



Campaign Finance and Ethics Commission

AGENDA STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: January 25, 2021

Agenda Item: Three

SUBJECT: Review and Approve Transmittal of 2020 Fourth Quarter Report to Board of Supervisors.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve Fourth Quarter Report as drafted.

Background:

The Campaign Reform Ordinance provides that the Executive Director of the Commission shall prepare a quarterly report of the office's activities and submit it to the Commission prior to transmittal to the Board of Supervisors.

Specifically, Orange County Codified Ordinance section 1-2-359(k) provides "[t]he Executive Director shall prepare a quarterly report that will provide a general overview of activity. The Executive Director shall submit this report to the Commission for review before submission to the Board of Supervisors."

Attached as Exhibit A is the Fourth Quarter Report for 2020 that covers the period of October through December 2020.

Quarterly Report

October – December 2020

Office of Campaign Finance and Ethics Commission



Oct—Dec 2020

Project	Status
Ethics (AB 1234) Monitoring	ON GOING — The fourth quarter reminder brought about a 90% compliance rate for the final count of 320 individuals who were ultimately required to take the training. A final reminder was sent out before the few remaining individuals are removed from their Commissions at the end of January.
Newly Elected and Appointed Official and Staff training program	COMPLETED —All elected officials and staff as of December 2019 have received the approved training. A new program will be developed in 2021 based on identified improvement potential.
Campaign Disclosure Review /Audits	Completed — Audits for 2020 were completed in the fourth quarter. The Office now shifts to the Special Election being held in March.
Education Outreach	ON GOING — Public outreach began again in an on-line format. Training for Orange County employees and AB1234 was conducted during the fourth quarter.

Oct—Dec 2020

Project	Status
Lobbyist Portal/registration	ON GOING —In-house project has been a complete success. New registrations continue even during the time of the nationwide social distancing programs. Moreover, lobbyists continue to contact the office to update information as required by law. We currently have 81 active lobbyists in the database and have consistently updated the public list within 24 hours of any changes or registrations.
Finance and Budget	ON GOING —All non-discretionary spending has been frozen in all County departments. The budget situation has not changed since the last report.
Complaint Program	ON GOING — A total of 20 written complaints were received in 2020. Only 1 complaint was received from a new complainant. Please see page 4 for a description.

Summary of 2020 Complaints:

- 20-01: Received 5/1/20 related to Shea. Placed in folder related to complainant. No jurisdiction, no action taken. Closed.
- 20-02: Received on 1/29/20 related to fraud in national, state and corporate pharmaceutical sales. No action taken as not within jurisdiction and not certain the email was safe to respond to.
- 20-03: Received 3/5/20 related to Independent Campaign Committee and alleged coordination with Ashley Aitken County Committee; No coordination found, letters sent, case closed.
- 20-04: Received on 3/4/20. No jurisdiction. No action taken.
- 20-05: Received on 3/31/20 related to Treasurer Tax Collector employee. Provided information to complainant related to proper office to contact, no jurisdiction. Matter closed.
- 20-06: Received on 4/3/20 related to barber shop located in Westminster violating Covid shutdown. Provided contact information to complainant for this type of issue. No jurisdiction. Closed.
- 20-07: Received on 4/24/20 related to alleged reporting errors by Committee for Ashley Atkin for Supervisor 2020. Obtained documentation that the Committee properly reported cash on hand as well as expenses. Letter sent to complainant. Closed.
- 20-08: Received on 5/8/20 related to County of Orange employees and the stay at home order. No jurisdiction, information forward to correct agency. Closed.
- 20-09: Received on 5/14/20 related to boat slips and leases in Dana Point Harbor. Provided information related to Government Claim against the County. No jurisdiction. Closed.
- 20-10: Received on 5/22/20 related to health hazard in City of Lake Forest. Provided complainant information to the City of Lake Forest's Code Enforcement Division. No jurisdiction. Closed.
- 20-11: Received on 5/26/20 related to Covid and police officers. No jurisdiction, no action taken. Closed.
- 20-12: Received on 5/30/20 related to pharmaceuticals. No jurisdiction, no response. Closed.
- 20-13: Received on 6/3/20 related to discrimination in a protective order. No jurisdiction – no action; closed.
- 20-14: Received on 6/11/20 related to Probation Department employee. Provided resources for the complainant. Closed.
- 20-15: Received on 6/14/20 related to social distancing and no masks worn at a rooftop and elevator of a hotel located in Irvine. No jurisdiction and the correct group of contacts was included in the initial complaint. Closed.
- 20-16: Received 7/10/20 regarding restaurant not complying with COVID 19 guidelines. Provided HCA contact information to complaining party after they confirmed did not oppose, matter not within jurisdiction. Closed.
- 20-17: Received 7/31/20 regarding daycare not complying with COVID 19 guidelines. Provided complaining party the HCA COVID hotline number, matter not within jurisdiction. Closed.
- 20-18: Received 8/7/20 regarding government abuse. No allegation related to office jurisdiction. No response provided.
- 20-19: Received 8/18/20 related to Anaheim Police Department actions, provided complaining party links to report complaints to City of Anaheim. No jurisdiction. Closed.
- 20-20: Received on 10/30/20 related to misuse of credential by an employee of a Supervisors' staff. No jurisdiction, referred complainant to the County Fraud hot-line. Closed.