



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

ETHICS REVIEW COMMISSION

Recommendation Number: 20130205-3A Recommended Changes To Personal Financial Filings

WHEREAS, the current deadline for filing the City's annual personal financial forms is the "last Friday of April," but the current deadline for filing the state's comparable financial forms is April 30, and the City and state forms request similar information and elected officials must timely file both forms;

WHEREAS, the updated mid-year personal financial report, due on the last Friday of July, requests filers to provide information, the relevant portion of which is already available by way of disclosures made on recusal forms throughout the year;

WHEREAS, the Ethics Review Commission reviewed a side-by-side comparison document that notes the similarities and differences between city and state financial disclosure forms, and which form can assist filers who are filing both at the same time; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the Ethics Review Commission in recommending these changes is to clarify and streamline financial reporting requirements, and to strictly enforce the requirements that are adopted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ethics Review Commission encourages the Austin City Council to:

Change the deadline for filing annual personal financial forms, found in §2-7-72(A) and other sections of the Code, from the last Friday of April, to "no later than April 30," so that the City filing deadline is consistent with the state's filing deadline;

Remove the requirement for filing an updated mid-year report, currently due on the "last Friday of July" pursuant to §2-7-72(A), in light of ongoing recusal requirements;


Direct the City Clerk to provide a side-by-side comparison form to all persons who must file both City and state personal financial forms; and

Direct the City Clerk to alert the Ethics Review Commission regarding any personal financial form filing compliance issues.

Date of Approval: February 5, 2013

Record of the vote: Unanimous on a 7-0 vote

Attest: _____


City Staff Sabine Romero