

Item 5c - Micik Application

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Public Ethics Commission Application

Contact Information

Name	Ryan Micik
Address	[REDACTED] Oakland, CA 94610
Phone	[REDACTED]
Evening Phone	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]

Please answer the following questions

Are you an Oakland resident? Yes

Years of residency in Oakland 6

Your City Council District District 1

List any City of Oakland Boards or Commissions (including this Commission) on which you currently or have previously served: none

Do you attest that you already have or will attend a PEC meeting before your final interview with the Commission? Yes

If you said yes to the previous question, please let us know what date you attended. May 3, 2021

Are you currently employed by the City of Oakland or do you have any direct and substantial financial interest in any work, business, or official action by the City? No

Are you currently or are you planning to run for elective office in Oakland? No

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Are you currently or are you planning to endorse, support or oppose an Oakland candidate or ballot measure? No

Are you currently or are you planning to work on behalf of an Oakland candidate or ballot measure? No

Are you a registered Oakland lobbyist? No

Are you required to register as a lobbyist? No

Do you receive compensation from an Oakland lobbyist? No

Do you receive gifts from an Oakland lobbyist? No

How did you hear about this vacancy? Oakland commissions website

Supplemental Questions

1. Why do you want to serve on the Public Ethics Commission?

I am a passionate believer in the power of our government to be a positive and representative force in improving people's lives. But many have understandably grown cynical about politicians and officials. I view the Commission's work -- enforcing ethics laws, ensuring transparency, and exposing potential influence -- as vital to earning public trust in government.

I have a longtime familiarity with the PEC's mission and responsibilities due to my public and private sector experience. I've thought deeply about the commission's challenges and I believe I've developed the perspective and know-how to, collaboratively, help strengthen the Commission and build on its accomplishments.

I am proud to be an Oakland resident and I am eager to put my background and professional skills to work to help ensure that our government is worthy of the vibrant community it serves.

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2. What skills and experience will you bring to the Commission? (Include any governmental experience, activities with civic and business organizations, neighborhood groups, or any other experience that would contribute to your effectiveness as a Commissioner.)

As a professional political researcher, I've been a voracious consumer of data and records maintained by the Commission, including campaign finance reports, lobbying disclosures, and other public records. I'm intimately familiar with how these records are collected, maintained, and dispersed in numerous jurisdictions across California and the nation, which has given me perspective on strengths and weaknesses of the various approaches. I've drafted countless analyses of these records for use by nonprofits, campaigns and others, and I'm cognizant of how these records are relevant and valuable to the public.

As the former deputy director of the state of Maryland's performance measurement office, I helped oversee a staff of analysts, chaired meetings, and learned how to effectively lead and manage a government body that was accountable to the governor, the legislature, and the public. Moreover, I became a huge fan and advocate of improving government performance through hard work, attention to detail, ambitious goals, and objective benchmarks.

As a Democratic and progressive activist and member of the AAPI community, I view public service as an opportunity to represent, and make institutions accessible and useful to, those who otherwise face barriers to full participation in our government.

Finally, my background in campaigns, as an aide to public officials, and as a government employee give me insight into the ethics cases that come before the Commission. I understand the stakes for the individuals, the agencies, and the public when the Commission exercises its responsibility to decide these cases.

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3. What issues, projects, or goals would you like to pursue while serving on the Commission?

I'm an enthusiastic advocate of making public records more accessible. The Commission has done some excellent work in recent years improving the online presentation of campaign finance data, adding the online lobbying disclosure database, and analyzing the city's response to public records requests. I'd like to explore opportunities to build on that work, making data more intuitive and useful to the public in exposing influence, perhaps, for example, by integrating data across different databases.

I'd like to help make sure the PEC is staying abreast of the activities of other jurisdictions' ethics commissions and analogous agencies, and, when helpful, communicating with them, to share best practices and develop ideas. For example, the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission allows website visitors to search and view campaign communications, and the San Francisco Ethics Commission allows for different lobbyist disclosure search options. While some of these differences may be attributable to differing ethics ordinances, they may also lead us to think creatively about how to offer additional useful searches or records, or recommend amendments to our ordinances. Ultimately, I would like for Oakland to become known as a national leader in ethics disclosure and records accessibility.

4. What do you think are the City's most pressing ethics, campaign finance, or transparency challenges?

Last year, the Commission published an analysis concluding that the City's campaign finance system permits significant influence by wealthy donors, perpetuates inequities, and sows distrust in government. Pursuing the reforms suggested in the report - and developing others - is a worthy priority.

The rapidly changing technological and media landscapes present challenges in enforcement and public communication but also opportunities to make data more accessible via the City website, mobile apps, and social media.

5. What else would you like the subcommittee to know as your application is considered?

I deeply respect the work of the Commission and its staff. As a super-user of data maintained by the Commission, a former government staffer, and a constituent, I appreciate how much of yourselves you have invested in serving the public. Thank you for taking the time to consider my application. Whatever the outcome of this application, I would like to serve the city and would be appreciative of your feedback and guidance.

Please provide two references

Reference 1

Name

Andy Katz

Address

[Redacted]

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Berkeley, CA 94704

Phone

[Redacted]

Email

Reference 2

Name

Jeani Murray

Address

[Redacted]

Washington, DC 20005

Phone

[Redacted]

Email

Submit your resume

Upload your resume

[Redacted]

Sign and submit application

Signature

[Redacted]

Date/Time

May 04, 2021

Ryan Micik

Skills

Political Research and Analysis

Expertise in local, state, and federal campaign disclosure and transparency laws • Litigation, legislation, and public records analysis • Clear, accurate reports, memos, and other communications • Advanced search strategies involving legislative, campaign finance, news, and other databases

Experience

- 1/12 – Present **RMEM, Inc.** **Oakland, CA**
Principal
- Advise political candidates, advocacy organizations, businesses, and other clients on campaign research, messaging, and strategy
 - Lead teams in identifying and obtaining relevant research and information, and summarizing and presenting findings
- 1/11 – 12/11 **OFFICE OF GOV. MARTIN O'MALLEY** **Annapolis, MD**
Deputy Director, StateStat
- Helped oversee StateStat, the governor's performance measurement and management initiative
 - Collaborated with agencies across state government to resolve performance issues, increase government efficiency, and achieve policy goals
- 4/10 – 11/10 **O'MALLEY/BROWN '06/'10** **Baltimore, MD**
6/06 – 11/06 **Research Director**
- Led defensive, opposition, and issues research effort for Gov. Martin O'Malley's 2006 and 2010 gubernatorial campaigns
 - Worked with candidate, communications staff, and consultants in developing paid communications, rapid response, debate prep, and other campaign duties
 - Managed research staff that included several employees plus interns
- 7/09 – 4/10 **MARYLAND DEMOCRATIC PARTY** **Annapolis, MD**
Research Director
- Planned, organized, and led Democratic statewide research program
 - Drafted news releases, wrote blog entries, produced website content, and handled other communications efforts
- 7/04 – 6/09 **VR RESEARCH** **Oakland/Los Angeles, CA**
2/00 – 12/01 **Senior Associate**
- Worked directly with clients (political campaigns and consultants) to provide fact-based guidance for campaign communications and messaging
 - Used public records to write and produce comprehensive and targeted reports distinguishing clients from their opponents
 - Helped direct research efforts while embedded in campaigns including candidates for Los Angeles mayor and California attorney general

Education

8/95 – 5/99 **B.A., UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA - BERKELEY** **Berkeley, CA**