

## Item #8 - 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: May 22, 2020  
RE: Disclosure and Engagement Report for the June 1, 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 - Compliance

**Lobbyist Disclosure** – April 30 marked the deadline for quarterly lobbyist activity reports covering the period from January 1 through March 31, 2020. To date, registered lobbyists number 55 and 54 submitted reports for the first quarter. Staff is assisting the single late filer to gain compliance.

Oakland lobbyists reported \$427,034 in payments from clients to influence City decisions.<sup>1</sup> The ten top spending clients accounted for 81 percent of reported payments to influence City decisionmakers.

Top Spending Lobbyist Clients	Payments to lobbyists
1. Harborside Health Center	\$67,500
2. Origin House	\$45,000
3. Kiva Confections	\$45,000
4. Rubicon Point Partners	\$42,500
5. Lyft, Inc	\$30,379
6. Verizon Communications, Inc. and its Affiliates	\$25,500
7. Argent Materials/Silverado Contractors	\$24,000
8. Education for Change Public Schools	\$22,500
9. Lighthouse Community Public Schools/Charter School Development	\$22,500
10. Revel Transit, Inc	\$20,000

Twenty-six lobbyists reported a total of 241 contacts with City officials during the first quarter of 2020. Half of contacts were related to proposed developments and/or planning and permitting processes, the overwhelming majority were related to the proposed ballpark development at Howard terminal. Other issues areas generating lobbyist

<sup>1</sup> Reporting client payments is voluntary. Figures are based on the data provided and do not reflect unreported payments.

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activity included cannabis permitting and regulation, scooter regulation, and housing issues. No employment relationships with City officials or solicited political contributions were reported for the first quarter.

Lobbyist activity reports are available for public viewing through the [Public Portal for Campaign Finance and Lobbyist Disclosure](#). Reports may be searched by the lobbyist's name or a date range.

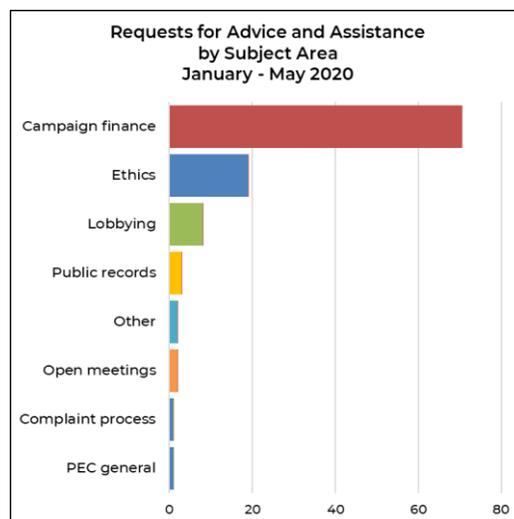
### Illuminating Disclosure Data

**Lobbyist E-filing** – During May, work on the [OakApps](#) lobbyist reporting app focused on quality assurance testing. The new system is on track to go live in late June in advance of the next filing deadline.

### Advice and Engagement

**Advice and Assistance** – Commission staff continues to respond to email and phone advice calls and requests for assistance, which amount to 106 requests to date this year.

**Candidates and Campaigns** – On May 15, staff issued an advisory to candidates and treasurers regarding Oakland campaign contributions. The advisory highlighted areas where violations were found in the last election cycle. Topics covered included the contractor ban and aggregation rules, as well as a reminder to candidates that contribution tracking needs to span the entire election cycle to avoid over-the-limit contributions.



On May 28, Commission staff will host a live candidate and treasurer webinar training with the FPPC on both state and local campaign rules. The training includes recordkeeping, campaign forms, advertisement disclaimers, local spending and contributions limits, and the Limited Public Financing Program. As of the date of this report, 20 candidates have signed up for training.

Staff updated the Limited Public Financing Program pages on the Commission website to include the updated LPF Guide, 2020 participant forms, and program information.

**Ethics** – On May 12, Commission staff sent out a citywide announcement to City officials and employees to remind them of ethics rules as the City responds to the COVID-19 pandemic. The announcement covered topics such as conflicts of interests, misuse of city resources, gifts, and reporting of charitable contributions solicited by election officials (behested payments).

On May 27, 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.

**Social Media** – Communications in May focused on sharing the Commission's 2019 accomplishments and annual report and outreach for our May training for candidates and treasurers.