

## **Partial Suspension of Rules Concerning Credit Card Contributions**

Until, January 1, 2013, the SEEC will

1. Suspend the enforcement of rules requiring that campaigns retain: (i) the authorization code provided by the bank, (ii) the expiration date of the Credit/Debit Card, (iii) the Credit/Debit Card type (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, etc.), and (iv) the last four numbers of the Credit/Debit Card.
2. Suspend, until the rules can be amended, the requirement that campaign web pages require on-line contributors to affirm that “the contributor is not a foreign national who lacks permanent resident status in the United States,” since that is not related to the City’s Elections Code and so is outside the jurisdiction of the Commission.
3. Suspend the requirement that the campaigns print hard copies of credit card transactions, so long as they preserve the records in a format from which they can be printed upon request.
4. Suspend the bar on using corporate credit/debit cards *for the limited purpose* of permitting those cards to be used to make contributions from the corporation holding the card.

Six months will give the Commission staff sufficient time to thoroughly investigate what similar agencies are doing across the country, and to investigate whether there are alternatives to the existing rules that would prove cost-effective for campaigns while still adequately safeguarding the public’s interest in the enforcement of the City’s campaign contribution limits. It will also give the staff sufficient time to investigate on-line contributions that are not even addressed in the existing rules, such as contributions from PayPal and similar sources.

By January of next year, the Commission will be fully briefed and in a position to take a well-informed position on potential changes to the rules governing credit card contributions.