

BOARD OF ETHICS
THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2022, 5 P.M.
VIRTUAL MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT VIA TELEPHONE
3900 MAIN STREET, RIVERSIDE

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chair Nelson, Vice Chair Stahovich, and Members Foley, Ford, Huerta, Keen, and Vega

ABSENT: Member Newman

STAFF PRESENT: Donesia Gause and Susan Wilson

Chair Nelson convened the Board of Ethics meeting at 5:01 p.m.

Member Vega led The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There was no one wishing to speak.

PRESENTATION

CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT COMPLAINT HEARING PANEL PRE-HEARING
CONFERENCE TRAINING ON ROLE OF THE CHAIR

The City Attorney's Office provided training on Code of Ethics and Conduct Complaint Hearing Panel Pre-Hearing Conference on the role of the Chair. No formal action was taken.

CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Vice Chair Stahovich and seconded by Member Huerta to approve the Consent Calendar as presented below affirming the actions appropriate to each item with Member Ford abstaining from the approval of the Consent Calendar.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of November 4, 2021, were approved as presented.

BOARD ATTENDANCE

The Board of Ethics excused the absence of Members Foley and Keen from the meeting of November 4, 2021, meeting.

The Board of Ethics excused the absence of Members Ford, Newman, and Vega from the meeting of December 2, 2021.

DISCUSSION CALENDAR

STAFF'S ROLE IN BOARD OF ETHICS MEETING AND COMPLAINT PROCESSES

Following discussion and without formal motion, Vice Chair Stahovich requested that the topic of staff's role in the Board of Ethics meeting and complaint processes be discussed at the upcoming joint workshop with the City Council including receiving notification when complaints are filed and throughout the steps of the complaint process.

RIVERSIDE MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 2.78 CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT AND CHAPTER 2.80 BOARD OF ETHICS REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Following discussion and without a formal motion, Chair Nelson recommended a redlined review of the changes to the Riverside Municipal Code Chapter 2.78 Code of Ethics and Conduct and Chapter 2.80 Board of Ethics to review for inconsistencies in the meeting rules and the Municipal Code for discussion at the upcoming joint workshop with the City Council.

BOARD OF ETHICS STANDING RULES REVIEW

Chair Nelson reported on the need to review and consolidate the Board of Ethics Standing Rules.

APPEAL FILED BY COMPLAINANT SELMA KELLY TO CITY COUNCIL REGARDING BOARD OF ETHICS DECISION NOT FINDING A VIOLATION OF PROHIBITED CONDUCT REGARDING CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT COMPLAINT FILED AGAINST COUNCILMEMBERS CERVANTES AND FIERRO, MAYOR PRO TEM PLASCENCIA AND MAYOR LOCK DAWSON

Chair Nelson stated that it was not the intention of the Board to review the appeal filed by complainant Selma Kelly to City Council regarding Board of Ethics decision not finding a violation of prohibited conduct regarding Code of Ethics and Conduct Complaint filed against Councilmembers Cervantes and Fierro, Mayor Pro Tem Plascencia and Mayor Lock Dawson, but to note for the record that the complainant was advised that she could participate remotely during the hearing of her appeal to the City Council.

CITY ISSUED IDENTIFICATION BADGES AND EMAIL ADDRESSES

Following discussion, it was moved by Member Huerta and seconded by Member Foley to (1) request that the City Manager Office or Innovation and Technology Department explore a solution to provide City-issued email addresses for Board of Ethics members. The motion carried unanimously.

AUTHORITY AND CONDITIONS FOR USE OF OUTSIDE LEGAL COUNSEL IN LIEU OF THE CITY ATTORNEY TO ADVISE THE BOARD OF ETHICS

Assistant City Attorney Wilson reported on the authority and conditions for use of outside legal counsel in lieu of the City Attorney to advise the Board of Ethics and its hearing panels on specific matters in accordance with Riverside Municipal Code Section 2.78.040.

COMMUNICATIONS

REPORT ON INCLUSIVENESS, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, AND GOVERNMENTAL PROCESSES COMMITTEE AND CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS

There was no reportable action on Inclusiveness, Community Engagement, and Governmental Processes Committee or City Council meeting. Chair Nelson reported that he requested a representative of Stafford School of Public Policy to speak at the joint workshop of the Board of Ethics and City Council.

REPORT OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES BY BOARD MEMBERS

Chair Nelson noted that consideration be given to going into the community to discuss the role of Board of Ethics.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE BOARD CONSIDERATION AS REQUESTED BY BOARD OF ETHICS MEMBERS

Member Huerta requested an update and status of all activities and actions recommended by the Board of Ethics regarding the Code of Ethics.

The meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DONESIA GAUSE
City Clerk