

Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission Special Meeting

January 8, 2014

A special meeting of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission convened on January 8, 2014 in Room 4080 of the Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue. Commission Chair Bill Sherman called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. Vice-Chair Rich Cohan, Commissioners Bruce Carter, Lorena González, David Mendoza and Kendee Yamaguchi were in attendance. Commissioner Brad Axel joined via telephone. Executive Director Wayne Barnett and staff members Anthony Adams, Kate Flack, Polly Grow and Chris Thomas were present. Assistant City Attorney Jeff Slayton was also in attendance.

1) Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Action Items

2) Regular meeting minutes for December 4, 2013

Commissioner Carter motioned to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2013 meeting, and Commissioner Yamaguchi seconded. The minutes from the December 4, 2013 meeting were approved by a vote of 6-0, with Commissioner González abstaining.

4) Late-filing penalty for High-Quality Education for All American Federation of Teachers (\$500.00)

5) Late-filing penalty for SEIU Local 925 Public Service PAC (\$250)

The Executive Director summarized the two settlement agreements for the Commission.

Commissioner Carter asked staff whether there was some way to get information out to committees regarding the need to file reports. The Director said that staff did that with candidate committees, but said that it is very difficult to do with independent expenditure committees,

which generally organize for a brief period, and engage in electoral activity once or twice every two to four years.

The Chair said that if the Commission continues to see these kinds of late filings, especially when there would likely be public interest in the filing, staff should consider levying substantially stiffer penalties.

In reply to a question from the Vice-Chair, the Director said that this was a first offense for both organizations with the Commission.

6) Executive Director's Report

The Director informed the Commission that the amendments to the Whistleblower Protection Code would be effective on January 16, 2014. Kate Flack shared with the Commission staff's plan for training employees on the new code.

3) Resolution honoring David Mendoza

The Chair read into the record a resolution thanking Commissioner David Mendoza for his service to the Commission. Commissioner Mendoza is not seeking reappointment to the Commission in light of his presidency of the Latina/o Bar Association

Commissioner Carter moved to approve the resolution honoring Commissioner Mendoza, and Vice-Chair Cohan seconded. The motion to approve the resolution honoring David Mendoza was unanimously approved.

The January 8, 2014 Special Meeting of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission adjourned at 4:19 P.M.