

**Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission Regular Meeting
March 7, 2012**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission convened on March 7, 2012 in Room 4080 of the Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue. Commission Chair Bill Sherman called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Commissioners Bruce Carter, Rich Cohan, Lynne Iglitzin and David Mendoza were all present. Vice-Chair Tarik Burney and Commissioner Amit Ranade were absent. Executive Director Wayne Barnett and staff members Anthony Adams, Bob DeWeese, Kate Flack, Polly Grow, Gary Keese and Chris Thomas were present. Assistant City Attorney Jeff Slayton was also in attendance.

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming Bruce Carter to the Commission.

1) Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Action Items

2) Approval of minutes December 7, 2011 meeting

Commissioner Cohan motioned to approve the December 7, 2011 minutes. Commissioner Mendoza seconded. The minutes from the December 7, 2011 Regular Commission meeting were unanimously approved.

3) Approval of minutes January 4, 2012

The Chair noted that a phrase was missing from the first draft of the minutes that staff distributed, and directed the commissioners' attention to the draft of the minutes in their packets. Commissioner Iglitzin motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Mendoza seconded. The minutes from the January 4, 2012 Regular Commission meeting were unanimously approved.

4) Public hearing and vote on rule adopting list of Financial Interest Statement filers for Calendar year 2011

The Executive Director directed the commissioners' attention to the book containing the names of individuals identified by their departments as required to file financial interest statements for 2011. Commissioner Carter made a motion to adopt the list of filers, which Commissioner Cohan seconded. The Commission voted unanimously to adopt the list of Financial Interest Statement filers for 2011.

5) Settlement with City employee who misused her official position and participated in matters in which she had a financial interest (\$1,500)

The Executive Director explained that the employee had worked on her own utility account, and reminded the Commission that they had approved seven settlements for similar conduct at their December 2011 meeting. Commissioner Cohan asked how this fine compared to the others, and the Director said that it was among the higher fines, because the employee obtained benefits unavailable to other ratepayers.

Commissioner Cohan made a motion to adopt the settlement, and Commissioner Carter seconded the motion. The settlement was unanimously approved.

7) Request for advice from the City Council on draft changes to the Whistleblower Protection Code

Kate Flack led the Commission on a section-by-section review of the draft changes to the Whistleblower Protection Code.

Jack Sheridan gave public comments focused on three primary issues: (1) the draft ordinance's failure to create a private cause of action for those employees who believe they have been retaliated against for blowing the whistle, (2) the fact that the draft ordinance does not make

the individual whistleblower a party to the administrative proceeding held to decide whether the City has retaliated, and (3) the fact that the ordinance does not provide for “front pay” when an employee establishes that they are a victim of retaliation.

Approximately an hour into the review, the Commission decided to set the review aside until the April meeting, so that it could get through the other items on the agenda.

6) Opinion request regarding transfers of funds between committees.

The Commission decided to hold over the opinion request regarding transfers of funds between committees for consideration at the Commission’s April meeting.

8) Resolution honoring departing Commissioner Bob Mahon

The Chair read aloud a resolution honoring Commissioner Bob Mahon, who served nearly eight years on the Commission. Commissioner Iglitzin moved that the Commission adopt the resolution, and Commissioner Cohan seconded. The Commission unanimously approved the resolution honoring departing Commissioner Bob Mahon.

Discussion Items

9) 2011 Election Report

The Executive Director reported that the Election Report had been well-received. Commissioners had no questions about the report.

10) Executive Directors Report

The Executive Director had nothing further to report.

The Regular Commission meeting for March 7, 2012 adjourned at 5:32 p.m. for a reception honoring Bob Mahon.