

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE COMMON BOARD OF ETHICS**

DATE: OCTOBER 24, 2023

TIME: 5:30 P.M.

PLACE: CITY HALL, OEM CONFERENCE ROOM, 6TH FLOOR

BOARD OF ETHICS MEMBERS

PRESENT:

DENNIS COHEN, EX OFFICIO

FELICIA SOLOMON, CHAIR

JOHN LAFFEY, VICE-CHAIR

SEAN BARRAVECCHIO, BOARD MEMBER

TORI PIECHOCNISKI, BOARD MEMBER

ELIZABETH TRESTON, BOARD MEMBER

MEETING MINUTES

- DISCUSSION OF FIRST TALKING POINT REGARDING REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL AND ETHICAL DISCLOSURE FORMS FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY COUNCIL REGARDING PROPOSED CHANGES.
 - ELIZABETH TRESTON STATES THE FORM IS TOO LENGTHY AND REPETITIVE; TORI PIECHOCNISKI AGREES.
 - TORI PIECHOCNISKI PROPOSES FORM TO BE CREATED IN GOOGLE DOCS TO ASSIST WITH REVIEW OF FORMS THAT WOULD CREATE AN EXCEL SPREADSHEET TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR REVIEW OF SPECIFIC INFORMATION; ELIZABETH TRESTON STATES THE CITY DOES NOT POSSESS THIS PROGRAM.

- DENNIS COHEN STATES HE WILL RESEARCH THE LAW REGARDING REVISING FORM, AND PROVIDE A COPY OF SUFFOLK COUNTY'S FORM FOR REFERENCE; PROPOSES SUGGESTIONS FROM BOARD MEMBERS.
- FELICIA SOLOMON AND TORI PIECHOCNISKI PROPOSE TO CREATE A SIMPLE AND MORE COMPREHENSIBLE FORM.
- DENNIS COHEN RECOMMENDS THE BOARD OF ETHICS SUBMIT SUGGESTIONS OF WHO WILL BE REQUIRED TO FILL OUT FORM IN THE BEGINNING OF EACH YEAR, TO BE VOTED AND DECIDED BY CITY COUNCIL EVERY FIRST OR SECOND MEETING IN JANUARY. CORPORATION COUNSEL OFFICE WILL SEND OUT CORRESPONDENCE WITH DEADLINES, THEN A SECOND NOTICE TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO DEADLINE. AFTER DEADLINE, A WARNING WILL BE SENT TO THOSE NOT SUBMITTED. AFTER FIRST WARNING, THE BOARD OF ETHICS WILL DECIDE APPROPRIATE ACTION.
- TORI PIECHOCNISKI PROPOSES IF NOT RECEIVED AFTER FIRST WARNING, A SMALL FINE SHOULD BE CHARGED ON A SLIDING SCALE DETERMINED BY HOW MANY DAYS LATE; DENNIS COHEN STATES IT SHOULD BE REVIEWED ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS WITH CONSISTENCY.
- DISCUSSION OF SECOND TALKING POINT REGARDING WHICH EMPLOYEES SHOULD FILE FINANCIAL AND ETHICAL DISCLOSURE FORMS.

- JOHN LAFFEY REQUESTS A CITY DEPARTMENT LIST TO CREATE A PROPOSED LIST TO BE REVIEWED AND VOTED ON NEXT MEETING; FELICIA SOLOMON AGREES.
- SEAN BARRAVECCHIO PROPOSES TO VOTE ON POSITIONS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE TOO MUCH DEBATE.
- A DISCUSSION ENSUED TO REQUIRE POLICYMAKERS AND ANY EMPLOYEE WHO NEGOTIATES AND AUTHORIZES CONTRACTS SHOULD FILE.
- LIST TO BE VOTED ON:
 - ELECTED OFFICIALS
 - POLITICAL PARTY OFFICIALS
 - ALL DEPARTMENT HEADS
 - COMPTROLLER
 - TREASURER
 - PURCHASING (FULL DEPARTMENT)
 - POLICE COMMISSIONER
 - DETECTIVE COMMANDER
 - EXECUTIVE OFFICER (DEPALMA)
 - FIRE COMMISSIONER (MILLER)
 - FIRE CAPTAIN COMMANDER
 - ATTORNEYS IN CORPORATION COUNSEL
- DENNIS COHEN WILL RESEARCH CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES WITH REQUIRING PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO REAL BUSINESS IN LONG BEACH.

- TORI PIECHOCNISKI RECOMMENDS A QUALIFICATION QUESTION TO BE ADDED ON FORM TO LIST ANY EMPLOYEE IN THEIR DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND AUTHORIZATIONS OF CONTRACTS.
 - DENNIS COHEN RECOMMENDS CORPORATION COUNSEL LEGAL ASSISTANT/LEGAL SECRETARY TO EMAIL DEPARTMENT HEADS TO DISCLOSE THIS QUESTION RATHER THAN ADD TO DISCLOSURE FORM.
- JOHN LAFFEY MAKES A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AFOREMENTIONED “LIST TO BE VOTED ON”.
 - SECOND MOTION MADE BY DENNIS COHEN.
 - ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIES UNANIMOUSLY.
- JOHN LAFFEY PROPOSES TO CREATE A SCHEDULE FOR THE BOARD OF ETHICS TO MEET ONCE A MONTH ON A TUESDAY. DISCUSSION ENSUED NOT TO SCHEDULE ON A CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE (USUALLY 1ST AND 3RD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH) UNTIL SETTLED, THEN QUARTERLY; BOARD AGREES.
- DISCUSSION ENSUED TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY COUNCIL REGARDING THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS ON THE BOARD OF ETHICS.
 - DIFFICULTY OF FILLING A FULLY-CONSTITUTED BOARD OF EIGHT MEMBERS; CURRENTLY CONSIST OF FIVE BOARD MEMBERS, PLUS A VOTING EX-OFFICIO (CITY ATTORNEY).

- JOHN LAFFEY MAKES A MOTION TO RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL THAT THE BOARD OF ETHICS CONSIST OF FIVE BOARD MEMBERS, PLUS CITY ATTORNEY, AS A NON-VOTING MEMBER.
- SECOND MOTION WAS MADE BY TORI PIECHOCNISKI.
- ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIES UNANIMOUSLY.
 - DENNIS COHEN WILL DRAFT AN AMENDMENT OF THE CODE TO PRESENT TO CITY COUNCIL.
- FELICIA SOLOMON MAKES A MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING OF JULY 25, 2023.
 - SECOND MOTION MADE BY JOHN LAFFEY.
 - TORI PIECHOCNISKI ABSTAINED.
 - ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIES.
- TORI PIECHOCNISKI MAKES A MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING OF AUGUST 22, 2023.
 - SECOND MOTION MADE BY SEAN BARRAVECCHIO.
 - FELICIA SOLOMON ABSTAINED.
 - ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIES.
- DENNIS COHEN MAKES A MOTION TO GO INTO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER MATTERS THAT MAY LEAD TO THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, PROMOTION, DEMOTION, DISCIPLINE, SUSPENSION, DISMISSAL OR REMOVAL OF PARTICULAR PERSON OR CORPORATION.
 - SECOND MOTION WAS MADE BY SEAN BARRAVECCHIO.
 - ELIZABETH TRESTON RECUSES HERSELF.
 - ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIES.

- CAME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION TO STATE ACTION REGARDING COMPLAINT FOR FAILURE OF AN ELECTED OFFICIAL TO FILE FINANCIAL AND ETHICAL DISCLOSURE FORMS. DENNIS COHEN MAKES A MOTION TO TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION BASED ON THE FACT THE FORMS WERE ALL FILED PRIOR TO THE COMPLAINT. GOING FORWARD, THE BOARD IS GOING TO IMPLEMENT A PROCESS TO ENSURE PROPER NOTIFICATION AND SUBSEQUENT ACTION FOR FAILURE TO FILE.
 - SECOND MOTION MADE BY JOHN LAFFEY.
 - ELIZABETH TRESTON STILL RECUSED.
 - ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIES.
- DENNIS COHEN CALLED ELIZABETH TRESTON IN AND MAKES A MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING.
 - SECOND MOTION MADE BY JOHN LAFFEY.
 - ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIES.