



ETHICS COMMISSION

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

DAINA CHIU
CHAIR

Date: December 13, 2019

NOREEN AMBROSE
VICE-CHAIR

To: Members of the Ethics Commission

YVONNE LEE
COMMISSIONER

From: Pat Ford, Senior Policy and Legislative Affairs Counsel

FERN M. SMITH
COMMISSIONER

Re: **AGENDA ITEM 7 – Discussion of Monthly Staff Policy Report**

LATEEF H. GRAY
COMMISSIONER

Summary: This memorandum provides updates on ongoing policy projects, pending local legislation, and other operational projects involving the Policy Division to assist the Commission, the public, and Staff in engaging with the Commission's policy work.

LEEANN PELHAM
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Action Requested: That the Commission review the updates provided in this report.

Section I of this memorandum provides status reports about ongoing policy projects that the Commission has identified as policy priorities as part of its Policy Prioritization Plan. Section II provides information about ongoing operations and projects that, while not a part of the Commission's Policy Prioritization Plan, regularly require ongoing attention and resources of the Policy Division.

I. Policy Prioritization Plan – Status of Ongoing Initiatives

This section describes the status of the Commission's current policy priorities.

A. Review of the City's Public Financing Program

As part of the second phase of the Commission's review of the City's public campaign financing program, the Commission approved an ordinance to increase the amount of funds available to participants, increase the matching rate, and increase the initial spending limits, among other changes. The ordinance will become operative on January 1, 2020. Policy has been meeting with other divisions that will carry out the implementation of this ordinance, which will include updating the Commission's website and guidance materials, updating the Audit Division's procedures for handling matching requests, and updating the various forms and electronic systems used by candidates. Staff anticipates completing this work in time for the ordinance's operative date.

Additionally, included in the regulation amendments set forth under Agenda Item 6 are amendments that would bring existing regulations in line with the new provisions of the code.

B. Electronic Filing of the Form 700

All elected officials, board and commission members, department heads, and designated employees of the City must file the Form 700 Statement of Economic Interests to publicly disclose their personal financial interests. Under current regulations, elected officials, board and commission members, and department heads must file the form electronically through the Commission's NetFile system, allowing the disclosed information to be easily searched by the public. However, designated employees file the Form 700 in paper form with their departments.

On November 22nd, the Department of Human Resources sent a notice to employee bargaining units stating that, following the meet and confer session held with Staff on November 12th, the meet-and-confer process is formally closed. Staff may now proceed with further stages of designing and implementing this project. Policy will continue to support these efforts as needed.

Policy anticipates proposing a draft regulation at the Commission's January meeting to require e-filing for all Form 700 filers.

II. Miscellaneous Policy Administrative Projects

This Section describes some of the ongoing work by the Policy division that does not fall within the policy projects identified under the Policy Prioritization Plan. This work includes: advice to Staff and the regulated community regarding the laws administered by the Commission; legislative affairs; media relations; and general program support for various office functions. Some of the larger ongoing initiatives are described below.

A. Proposition F

A measure appeared on the November 2019 ballot that contains new campaign finance rules and disclosure requirements. The measure, Proposition F, was passed by the voters and will become operative on December 20th. Beginning in October, Policy has been engaging with other divisions to plan for all implementation efforts that must occur as a result of this measure's passage, and those divisions are actively involved in implementing the measure.

Under Agenda Item 6, Policy has proposed a narrow set of regulation amendments to implement the new provisions of the code.

B. COGEL Conference

From December 15-18th, multiple members of Staff will attend the annual COGEL conference in Chicago. I will be a member of a panel discussing ethics laws and will be focusing on the new conflict-of-interest rules and behested payment disclosures created by the Anti-Corruption and Accountability Ordinance. I look forward to updating you on the topics discussed during the panel and insights that can help inform our work.

C. Policy Prioritization Plan

The Policy Prioritization Plan (PPP) is a mechanism for planning and structuring the Commission's policy priorities and planning for the work that underlies those priorities. Policy anticipates proposing an updated PPP at the Commission's January meeting because the priorities discussed in Section I above

are nearing completion and additional priorities can be explored. One project that will likely require Policy's attention in the next quarter, and that will therefore appear as a proposed PPP priority, is the biennial update of the list of Form 700 filers contained in Article III, Chapter 2 of the Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code. Policy will likely propose one additional project to be started during the next quarter.