

Quarterly Report

October – December 2019

Office of Campaign Finance and Ethics Commission



Oct - Dec 2019

| Project | Status |
|---|--|
| <p>Ethics (AB 1234) Monitoring</p> | <p>ON GOING — Office continues to contact newly appointed members and 2019 appointees are in compliance or still have time to become compliant. 2020 process was started as automated database will not be in place for 2020 compliance period due to contracts negotiations. SB90 claim for 18-19 was completed for a total of \$16,200.</p> |
| <p>Newly Elected and Appointed Official and Staff training program</p> | <p>ON GOING — Follow up training sessions continue. Only one new employee remains to be trained in 2020. DA still pending. Updated program will be presented to Commission and Board in 2020.</p> |
| <p>Campaign Disclosure Review</p> | <p>ON GOING — Audits for second semi-annual disclosure in 2019 will begin in February 2020. No notices of violations were issued in 2019. Requests for voluntary refunds were made which totaled approximately \$25,000. Moreover, significant time was spent on correcting transfers to one Committee.</p> |
| <p>Education Outreach</p> | <p>ON GOING — Public outreach included sessions to County organizations, Chapman students and the League of Women Voters. After March 2020, OCEthics will return to the Commission to determine if public outreach is still recommended.</p> |

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| <p>Lobbyist Portal/registration</p> | <p>ON GOING —In-house project has been a complete success. Revenue is now being properly tracked and credited to OCEthics reducing our Net County Cost due to the Treasurer-Tax Collector’s assistance. New registrations continue and lobbyists are actively managing information as required within 10 days. Orange County currently has a confirmed active list of 77 paid lobbyists which can be viewed on http://www.ocgov.com/gov/ocethics/lobbyists.</p> |
| <p>Campaign Contribution Database</p> | <p>ON GOING —Orange County Information Technology (OCIT) has provided a working database for investigations. The same public searches can now be done on-line via the Registrar of Voters system (NetFile) due to upgrades on that system.</p> |
| <p>Complaint Program</p> | <p>ON GOING — A total of 22 complaints were received through December 2019. This was a minor decrease from 2018. Multiple complaints were again “combined” if they were the from the same individuals or on the same topic. Several additional complaints were received via telephone but were not recorded because they were outside of jurisdiction and callers were given appropriate resources. Pages 5-6 of this Report is a detailed list of the complaints.</p> |

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| Finance and Budget | ON GOING —OCEthics 2020-2021 budget was approved by the Board at the requested amount. The budget amount remains the same as in previous years—\$451,656. |

Summary of 2019 Complaints:

19-01: Multiple complaints received from same complaining party (1/11/19, 8/19/19). Complaint 1 relates to agreement between Irvine City Council and Five Point Communities re: Great Park Golf Course. Complaint 2 relates to Veterans Cemetery and FivePoint. All complaints not within jurisdiction – no further action taken.

19-02: Two complaints received from same complaining party (1/17/19, 2/5/19). Complaint 1 relates to Dana Point City Council while complaint 2 relates to TCA. Both complaints are not within jurisdiction. Sent email to complaining party re: TCA complaint to remind party that TCA is not within Office's jurisdiction as indicated in 2017. No further action.

19-03: Complaint received on 1/12/19 related to identity theft, fraud and corruption by Oceanside Police Department and City Council. No jurisdiction - no further action taken.

19-04: Complaint received on 1/28/19 alleging racist comment by County employee. No jurisdiction – no further action taken.

19-05: Complaint received on 2/4/19 alleging County vehicle parked in handicapped parking spot while at Starbucks. Provided party the Fraud hotline and online reporting instructions. No jurisdiction - no further action taken. (Received feedback that Fraud Hotline did take action.)

19-06: Request related to public records request made to Toll Roads Agency. Received on 1/31/19. No jurisdiction – no further action taken.

19-07: Complaint received on 4/8/19 related to toxic black mold and two non-County employees mistreating complaining party. Personally spoke to complaining party and she indicated she had place to stay and needed job training. Provided address of County job training center nearest to her physical address. No jurisdiction – no further action taken.

19-08: Complaint received on 6/3/19 related to alleged misconduct by OCSD. Referred complaining party to OIR and Internal Affairs Division at OCSD. No jurisdiction - no further action taken.

19-09: Complaint related to OCPW and improper inspection. Received formal complaint in 6/10/19. Confirmed that complaining party had appealed notice of violation via County policy and sent letter indicating that matter was outside of Office's jurisdiction. No jurisdiction - no further action taken.

19-10: Complaint related to elected officials not posting oaths and bonds received on 6/4/19. Complaining party had previously called and been told that the matter was not within our jurisdiction. No jurisdiction - no further action taken.

19-11(a): Complaint related to Santa Anita racetrack received on 6/12/19. Referred complaining party to State of California due to lack of jurisdiction. No jurisdiction - no further action taken.

19-11(b): [inadvertently numbered 19-11] Complaint related to elected officials not posting oaths and bonds. Likely related to 19-10 but came from different email address. Received on 7/25/19 and responded by email only. No jurisdiction - no further action taken.

19-12: Complaint related to Santa Ana Animal Control Officers received on 7/21/19. Referred complaining party to the City of Santa Ana as the County does not provide enforcement. No jurisdiction - no further action taken.

19-13: Complaint related to Orange County Fair parking. Referred complaining party to OC Fair guest experience line. No jurisdiction - no further action taken.

19-14: Complaint related to City of Irvine mayor from previous complaining party. No jurisdiction - no further action taken.

19-15: Complaint from an OCPW employee related to work conditions and ethics violations. Complaint failed to reference action by elected official. Sent letter to clarify jurisdiction of Commission and provided complaint form inviting further provision of facts involving jurisdiction. No further communication since August 21, 2019. Matter considered closed unless allegations related to jurisdiction are provided.

19-16: Complaint related to elected officials not posting oaths and bonds. Likely related to 19-10 and 19-11(b) but came from different email address. No jurisdiction - no further action taken.

19-17: Complaint related to elected officials not posting oaths and bonds. Likely related to 19-10 and 19-11(b) but came from different email address. No jurisdiction - no further action taken.

19-18: Complaint related to the District Attorney office refusing to prosecute forgery case. Provided notice to complaining party that issue is outside of office's jurisdiction and matter was closed.

19-19: Complaints related to County drug testing. Informed individual that matter was outside of office's jurisdiction and matter was closed.

19-20: Complaint related to Child Protective Services. Informed individual that matter was outside of office's jurisdiction and matter was closed.

19-21: Complaint related to City of La Palma business license requirements. Informed individual that matter was outside of office's jurisdiction and matter was closed.