

CITY OF OAKLAND
PUBLIC ETHICS COMMISSION
One Frank Ogawa Plaza (City Hall)
Regular Commission Meeting
Teleconference
Monday, March 1, 2021
6:30 p.m.



Commissioners: Michael MacDonald (Chair), Jerett Yan (Vice-Chair), Avi Klein, Arvon Perteet, and Joseph Tuman

Commission Staff to attend: Whitney Barazoto, Executive Director; Suzanne Doran, Lead Analyst – Civic Technology and Engagement; Kellie Johnson, Enforcement Chief; Simon Russell, Investigator

City Attorney Staff: Trish Shafie, Deputy City Attorney

PEC MEETING AGENDA

1. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum.

The meeting was held via teleconference.

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

Members present: MacDonald, Yan, Klein, Perteet, and Tuman.

Staff present: Whitney Barazoto, Suzanne Doran, Kellie Johnson, and Ana Lara-Franco.

City Attorney Staff: Trish Shafie

2. Staff and Commission Announcements.

There were no announcements.

3. Open Forum.

There were no public speakers.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Approval of Commission Meeting Draft Minutes.

- a. February 1, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

There were no public speakers.

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Tuman moved, and Perteet seconded to adopt the February 1, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Ayes: MacDonald, Yan, Klein, Perteet, and Tuman.

Noes: None

Vote: Passed 5-0

5. Public Ethics Commission Annual Report.

Whitney Barazoto, Executive Director, presented the Commission's annual report, noting that a commissioner bio and picture had been inadvertently left out.

Commissioners shared their thoughts and discussed the report.

There were no public speakers.

Tuman moved, and Perteet seconded to approve the report with the addition of the missing commissioner bio and picture.

Ayes: MacDonald, Yan, Klein, Perteet, and Tuman.

Noes: None

Vote: Passed 5-0

6. Lobbyist Public Access Portal and Newly Published Datasets Demonstration.

Suzanne Doran, Lead Analyst, provided a demonstration of the new Lobbyist registration public access portal and related datasets that are now available to the public online.

Commissioners asked questions.

There were no public speakers.

MacDonald moved, and Tuman seconded to accept the report.

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Ayes: MacDonald, Yan, Klein, Perteet, and Tuman.

Noes: None

Vote: Passed 5-0

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. Reports on Subcommittees and Commissioner Assignments.

- a. Sunshine Review Subcommittee** (*ad hoc*/temporary, created on May 8, 2020)
– Michael MacDonald (Chair) and Joe Tuman

MacDonald announced that meetings will start again in few weeks and that Klein will be joining the subcommittee.

There were no public speakers.

INFORMATION ITEMS

8. Public Ethics Commission Report – *Race for Power: How Money in Oakland Politics Creates and Perpetuates Disparities Across Income and Race.*

Ms. Barazoto shared the published copy of the Commission’s Race for Power report that had been approved by the Commission in September 2020 and circulated again to elected officials in advance of the upcoming budget discussion that will incorporate a focus on equity in Oakland. The report evaluates outcomes from Oakland’s existing public financing program and overall campaign finance system, articulates the ways in which some Oaklanders lack political power, explores current trends and best practices across jurisdictions and subject-matter fields, and recommends a new approach for Oakland to expand and diversify participation and influence in the campaign process.

Commissioners asked questions and shared their thoughts.

There were no public speakers.

9. Disclosure and Engagement.

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Ms. Doran provided a report of recent education, outreach, disclosure and data illumination activities. She also shared that there are 4 campaign non-filers and that staff is currently reaching out to them.

There were no public speakers.

10. Enforcement Program.

Kellie Johnson, Enforcement Chief, reported on the Commission's enforcement work since the last regular Commission meeting. Ms. Johnson shared that moving forward, mediations will be presented as informational items.

There were no public speakers.

11. Executive Director's Report.

Ms. Barazoto reported on overall projects, priorities, and significant activities since the Commission's last meeting. She also shared that the recruitment for the current vacancy is still going. There have been about three submissions so far.

There were no public speakers.

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.