

OVERVIEW

# SAN FRANCISCO ETHICS COMMISSION

FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO PORT COMMISSION | MARCH 8, 2016 | ITEM 9C

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# CHARTER MANDATE

“Public office is a public trust and all officers and employees of the City and County shall exercise their public duties in a manner consistent with this trust.”

*Charter Section 15.102*

## Ethics Commission Role

Voter created

Broad programmatic responsibilities

*campaign finances, conflicts of interest, lobbying, campaign consultants and governmental ethics*

Broad functional duties

*disclosure, advice, education, policy recs, assistance to agencies & employees, audits, investigations & enforcement, whistleblower protections*

# INFORMATION & EDUCATION

Resources to promote compliance with the laws by those directly regulated - both the 'what' and the 'why'

Tools to comply, and ease of use

Info that equips the public with information to support governmental accountability



“The proper operation of the government ...requires that public officers and employees be independent, impartial, and responsible to the people and that public office and employment not be used for personal gain.

“Government decisions ... should be, and should appear to be, made on a fair and impartial basis.”

*SFC&GCC Sec 3.200 (b) and (e)*

# ROLE OF ENFORCEMENT

## Statements of Incompatible Activities

Engaging in the activities that are prohibited by this Statement may subject an officer or employee to discipline, up to and including possible termination of employment or removal from office, as well as to monetary fines and penalties.

C&GC Code § 3.242; Charter § 15.105

## Components

Responsibility to enforce as facts and law warrant

Required to be treated confidentially

Sanctions can be criminal, civil or administrative

Charter requirement to also refer to DA and CA for their possible investigation

Commission may levy fines of up to \$5,000 per violation, or three times the amount not reported, or unlawfully contributed, expended gave or received, whichever is greater

# OUR BLUEPRINT

- Effective policies, regularly evaluated, and built on Citywide collaboration and public engagement  
*Are the laws clear, strong, workable and enforceable in practice?*
- Enhanced guidance to promote practical understanding of the laws and facilitate compliance
- Enforcement that ensures proactive, thorough, fair, timely, and consistent investigations and case resolution
- Organizational efficiencies to advance our mission and improve service delivery

# QUESTIONS?

- *Please feel free to contact us!*

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