

Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission Regular Meeting

October 2, 2013

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission convened on October 2, 2013 in Room 4080 of the Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue. Commission Chair Bill Sherman called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. Vice-Chair Rich Cohan, Commissioners Brad Axel, Bruce Carter and Lorena González were present. Commissioner's David Mendoza and Kendee Yamaguchi were not in attendance. Executive Director Wayne Barnett and staff members Anthony Adams, Polly Grow, Kate Flack and Chris Thomas were present. Assistant City Attorneys Jeff Slayton and Gary Smith were also in attendance.

1) Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Action Item

2) Settlement with City employee who misused her official position and participated in matters in which she had a financial interest (\$900)

The Executive Director introduced the case, telling the Commission that the employee participated in matters involving her own utility account, and also made payment arrangements that were unavailable to the general public. Taking into account the number of transactions and the fact that some of them were unavailable to the public, the Executive Director and the employee agreed to a \$900 penalty, which the Director recommended the Commission adopt.

Vice-Chair Cohan asked whether the employee's account was now paid in full, and the Director said that it was his understanding that the employee had paid in full.

Vice-Chair Cohan moved to approve the settlement agreement, and Commissioner Axel seconded. The settlement was unanimously approved.

3) Hearing in *In re Rios*, Case No. 11-1216-1

The respondent was not present, and the Chair asked counsel for the Director whether he wanted to make a closing statement. Assistant City Attorney Smith made a closing argument and answered questions posed by the Commission.

The Commission went into executive session to deliberate.

When the Commission returned from executive session, Commissioner Axel moved that the Commission find no violations in Case No. 11-1216-1. Commissioner González seconded. After brief remarks by the Chair, the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

4) Executive Director's report

The Director reported that the Council had not adopted changes to the Whistleblower Protection Code before taking up the 2014 budget, and so the legislation would be on hold until the Council had completed its work on the budget.

The Regular Commission meeting for October 2, 2013 adjourned at 5:20 p.m.