

**Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission Regular Meeting
July 1, 2015**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission convened on July 1, 2015 in Room 4080 of the Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue. Commission Chair Bruce Carter called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. Commissioner's Brendan Donckers, Eileen Norton and Bill Sherman were in attendance. Vice-Chair Brad Axel and Commissioner Rich Cohan were not in attendance. Executive Director Wayne Barnett and staff members Anthony Adams, Kate Flack, Polly Grow and Steve Townsend were present. Seattle City Attorney Jeff Slayton was also in attendance.

1) Public Comment

Honorable Michael Fuller addressed the Commission regarding his views on the plight of African Americans in this community.

Queen Pearl addressed the Commission regarding the professionalism and ethics of a City employee who called her a racist.

Alex Tsimerman addressed the Commission regarding the City's decision to trespass him from City Hall and the Seattle Municipal Tower.

Action Item

2) Regular meeting minutes for April 1, 2015

Commissioner Norton moved to adopt the meeting minutes for April, 1 2015 as submitted. Commissioner Donckers seconded. The motion to approve the meeting minutes from April 1, 2015 was approved unanimously.

3) Request for F-1 modification from Jon Lisbin, City Council Candidate

The Commission took up Jon Lisbin's request for a modification of his F-1 filing obligation, which the Commission had tabled at its June 3, 2015 meeting. The Director reported

that the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission had agreed to Mr. Lisbin's request by a unanimous vote. The Chair moved to grant Mr. Lisbin's request, and Commissioner Sherman seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

4) Confirmation of Steve Townsend as temporary Campaign Finance Auditor

The Director introduced Steve Townsend as his choice to work part time through the end of the year as a campaign finance auditor. He noted that Mr. Townsend is a former auditor with New York City's Campaign Finance Board. Under the Commission's enabling ordinance, staff members need to be confirmed by the Commission. The Chair moved to confirm Mr. Townsend and Commissioner Norton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5) Whistleblower Protection and the City's State Legislative Agenda

The Director said that the Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR) is in the early phases of assembling the City's legislative agenda for the 2016 session of the State Legislature. OIR has asked departments to submit proposals, and the Director asked whether the Commission would be interested in trying to get on the City's agenda a proposal to amend the Public Records Act to ensure confidentiality for local whistleblowers. He reminded the Commission that this was a major topic of discussion when the Commission was recommending changes to the Whistleblower Protection Code two years ago. State whistleblowers are exempted from disclosure but local whistleblowers are not.

The Chair asked whether other cities would join Seattle in seeking this change and the Director said the first order of business was trying to get this on the City's legislative agenda.

Commissioner Norton asked whether there was any indication why City employees were not exempted along with state whistleblowers. Ms. Flack responded that there was not much in

the way of legislative history explaining why the law had been amended to protect state whistleblowers.

Commissioner Sherman made a motion to pursue adding the proposed change to the City's legislative agenda. Commissioner Donckers seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion Items

6) District elections and the exception to the Ethics Code for widely shared financial interests

The Director asked whether the Commission wanted to have this policy discussion or wait until more than four commissioners were present. Commissioner Sherman spoke in favor of waiting and the discussion was tabled for a future meeting.

7) Case No. 15-1-0406-1 (alleged appearance of conflict for Citizen Advisory Committee member)

This was a dismissal that was not appealed. Commissioners had no questions about the Director's action.

8) Executive Director's report

a) Whistleblower training update

The Director told the Commission that there are approximately 255 managers still requiring training, and approximately 375 new employees still to be trained.

b) Video Voters' Guide and Voters' Pamphlet update

The Director updated the Commission on the status of the video voters' guide and the voters' pamphlet in this busy election year, and congratulated staffmember Anthony Adams on his management of the video voters' guide.

9) Executive Director's request to telecommute

The Director requested authorization from the Commission to telecommute up to eight hours per pay period for the remainder of the summer.

The Chair and Commissioners Donckers and Sherman all said the plan sounded acceptable to them. Commissioner Sherman moved to authorize the Director to telecommute up to eight hours per pay period, and Commissioner Donckers seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The Regular Commission meeting for July 1, 2015 adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

DRAFT