



LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT
PAUL KREKORIAN
COUNCIL MEMBER, SECOND DISTRICT

April 12, 2024

Re: Ethics Commission Reform Recommendations 23-1027

Dear Committee Members,

At the next Ad Hoc Committee on City Governance Reform meeting, I intend to put forward the following recommendations for discussion and approval. In order for the City Council to put a ballot measure on Ethics Commission Reform on the November 2024 ballot, the Ad Hoc Committee must consider these recommendations, and others, and move them forward to Council.

1. Request the City Attorney, with the assistance of the Chief Legislative Analyst and Ethics Commission, to prepare and present the documents necessary to place before the voters a ballot measure relative to enhancing the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Ethics Commission for the November 2024 General Election as follows:
 - a. Amend Charter sections 702 (k) and 711 to:
 - i. Establish a minimum annual budget of \$6.5 million that is adjusted annually to reflect changes in the City's actual revenues.
 - ii. Specify that the Ethics Commission's expenditures are not subject to approval by any other City office or position when the commission operates within its budget; and
 - iii. Specify that the Ethics Commission is not subject to hiring freezes when it operates within its budget
 - b. Amend Charter section 703 to add a provision that would require the City Council to hold a public hearing within 120 days to approve, disapprove or adopt as amended policy recommendations from the Ethics Commission.
 - c. Amend Charter section 703 to authorize the Ethics Commission to submit a disapproved policy directly to the City voters with a four-fifth vote.
 - d. Amend Charter section 706 (b) to allow the Executive Director to appoint a designee for the probable cause hearings.

- e. Amend Charter section 706 (c)(3) to increase the monetary penalty to the General Fund of up to ten thousand dollars for each violation.
- f. Amend Charter section 706 (c)(4) to give the Ethics Commission the discretion in egregious cases to order a respondent to pay to the City's General Fund the reasonable costs of an enforcement action, in addition to any other penalties or remedies that are imposed.
- g. Amend Charter section 708 to allow the Ethics Commission, in limited circumstances, to retain independent outside counsel.
- h. Amend Charter section 710 (b) to eliminate the requirement that a three judge panel be required to appoint a special prosecutor when the City Attorney's office has a conflict and allow the Ethics Commission to appoint a special prosecutor from a list of pre-approved special prosecutors.
- i. Amend Charter section 710(c) to increase the existing annual special prosecutor appropriation from \$250,000 to \$500,000.
- j. Add Charter section 700(d)(6) to prohibit a commissioner from having a direct and substantial financial interest in any business, work, or action taken by the City.
- k. Amend Charter section 700 to prohibit the appointing authorities from appointing relatives, major donors, or campaign consultants from serving as commissioners.
- l. Amend Charter section 700 (e) to allow the individual appointing authorities (instead of Mayor) to remove their own appointees, subject to a majority vote of the City Council.
- m. Amend Charter section 700 (f) to extend the deadline for making an appointment to fill a vacancy from 30 days to 120 days.
- n. Amend Charter section 701 (a) to eliminate the 10-year term limit and to allow the Ethics Commission to establish a salary range for the Executive Director that is within the General Manager tier. The Ethics Commission shall select an individual's annual salary within the range.
- o. Amend Charter section 701 (b) to specify that all Ethics Commission staff positions are exempt from the City's civil service provisions.
- p. Amend Charter section 700 (a) and (b) to expand the Ethics Commission to seven members. The two members of the Commission not appointed by elected officials shall be appointed, following a public recruitment and application process that will be developed by

Members of the Ad Hoc Committee on City Governance Reform

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the Ethics Commission, by a majority vote of the five appointed members of the Ethics Commission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



Paul Krekorian

President, Los Angeles City Council

cc: Councilmember Raman
Councilmember Harris-Dawson
Councilmember Blumenfield
Councilmember Hernández
Councilmember Hutt
Councilmember Park