



## **ETHICS REVIEW COMMISSION MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, January 29, 2014**

The Ethics Review Commission convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 29, 2014, at Austin City Hall, 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Room 1029 in Austin, Texas.

Chair Kaplan called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Commission members in attendance: Chair Austin Kaplan, Vice Chair Velva Price, Peter Einhorn, Donna Beth McCormick (present at 6:18), James Ruiz, James Sassin (present at 6:29), and Dennis Speight.

Staff in Attendance: Assistant City Attorney Cynthia Tom and City Clerk Jannette Goodall.

Item 4.f.: Chair Kaplan took up Item 4.f. out of order, and City Clerk Goodall provided a briefing on candidate guidance for the 2014 City Council election. Commission members discussed with City Clerk Goodall questions that members had received from candidates.

Item No. 1: There were no speakers for citizen communication.

Item No. 2: The Commission approved the minutes of the October 29, 2013, regular meeting with amendment by Commission Member Speight. Motion by Commission Member Einhorn. Second by Commission Member Speight. Passed 7-0 as amended. Chair Kapan postponed approval of the minutes of the December 4, 2014, special called meeting.

Item No. 3.a.: The Commission hearings rules working group presented draft rules, the Commission discussed draft rules, the Commission asked for legal advice from Assistant City Attorney Tom, James Ruiz joined the working group, and the Commission voted to call a special meeting on March 26, 2014, at which time the working group would present a revised version of the draft rules and receive legal advice from Assistant City Attorney Tom. Motion by Commission Member Speight. Second by Commission Member Einhorn.

Item No. 3.b.: The Commission by-laws working group presented draft revised by-laws, and the Commission approved. Motion by Commission Member Speight. Second by Vice Chair Price. Passed 7-0.

Item 4.a.: Chair Kaplan presented the Commission 2013 Annual Internal Review Report, and Commission adopted. Motion by Commission Member Einhorn. Second by Commission Member Speight. Passed 7-0.

Item 4.b.: The Commission discussed its duty to perform an annual review and evaluation of the dollar limits established in City Code Chapter 2-2 (Campaign Finance), and the Commission declined to take any action on this item until after the 2014 City Council election.

Item 4.c: The Commission discussed the possible revision of the City's campaign finance filing forms, including an e-mail received from the public regarding inconsistencies in one form due to recent City Code changes. Chair Kaplan tabled Item 4.c.

Item 4.e.: Chair took up Item 4.e. out of order. The Commission discussed the request for a representative of the Ethics Review Commission to participate in a February 22, 2014, League of Women Voters Austin City Government 101 Forum.

Item 4.d.: The Commission discussed 2014 City Council election candidate forum planning and an upcoming meeting with the League of Women Voters and City staff. Commission Member McCormick volunteered to attend the meeting on behalf of the Commission and report back.

Item 4.c.: Chair Kaplan took item 4.c. off the table. Commission Member Einhorn made a motion to amend campaign finance form ATX-1. Second by Vice Chair Price. Passed 7-0. The Commission designated a working group composed of Commission Member Einhorn and Commission Member Speight to review and propose revisions to the campaign finance forms.

Item 5.a.: Assistant City Attorney Tom briefed the Commission on 2014 City Council election cycle important dates and deadlines, including candidate forum windows.

Item No. 6: No future agenda items were discussed.

The Commission adjourned at 8:33 p.m.