continue to work with these groups on potential amendments as the proposal makes its way through City Council.

PEC Legislation

City Council adopted the PEC's proposed Ticket Distribution Policy Ordinance and proposed amendments to the Limited Public Financing Program at its public meeting on May 3. The new ticket policy will become effective June 1, 2022, and the public financing amendments became effective immediately.

Mediations

Pursuant to the Oakland Sunshine Ordinance, the Commission conducts mediation of public records requests made by members of the public to City departments for records within the department's control. The PEC has 24 open mediations. Following a mediation, Commission staff provides a written summary of the mediation to the Commission and can also make recommendations for further Commission action. The following mediation was conducted by staff and subsequently closed this past month (reports attached):

1. In the Matter of the Human Resources Department and the Oakland Fire Department (Case No. M2022-02); (Mediation Summary attached)

