

CITY OF OAKLAND
PUBLIC ETHICS COMMISSION
One Frank Ogawa Plaza (City Hall)
Special Commission Meeting
Thursday, April 4, 2019
Hearing Room 4
3:00 p.m.



Commissioners: Jodie Smith (Chair), James E.T. Jackson (Vice-Chair), Jill Butler, Lisa Crowfoot, Gail Kong, and Nayeli Maxson

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

City Attorney Staff: Trish Hynes, Deputy City Attorney

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

1. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum.

The meeting was called to order at 3:09 p.m.

Members present: Commissioners Smith, Jackson, Butler, Crowfoot, Kong, and Maxson.

Staff present: Whitney Barazoto, Suzanne Doran, Kellie Johnson, Jelani Killings, Kyle McLean, and Simon Russell.

City Attorney Staff: Trish Hynes, Deputy City Attorney

2. Staff and Commission Announcements.

Commissioner Crowfoot announced she will be leaving her Commissioner seat in the summer and has notified the Mayor's Office to appoint a replacement.

Commissioner Smith announced that the League of Women Voters will be holding a Citywide luncheon on April 11.

3. Open Forum.

There were no public speakers.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Public Ethics Commission Annual Report for 2018.

Executive Director Whitney Barazoto presented the Commission's Annual Report for 2019, noting the Commission's role as filing officer that allowed Commission staff to offer valuable

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support for candidates and committees at the front end that led to significantly enhanced campaign finance compliance that reduced the need for enforcement overall. This highlights the real benefit of serving as both filing officer/collector of the information as well as enforcer, to both educate and support candidates and committees early in the process to eliminate problems before enforcement is needed.

Commissioner Jackson moved and Commissioner Maxson seconded to approve annual report.

The motion passed 6-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Public Ethics Commission Retreat.

a. Inclusive Leadership Workshop.

Guest facilitator Maria G. Hernandez, President of Impact4Health, led a discussion with the Commission about inclusive leadership, privilege, and organizational values.

b. Strategic Planning: Review Program Area Work and Identify Key Projects for 2019.

Ms. Barazoto introduced the Commission's existing strategic plan document that has been in place since 2017 and extends through 2020. She discussed the process of developing the plan and mentioned that it should be revisited in full in 2020. Meanwhile, the discussion at this meeting will focus on accomplishments for 2018, what remains for 2019-20, challenges to completing our goals, and opportunities that could be leveraged.

Ms. Barazoto started the discussion with a focus on the Commission's main Lead/Collaborate projects and identified accomplishments and next steps for the Campaign Finance project, ticket policy work, and lobbyist registration amendments and filing officer duty. A public speaker participated in this discussion through questions and comments.

Education Analyst Jelani Killings provided an overview of education and advice program accomplishments and next steps, including sunshine training and reviewing whether board/commissions are posting meeting materials online, among others.

Lead Analyst Suzanne Doran briefly described the Commission's outreach successes for 2018, as well as the PEC website which was a significant area of work for PEC staff this past year.

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Dinner Break – Commissioners and staff took about a 15 minute break.

Ms. Doran provided an overview of the PEC’s Disclosure program, detailing the different form and data-collection systems used by PEC staff as well as the availability of the data or information to the public. She identified some of the challenges that exist with current systems and shared potential opportunities for partnerships.

Open Oakland volunteers Jesse Woltjer and Colin Kin-Bailey, both of whom assisted with the development of www.OpenDisclosure.io, presented a hypothetical model of possibilities that could be created if data systems are aligned and integrated across government integrity data-sets.

Chair Smith created an ad hoc subcommittee on Partnerships, with Gail Kong, Nayeli Maxson, and Lisa Crowfoot as members.

Enforcement Chief Kellie Johnson shared the Commission’s enforcement successes in 2018 as well as her ideas for additional enforcement methods and approaches that could be explored in 2019 to achieve more timely and effective enforcement outcomes. Enforcement staff Simon Russell and Kyle McLean added observations about investigative and mediation work, respectively. Ms. Johnson led Commissioners and staff through a discussion that shared challenges and case priority considerations inherent in the enforcement process. Commissioners, staff, and meeting attendees had the opportunity to weigh in on general enforcement priority considerations.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.