

BOARD OF ETHICS  
THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024, 5 P.M.  
ART PICK COUNCIL CHAMBER  
3900 MAIN STREET, RIVERSIDE

MINUTES

PRESENT IN PERSON: Chair Vega, Vice Chair Newman, Members DeHerrera  
Foreman, Hernandez, and Dr. Benson

ABSENT: Member Hill-Skinner

STAFF PRESENT: Donesia Gause and Brandon Mercer

Vice Chair Vega called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. and led the pledge of  
allegiance.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There was no one wishing to address the Board at this time.

Board Member Introduction:

Member Luis Hernandez introduced himself.

PRESENTATION

DUE PROCESS AND AVOIDING BIAS IN QUASI-JUDICIAL HEARINGS

Senior Deputy City Attorney Mercer provided training on due process and  
avoiding bias in quasi-judicial hearings. No formal action was taken.

CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Member Foreman and seconded by Dr. Benson to approve the  
Consent Calendar as presented below affirming the actions appropriate to each  
item. The motion carried with Chair Vega, Vice Chair Newman, and Members  
DeHerrera, Foreman, Hernandez, and Dr. Benson voting aye and Member Hill-  
Skinner absent.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of April 4, 2024, were approved as presented.

DISCUSSION CALENDAR

ABSENCE

Following discussion, it was moved by Member Foreman and seconded by  
Dr. Benson to excuse the absence of Member DeHerrera from the April 4, 2024,  
meeting. The motion carried with Chair Vega, Vice Chair Newman, and Members

Foreman, Hernandez, and Dr. Benson voting aye, Member DeHerrera abstaining, and Member Hill-Skinner absent.

CONSIDER PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO RIVERSIDE MUNICIPAL CODE ADDING SECTION 2.78.060(N) REGARDING CONVICTION OF VIOLATION OF FEDERAL OR STATE LAW PERTAINING TO OFFICE WHICH THEY HOLD

Following discussion, it was moved by Vice Chair Newman and seconded by Member Foreman to (1) approve the proposed language stating Convictions of Federal or State Laws affecting their office prohibited: No public official of the City of Riverside shall be convicted of a violation of any state or federal law that affects the performance of their duties in the office that they hold; (2) change pertaining to affecting in the Code Section title; and (3) recommend that the Governmental Processes Committee consider the proposed amendments and recommend the City Council amend Riverside Municipal Code (RMC) Section 2.78.060 adding (N) "Conviction of a violation of federal or state law pertaining to office which they hold." The motion carried with Chair Vega, Vice Chair Newman, and Members DeHerrera, Foreman, and Dr. Benson voting aye, Member Hernandez abstaining, and Member Hill-Skinner absent.

PROPOSED PRE-CONFERENCE SCRIPT FOR INSTANCES OF NON-APPEARANCE OF PARTIES OF FILED COMPLAINTS TO PRE-CONFERENCES AND HEARINGS

Following discussion, it was moved by Member DeHerrera and seconded by Dr. Benson to (1) approve the proposed language, to the pre-conference script to read,

"In the event the complainant and/or public official/respondent are not present during the pre-conference and have not provided any reason and/or excuse to favor a continuance, it is therefore the Board's prerogative to continue the pre-conference hearing in a modified matter, based solely on the merits of what has been submitted as documentary evidence and/or formal complaint"; and (2) refer the script to the City Attorney for further modifications for instances of non-appearance of parties of filed complaints to pre-conferences and hearings and bring back to the next Board meeting. The motion carried with Chair Vega, Vice Chair Newman, and Members DeHerrera, Foreman, Hernandez, and Dr. Benson voting aye and Member Hill-Skinner absent.

COMMUNICATIONS

AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATES

ESTABLISH LEGAL PANEL FOR COMPLAINTS

Following discussion, it was moved by Vice Chair Newman and seconded by Dr. Benson to disband the Ad Hoc Committee for the purpose of establishing a legal panel. The motion carried with Chair Vega, Vice Chair Newman, and Members Foreman, Hernandez, and Dr. Benson voting aye, Member DeHerrera abstaining, and Member Hill-Skinner absent.

CREATE METHOD FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

Vice Chair Newman reported that a presentation for the annual review of the Code of Ethics and Conduct will be presented for approval by the Board at the next meeting.

BRIEF REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED BY BOARD MEMBER

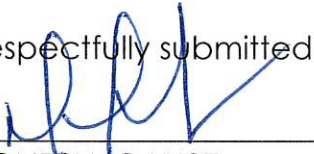
Dr. Benson reported on her participation as a Judge at the California Family Leadership Conference at the Convention Center.

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

Member Foreman requested discussion on the language in RMC Section 2.78.0759(D)5 "if taken as true" for review at the next Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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DONESIA GAUSE  
City Clerk