

DISCUSSION CALENDAR

8 REVIEW OF CITY OF RIVERSIDE CODE OF ETHICS

The Board of Public Utilities reviewed and discussed the City’s Code of Ethics to determine if there are any recommendations to be submitted to the City Council’s Governmental Affairs Committee and the City’s Board of Ethics for consideration.

After discussion, the Board of Public Utilities unanimously voted to make the following recommendations and comments to the Governmental Affairs Committee:

1. Reexamine whether the City Attorney be able to provide legal advice at the hearings to the party against whom the complaint is brought;
2. That Board and Commission members should not be subject to the complaint process for violations of the Prohibited Conduct section of the Code of Ethics;
3. Board of Ethics should be able to exercise discretion in determining violations;
4. The time for the hearings is too long and should be limited;
5. Cross-examinations during the hearings should be restricted or eliminated;
6. The rules set forth in the Code of Ethics are too difficult to understand;
7. There should be a prescreening of complaints before that setting of a hearing, including consideration of past frivolous or malicious complaints brought by the complaining party;
8. Amend Riverside Municipal Code section 2.78.060(M) to specifically reference Board or Commission Standing Rules as a policy of the City; and
9. Limit evidence presented during the hearing to solely what was presented in the complaint.

Motion – Walcker. Second – Russo-Pereyra.

Ayes: Austin, O’Farrell, Crohn, Foust, Oceguela, Russo-Pereyra, Sanchez-Monville, and Walcker.

Absent: None.