



## **ETHICS REVIEW COMMISSION MINUTES**

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
Tuesday, November 10, 2015**

The Ethics Review Commission (“Commission”) convened in a Special Called meeting on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, at City Hall, 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Room 1027, in Austin, Texas.

Commission Chair Austin Kaplan called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

Commission members in attendance: Chair Austin Kaplan, Vice Chair Peter Einhorn, Meagan Harding, Matthew Lamon, Donna Beth McCormick, Paul Quinzi, Kenneth Smith, and Brian Thompson.

City Staff in Attendance: Assistant City Attorney Cynthia Tom, Staff Liaison Jessica Aranda, City Auditor Corrie Stokes, Acting Chief of Investigations for the City Auditor’s Office Nathan Wiebe, and Council Member Leslie Pool.

Item No. 3.b.: Chair Kaplan took up Item No. 3.b. out of order. City Auditor Stokes briefed the Commission on the proposed revisions to Chapter 2-7 (Ethics and Financial Disclosure) and Chapter 2-3 (City Auditor) of City Code. Chair Kaplan tabled the item.

Item No. 3.a.: Chair Kaplan took up Item No. 3.a. out of order. Commission Member Thompson briefed the Commission on behalf of the working group associated with Chapter 4-8 of City Code (Regulation of Lobbyists). The Commission heard citizen communication on the item and also heard from Council Member Pool.

Commission Member Thompson made a motion that the Commission approve a recommendation to the City Council regarding lobbying reform and regarding the draft lobbying resolution recommended by the Council Audit and Finance Committee on August 26, 2015, which was seconded by Commission Member McCormick. The motion passed on an 8-0 vote. Commission Members Ohueri, Speight, and Stratmann absent.

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

Item No. 2: The Commission postponed approval of the October 13, 2015 special called meeting minutes to the next Commission meeting.

Items No. 3.c. and 4: Chair Kaplan took up together Item No. 3.c., regarding Chapter 2-2 of City Code (Campaign Finance) and Article III, Section 8 of the City Charter (Limits on Campaign Contributions and Expenditures), and Item No. 4, regarding the Council Audit and Finance Committee resolution regarding mandating disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures by non-profits and other entities that are not currently required to disclose their

funding (“dark money”) sources. Commission Member Quinzi briefed the Commission on behalf of the campaign finance working group. Commission Member Quinzi laid out the working group’s proposed recommendation to the City Council regarding the Audit and Finance Committee resolution relating to “dark money.” Commission Member Quinzi made a motion to adopt the recommendation, which was seconded by Commission Member Smith. The motion passed on a 7-0-1 vote, with Commission Member Lamon abstaining. Commission Members Ohueri, Speight, and Stratmann absent.

Item No. 3.d.: Vice Chair Einhorn made a motion to approve revised City campaign finance form ATX. 6 (Exemption Statement) related to requirements set out in Ordinance No. 20150806-004 relating to electronic filing of information in campaign finance reports, which was seconded by Commission Member Thompson. The motion passed on an 8-0 vote. Commission Members Ohueri, Speight, and Stratmann absent.

Item No. 3.e.: The Commission discussed setting the Commission regular meeting calendar for 2016. Vice Chair Einhorn made a motion that the Commission meet once a month on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m., unless there was a conflict, in which case the Commission would meet on the third Wednesday of the month, which was seconded by Commission Member Harding. The motion passed on a 7-0-1 vote, with Chair Kaplan abstaining. Commission Members Ohueri, Speight, and Stratmann absent.

Item No. 3.b.: Chair Kaplan took up Item No. 3.b. from the table. City Auditor Stokes and Acting Chief of Investigations Wiebe continued briefing the Commission on the proposed revisions to Chapter 2-7 (Ethics and Financial Disclosure) and Chapter 2-3 (City Auditor) of City Code. Vice Chair Einhorn made a motion to approve a recommendation to the City Council regarding the proposed amendments to Chapter 2-7, which was seconded by Commission Member Smith. The motion passed on an 8-0 vote. Commission Members Ohueri, Speight, and Stratmann absent.

Vice Chair Einhorn made a motion to approve a recommendation to the City Council regarding the proposed amendments to Chapter 2-3, which was seconded by Commission Member Lamon. The motion passed on an 8-0 vote. Commission Members Ohueri, Speight, and Stratmann absent.

Item No. 5: The Commission discussed future agenda items which included: conflicts of interest, the gift provisions in Chapter 4-8, and updates from working groups.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.