



ETHICS REVIEW COMMISSION MINUTES

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
Wednesday, March 26, 2014**

The Ethics Review Commission (“Commission”) convened in a special called meeting on Wednesday, March 26, 2014, at Austin City Hall, 301 W. 2nd Street, Room 1033, in Austin, Texas.

Chair Austin Kaplan called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Commission members in attendance: Chair Austin Kaplan, Vice Chair Velva Price (present at 6:15 p.m.), Peter Einhorn, Donna Beth McCormick, James Ruiz, James Sassin, and Dennis Speight.

Staff in Attendance: Assistant City Attorney Cynthia Tom, Communications and Public Information Office (“CPIO”) Director Doug Matthews, ATXN Station Manager Keith Reeves, and CPIO Public Relations Manager Patricia Fraga.

Items No. 2.a. and 3.a.: Chair Kaplan took up Items No 2.a. and 3.a. together and out of order. Director Matthews briefed the Commission on CPIO’s proposal for the 2014 City Council election candidate forums and committed to report back to the Commission with updates. The Commission members discussed which forums each member would plan to attend as a representative of the Commission.

Vice Chair Price made a motion to join Commission Member McCormick on the candidate forums working group, which was seconded by Commission Member Speight. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Commission Member Speight made the following motion, which was seconded by Commission Member Einhorn: (1) that the Commission approve the schedule for the 2014 City Council election candidate forums as proposed by CPIO, subject to the following suggestions from the Commission: that CPIO look for different venues for the Districts 6 and 10 forum and the Districts 5 and 8 forum, and that CPIO consider other potential dates and locations for the mayoral forum; and (2) that Commission Member Price be the lead for the Districts 4 and 7 forum, Commission Member Ruiz be the lead for the District 9 forum, Commission Member Sassin be the lead for the Districts 6 and 10 forum, Commission Member Speight be the lead for the Districts 8 and 5 forum, Commission Member McCormick be the lead for the District 1 forum, Commission Member Einhorn be the lead for the Districts 2 and 3 forum, and Chair Kaplan be the lead for the mayoral forum. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

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

Item No. 2.b.: Item No. 2.b. was tabled by Chair Kaplan.

Item No. 2.c.: Assistant City Attorney Tom noted that the agenda incorrectly listed Commission Member Sassin as a member of the campaign finance working group; instead Commission Member Speight should have been listed. The Commission working group, consisting of Commission Members Einhorn and Speight, shared the working group's recommendations for revisions, and Assistant City Attorney Tom shared the Law Department's recommendations for revisions to the City's campaign finance filing forms. After discussion by the Commission, Commission Member Einhorn moved acceptance of the revised forms showing March 26, 2014 as the revision date, which Commission Member Price seconded. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Item No. 2.b.: Item No. 2.b. was taken off the table by Chair Kaplan. Vice Chair Price made a report on behalf of the complaint hearing rules revision working group, stating that the working group would come to the Commission at the next regular meeting with draft rules. Assistant City Attorney Tom reported back to the Commission with legal advice requested at the January 29, 2014 Commission meeting. Commission Member Speight moved that the working group's charge be expanded to include recommending revisions to the Commission's complaint form. The motion was seconded by Commission Member Einhorn. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Item No. 2.d.: Chair Kaplan gave a report on his participation in the February 22, 2014 League of Women Voters Austin City Government 101 Forum.

Item No. 3.b.: Assistant City Attorney Tom briefed the Commission on issues related to Commission members' participation in the 2014 political campaign season in their private capacities.

Item No. 4: The Commission discussed the following future agenda items: update from complaint hearing rules working group and possible update from CPIO and candidate forums working group.

Commission Member Speight made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commission Member Sassin. The motion passed unanimously (7-0), and the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.