



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

ETHICS REVIEW COMMISSION

Recommendation Number: 20130430-004 Recommended Changes To Travel Reporting Requirements

WHEREAS, the language of Section 2-7-72(F) of the City Code, requiring financial disclosure reports for travel, has been subject to multiple interpretations;

WHEREAS, Section 2-7-72(F), as it is currently written, only requires reports to be filed by the mayor or council members, but does not require reporting by other high-ranking city officials who may travel; and

WHEREAS, Section 2-7-72(F), as it is currently written, requires individuals to file reports both before and after embarking on a trip.

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

Revise Section 2-7-72(F) to expand the travel reporting requirement so that it includes the city manager, city police chief, city fire chief, and all city employees that report directly to the City Manager; and

Revise Section 2-7-72(F) to remove the requirement for filing a report before embarking on a trip, and instead require a single, complete report to be filed within 15 days of return from a trip.

For the benefit of Council, the Commission provides the following markup of the foregoing suggested revisions to 2-7-72(F):

(F) ~~If, during a reporting period, the mayor or~~ a member of the city council, city manager, city police chief, city fire chief, or a city employee who reports directly to the city manager has accepted, in his or her official capacity, the offer of any trip or excursion from a person or entity other than the City, then he or she shall report the following to the city clerk ~~before embarking on such a trip or excursion~~ within 15 days of return from such trip or excursion:

- (1) The name of the sponsor;
- (2) The place or places to be visited;
- (3) The purpose of such trip or excursion; ~~and~~
- (4) The date and duration of any such trip or excursion; and

~~Within 15 days of return from such trip or excursion, the mayor or Council member shall report to the city clerk~~ (5) the approximate value of such a trip or excursion.

Date of Approval: April 30, 2013

Record of the vote: Unanimous approval on a 4-0 vote (with Price, Sassin, and Ruiz absent).

Attest: Cynthia Tom By City Staff Cynthia Tom