

Memo

To: Commission

From: Wayne Barnett

Date: July 23, 2015

Re: COGEL conference

The Council on Government Ethics Laws (COGEL) is holding its annual conference in Boston this year and I am seeking the Commission's authorization to attend. I attended three COGEL conferences in my early years with the Commission, but have not attended a conference since COGEL came to Victoria, BC, in 2007. In those early years I made connections with my counterparts around the country that served me – and the City – well as we wrote and adopted a lobbying code and rewrote the ethics code. I would like to renew those professional connections and learn what issues are emerging in ethics and campaign finance around the country. Conference attendance will be especially useful if voters approve of public financing in November.

The conference runs December 6-9. Conference registration is \$580 and the hotel room rate is \$179 per night. Roundtrip airfare as of this writing is approximately \$330.