

Fair Campaign Practices Commission
Open Government Commission

CONCURRENT REGULAR MEETING OF THE FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES COMMISSION AND THE OPEN GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

MEETING AGENDA

February 19, 2026

6:30 p.m.

2180 Milvia St., Berkeley, CA 94704

1st Floor, Cypress Room

This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at 981-6418 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

A live broadcast of this meeting will be available at:

<https://cityofberkeley-info.zoomgov.com/j/1614055306>

Public comment will be taken in-person and virtually through the posted link.

Secretary: Sam Harvey

The Commission may act on any item on this agenda

1. Call to Order 6:30 p.m.
2. Roll Call.
3. Land Acknowledgement: The City of Berkeley recognizes that the community we live in was built on the territory of xučyun (Huchiun (Hooch-yoon)), the ancestral and unceded land of the Chochenyo (Cho-chen-yo)-speaking Ohlone (Oh-low-nee) people, the ancestors and descendants of the sovereign Verona Band of Alameda County. This land was and continues to be of great importance to all of the Ohlone Tribes and descendants of the Verona Band. As we begin our meeting tonight, we acknowledge and honor the original inhabitants of Berkeley, the documented 5,000-year history of a vibrant community at the West Berkeley Shellmound, and the Ohlone people who continue to reside in the East Bay. We recognize that Berkeley's residents have and continue to benefit from the use and occupation of this unceded stolen land since the City of Berkeley's incorporation in 1878. As stewards of the laws regulating the City of Berkeley, it is not only vital that we recognize the history of this land, but also recognize that the Ohlone people are present members of Berkeley and other East Bay communities today. The City of Berkeley will continue to build relationships with the Lisjan Tribe and to create meaningful actions that uphold the intention of this land acknowledgement.

4. Approval of agenda.
5. Public Comment. *Comments on subjects not on the agenda that are within the Commissions' purview are heard at the beginning of meeting. Speakers may comment on agenda items when the Commission hears those items.*
6. Approval of minutes for January 15, 2025 FCPC-OGC Regular Meeting.

Fair Campaign Practices Commission (FCPC) Agenda

7. Reports
 - a. Report from Chair
 - b. Report from Staff
8. Report from negotiating ad hoc committee: Yes on Measure CC / No on Measure BB; discussion and possible action.
9. Possible review and revision of FCPC Regulations¹; discussion and possible action.
10. Public financing matching funds disbursement process; discussion and possible action.

Open Government Commission (OGC) Agenda

11. Reports.
 - a. Report from Chair
 - b. Report from Staff
12. Clerk referral of Non-Filing by Quarterly Lobbyist Filer Alexander Taplin; discussion and possible action.
13. Public access to hybrid meetings, including policy discussion of topics raised by the public regarding access for persons with temporary or permanent disabilities, handling of written public comment, and the availability of live transcription and recordings; discussion and possible action.
14. Complaint of Non-Compliance with Public Records Act (Johlyece Dotson); discussion and possible action.
15. Public access to supplemental materials and amendments at City Council meetings, including the timing of presentation of such materials by the Mayor or

¹ <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/2022-01/FCPC-Regulations.pdf>

City Councilmembers, such that the public may comment on them; discussion and possible action.

16. Lobbyist Registration Forms and Procedures; discussion and possible action.

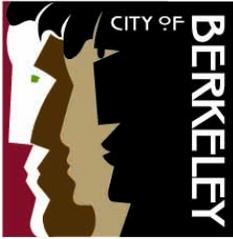
Joint FCPC-OGC Agenda

17. Election of Commission officers; discussion and possible action.
18. Adjournment

Communications

- None

Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. **Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to a City board, commission or committee, will become part of the public record.** If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the relevant board, commission or committee for further information. **SB 343 Disclaimer:** Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the City Attorney's Office at 2180 Milvia St., 4th Fl., Berkeley, CA.



Fair Campaign Practices Commission
Open Government Commission

DRAFT MINUTES

January 15, 2026

**CONCURRENT REGULAR MEETING OF THE FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES
COMMISSION AND THE OPEN GOVERNMENT COMMISSION**

Civic Center
2180 Milvia St.
Berkeley, CA 94704
Cypress Room

Secretaries:
Samuel Harvey

Stephen Hylas

Lauren Packard

Members Present: Pajouablai Monica Lee, Janis Ching, Helene Silverberg,
Emmanuelle Soichet, Andrew Lazarus, Kyle Haugh, Kitt Saginor

Also present: Lauren Packard, Staff Secretary

1. **Call to Order**

Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. **Roll Call**

Roll call taken

3. **Land Acknowledgement**

4. **Approval of agenda**

- a. Public comment: None.
- b. Commission discussion and action

*Motion to amend Item 17 to show that the February meeting will be on February 19th,
and approve the agenda with this amendment (M/S/C: Ching/Haugh; Ayes: Lee, Ching,*

FCPC / OGC Minutes
 January 15, 2026
 Page 2

Silverberg, Soichet, Lazarus, Haugh, Saginor; Noes: none; Abstain: none; Absent: Shere, Sudharsan)

5. **Public Comment**

No speakers

6. **Approval of minutes for December 18, 2025 FCPC-OGC Regular Meeting**

- a. Public comment: none.
- b. Commission discussion and action

Motion to amend the title of the Minutes to remove the words "Preliminary Draft" and approve the minutes with this amendment (M/S/C: Silverberg/Ching; Ayes: Lee, Ching, Silverberg, Lazarus, Haugh, Saginor; Noes: none; Abstain: Soichet; Absent: Shere, Sudharsan)

Fair Campaign Practices Commission (FCPC) Agenda

7. **Reports**

- a. Report from Chair.
- b. Report from Staff.

8. **Report from Negotiating Subcommittee: Yes on Measure CC / No on Measure BB**

- a. Public comment: none.
- b. Item continued to February meeting.

9. **Report from ad hoc committee on possible revisions of BERA and FCPC Regulations; possible approval of proposed amendments to BERA for submission to City Council for adoption**

- a. Public comment: none.
- b. Commission discussion and action

Motion to approve the amendments in the draft presented and to submit them to City Council with the covering memo for their consideration and adoption (M/S/C: Haugh/Lee; Ayes: Lee, Ching, Silverberg, Soichet, Lazarus, Haugh, Saginor; Noes: none; Abstain: none; Absent: Shere, Sudharsan)

10. **Public financing matching funds disbursement process**

- a. Public comment: none.

- b. Item continued to February meeting.

Open Government Commission (OGC) Agenda

11. **Reports**
- a. Report from Chair.
 - b. Report from Staff.
12. **Clerk referral of Non-Filing by Quarterly Lobbyist Filer Alexander Taplin**
- a. Public comment: none.
 - b. Commission discussion.
13. **Public access to hybrid meetings, including policy discussion of topics raised by the public regarding access for persons with temporary or permanent disabilities, handling of written public comment, and the availability of live transcription and recordings**
- a. Public comment: none.
 - b. Commission discussion.
14. **Complaint of Non-Compliance with Public Records Act (Johlyece Dotson)**
- a. Public comment: none.
 - b. Commission discussion.
15. **Referral of non-filing quarterly lobbying reports: Yuri Sadiki-Torres**
- a. Public comment: none.
 - b. Commission discussion and action

Motion to dismiss the referral pursuant to Berkeley Municipal Code (BMC) Section 2.09.250(B) with the finding that no violation of the Lobbyist Registration Act occurred (M/S/C: Haugh/Ching; Ayes: Lee, Ching, Silverberg, Soichet, Lazarus, Haugh, Saginor; Noes: none; Abstain: none; Absent: Shere, Sudharsan)

16. **Lobbyist Registration Forms and Procedures**
- a. Public comment: none.
 - b. Item continued to February meeting.

Joint FCPC-OGC Agenda

FCPC / OGC Minutes
January 15, 2026
Page 4

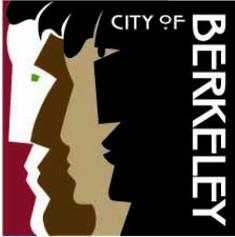
17. **Discussion regarding election of Commission officers at February 19, 2026 regular meeting**

- a. Public comment: none.
- b. Commission discussion.

18. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn (M/S/C: Ching/Haugh; Ayes: Lee, Ching, Silverberg, Soichet, Lazarus, Haugh, Saginor; Noes: none; Abstain: none; Absent: Shere, Sudharsan)

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p..m.



Fair Campaign Practices Commission

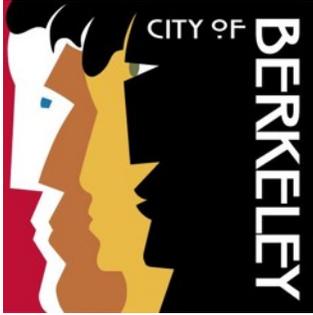
Date: February 13, 2026
To: Fair Campaign Practices Commission
From: Sam Harvey, Commission Secretary
Subject: Possible revisions to FCPC Regulations

The Commission has created an ad hoc committee to review and propose possible amendments to the Berkeley Election Reform Act (BMC Ch. 2.12) (“BERA”) and to the Commission’s regulations interpreting BERA. At its January 2026 regular meeting, the Commission approved a number of amendments to BERA, which will go to the City Council on March 10, 2026 for possible adoption.

The Commission may now wish to consider reviewing the Commission’s regulations for possible amendment. This could include providing direction to the existing ad hoc committee regarding review and possible revision of the regulations. As a courtesy, a copy of the Commission’s regulations is attached.

Attachment:

1. Regulations Adopted by the Fair Campaign Practices Commission (Rev. Jan. 16, 2025)



REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES COMMISSION

These Regulations Supplement the Berkeley
Election Reform Act of 1974,
Ordinance 4700-N.S., as amended.

Revised January 16, 2025

FCPC REGULATIONS – TABLE OF CONTENTS

Regulation No.	Title	Page
R2.12.025	Verification Requirements	1
R2.12.045	Record Retention Requirements	1
R2.12.095	Contributions by Membership Organizations	1
R2.12.100	Extensions of Credit as a form of Contribution; Exceptions	2
R2.12.250	Redesignation of Campaign Funds for Future Elections	3
R2.12.260	Statement of Organization	3
R2.12.270	Independent Expenditures: Individuals and Organizations Required to File Campaign Disclosure Statements	3
R2.12.270.1	Administrative Termination of Filing Obligations	4
R2.12.295	Late Contributions	4
R2.12.325.1	Mass Mailings; Filing	5
R2.12.325.2	Filing of Mass Mailings - Method of Filing	5
R2.12.335	Text or Graphic Electronic Media Advertisement	6
R2.12.415	Allocation of Contributions to Multi-Candidate and Measure Committees	6
R2.12.415.1	Separate Accounting of Candidate Contributions	7
R2.12.415.2	Cumulation of Candidate Contributions	7
R2.12.415.3	Joint Account Contributions	8
R2.12.440	Candidate Contributions from Certain Organizations and Business Entities Including Corporations and Labor Unions	8
R2.12.500.1	Eligibility for Fair Elections campaign funding	9

R2.12.500.2	Qualified Contributions	9
R2.12.505.1	Fair Elections Fund payments	9
R2.12.505.2	Fair Elections Fund Payment Amounts	10
R2.12.530	Use of Fair Elections Funds	10
R2.12.545	Cost of living adjustments	11
R2.12.555	Substantial and Minor Violations	11

FCPC REGULATIONS
Amended January 16, 2025

R2.12.025 Verification Requirements

- (a) A report or statement filed by a committee shall be signed and verified by the treasurer, and a report or statement filed by any other organization shall be signed and verified by a responsible officer of the organization or by an attorney or a certified public accountant.
- (b) A candidate shall verify his or her campaign statement and the campaign statement of each committee subject to his or her control. This does not relieve the treasurer of any controlled committee from the obligation to verify each campaign statement filed pursuant to BMC Section 2.12.025.

R2.12.045 Record Retention Requirements

- (a) All persons with filing obligations shall retain copies of all reports, statements and information filed with the City Clerk for a period of at least **four years** from the date upon which it was required to be filed under the terms of the ordinance as required by BMC Section 2.12.045.
- (b) The City Clerk shall retain the originals of all reports, statements and information filed with the City Clerk for a period of at least four years from the date upon which it was required to be filed under the terms of the ordinance. In the event that state law imposes a longer retention period, the requirements of state law must be met.
- (c) The campaign treasurer shall retain all statements of account, canceled checks, records, bills, receipts, vouchers, and other original source documentation for a period of at least **four years** from the date of the final report as required by BMC Sections 2.12.250(D) and (E).

R2.12.095 Contributions by Membership Organizations

(a) Committee Status

A Membership Organization which receives contributions as defined in BMC Section 2.12.100, or makes an Expenditure of \$250 or more as defined in BMC Section 2.12.130, is a Committee as defined in BMC Section 2.12.095 and shall file the Campaign Statements required by BMC Section 2.12.270.

(b) Membership Organization

As used in this Regulation, the term "Membership Organization" shall mean any club, league, trust, unincorporated association in which natural or juridical persons are members, shareholders, associates or the like.

R2.12.100 Extensions of Credit as a form of Contribution; Exceptions.

(a) Except as provided in either subdivision (b) or (c), an extension of credit which consists of a receipt of goods or services pursuant to an agreement between the provider of the goods or services and a candidate or committee, and where payment is not made until a later date, is a contribution as defined under BMC Section 2.12.100 and is subject to the contribution limits of BMC Section 2.12.415 and BMC Section 2.12.440.

(b) An extension of credit is not a contribution made by the provider of the goods or services or a contribution accepted by the candidate or committee if payment is made on or before the later of the following dates, whichever applies:

(1) 60 days after the date of the invoice; or

(2) If no invoice is sent within 30 days of delivery of goods or services, 45 days from the date the goods or services are delivered; or

(3) For services ongoing in nature, 45 days after the date of the invoice, where services are billed no less frequently than on a three-month billing cycle.

In any event, for the extension of credit not to be a contributory payment, it must be made no later than the end date of the reporting period for the Second Semi-Annual/Post Election Campaign Statement (i.e. December 31 for a November general municipal election), even if said date falls before the applicable date under (b) (1), (2) or (3).

(c) An extension of credit is not a contribution made by the provider of the goods or services if all of the requirements of subsections (c)(1) – (5) of this regulation are met:

(1) The credit arrangement is recorded in a written instrument;

(2) It is a regular business of the provider of goods or services to provide similar goods or services;

(3) The provider provides the goods or services in the ordinary course of business and on the same terms and conditions offered to customers generally;

(4) The provider of goods or services enters into the agreement with the intent that the candidate or committee be required to pay in accordance with terms of the agreement and does not have actual knowledge that the candidate or committee would not be able to pay in accordance with those terms; and

(5) The provider of goods or services makes reasonable efforts to collect the full amount of the payment owed within four months of the date that the payment for the goods or services is due under the terms of the agreement. Reasonable efforts to collect the full amount of the payment may be demonstrated even if:

(i) The provider does not exhaust all available legal options; or

(ii) The provider accepts less than the full amount of the payment owed by the candidate or committee.

R2.12.250 Redesignation of Campaign Funds for Future Elections**(a) Defeated Candidates, Individuals Leaving Office**

A defeated candidate or individual leaving office and planning to redesignate campaign funds for a future election shall do so before such funds become surplus. Funds will become surplus upon the 90th day after leaving an elective office, or the 90th day following the end of the postelection reporting period following the defeat of a candidate for elective office, whichever occurs last. (Govt. Code Section 89519[a])

(b) Redesignation to the Same Elective Office

The treasurer shall certify that to his or her knowledge there remains no further outstanding indebtedness in connection with the campaign. A defeated candidate or individual leaving office shall redesignate campaign funds for a future election to the same elective office by filing an amended State Form No. 410 (Statement of Organization) to include the new election year, and an initial State Form No. 501 (Candidate Intention). The defeated candidate or individual leaving office shall also file a statement with the Commission that campaign account funds have been redesignated.

(c) Redesignation to a Different Elective Office

The treasurer shall certify that to his or her knowledge there remains no further outstanding indebtedness in connection with the campaign. A defeated candidate or individual leaving office shall redesignate campaign funds for a future election to a different elective office by closing the existing campaign bank account and opening a new campaign bank account for the new elective office, and shall file initial State Forms No. 410 and 501.

R2.12.260 Statement of Organization

For the purposes of meeting the requirements of Section 2.12.260 for the information required on a statement of organization, the committee shall file both a City of Berkeley Statement of Organization and a State of California Form 410 within 10 days after the committee is formed as a committee under Berkeley Election Reform Act Section 2.12.095.

R2.12.270 Independent Expenditures: Individuals and Organizations Required to File Campaign Disclosure Statements

(a) An individual or organization that does not fall within the definitions of Government Code Section 82013(b) and (c) and that makes independent expenditures of \$250 or more in a calendar year to support or oppose a single Berkeley candidate, single Berkeley measure, or the qualification of a single Berkeley measure shall file a Supplemental Expenditure Form (State Form No. 465) with the City Clerk's Office in accordance with the prescribed campaign disclosure statement filing schedule.

(b) An individual or organization whose only filing obligation is pursuant to this regulation is no longer required to file pursuant to paragraph (a) when it has ceased to make expenditures with regard to campaigns for Berkeley elective office or for measures on the Berkeley ballot totaling

\$250 or more in an ensuing calendar year. A Statement of Termination (State Form No. 410) is not required of such individuals or organizations.

R2.12.270.1 Administrative Termination of Filing Obligations

(a) A candidate's or committee's status and filing obligations pursuant to BMC Chapter 2.12 may be administratively terminated by the Commission, either on its own initiative or upon the candidate's or committee's request.

(b) Factors the Commission will consider in determining administrative termination include the candidate's or committee's:

- (1) aggregate annual reported financial activity;
- (2) reports disclosing minimal or no receipt of contributions and/or expenditures; and
- (3) primary purpose for filing reports confined to disclosure of outstanding debts and obligations.

Any evidence of possible violations of any provisions of BMC Chapter 2.12, other than violations for failure to file one or more outstanding campaign statements, at present, or if administrative termination occurs, will preclude such administrative termination.

(c) The Commission will notify the candidate and committee treasurer of its intent to consider administrative termination and may request that any objections be submitted within a reasonable time.

R2.12.295 Late Contributions

(a) A late contribution means any contribution as defined in BMC Section 2.12.145 and received before the election at which the candidate or measure for which the contribution is intended is to be voted on.

(b) For the purposes of this section, if the deadline to file the late contribution report falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, except for the final Saturday and Sunday before Election Day, a report received by the City Clerk no later than the next business day shall be deemed timely filed.

R2.12.325.1 Mass Mailings; Filing

(a) A mass mailing means any mailing as defined in BMC Section 2.12.150 that has been sent within a calendar month.

(b) Any committee, candidate, officeholder, individual or organization who

- (1) Has local filing requirements pursuant to the BERA, as it may be amended from time to time, and
- (2) Makes expenditures supporting or opposing one or more candidates or ballot measures,

shall file three copies of each mass mailing paid for by expenditures reported therein.

R2.12.325.2 Filing of Mass Mailings - Method of Filing

Three copies of all mailings as defined in BMC Section 2.12.150 shall be filed with the City Clerk's Office no later than one day of the date the mass mailing was first placed in the U.S. mail. Filing shall be made by hand-delivery to the City Clerk's Office no later than one day after the mailing or by depositing three originals addressed to the City Clerk's Office in the U.S. mail on the same day as the first pieces are deposited in the U.S. mail.

The three copies of the mass mailing and the certification must be hand delivered or sent by guaranteed overnight delivery to comply with the requirement that they be filed with the City Clerk's Office no later than one day after the date the mass mailing was first placed in the U.S. mail.

Mass mailings may be filed with the City Clerk prior to the date of the actual mailing.

Each mass mailing required to be filed with the City Clerk pursuant to BMC Section 2.12.325 shall be accompanied by a certification of the date the mass mailing was (or will be) deposited in the U.S. mail. The certification shall include the following information:

- (a) The name of the candidate, committee, officeholder, individual or organization with local filing requirements under the BERA responsible for the mass mailing.
- (b) The campaign filing identification number, if any.
- (c) The date that the mass mailing was (or will be) deposited in the U.S. mail.
- (d) The signature of the candidate, committee, officeholder, individual or organization with local filing requirements under the BERA responsible for the mass mailing. Where a committee or organization is responsible for the filing, the certification shall be signed by the committee or organization treasurer.

The certification may be hand- or type-written by the responsible candidate, committee, officeholder, individual or organization with local filing obligations under the BERA either

directly on the mass mailing filed with the City Clerk's Office, or on a separate piece of paper if the piece of paper is attached to the mass mailing by staple. The certification shall be in a form substantially similar to the following:

I, _____, hereby certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that 200 or more copies of the document entitled or described as follows: _____, were (or will be) mailed on _____.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Filing I.D. Number: _____

Dated: _____

The filing of a mass mailing in accordance with this regulation shall satisfy the requirement in BMC Section 2.12.325 that all mass mailings be sent to the Commission.

R2.12.335 Text or Graphic Electronic Media Advertisement

(a) The provisions of BMC section 2.12.335 apply to all campaign committees, including candidate committees that have received contributions or loans over \$250 from the candidate.

(b) The disclosure information in a text or graphic electronic media advertisement must appear in letters at least as large as the majority of the text in the advertisement, or alternatively, if the advertisement is limited in size (e.g., a micro bar, button ad, paid text advertisement that is limited to 500 characters or less in length, or small paid graphic or picture link), the disclosure is displayed via link to a webpage with disclosure information or other technological means that provide the user with disclosure information. In addition, the disclosure information must be visible until the user clicks through the disclosure information, and the disclosure information must appear with a reasonable degree of color contrast between the background and text of the statement as to be legible.

R2.12.415 Allocation of Contributions to Multi-Candidate and Measure Committees

(a) Independent Committees

All contributions received by independent committees formed for the purpose of supporting or opposing one or more candidates or measures shall be allocated equally among all such candidates and measures unless otherwise indicated by the donor in writing.

(b) Controlled Committees

All contributions received by controlled committees formed for the purpose of supporting a candidate for Berkeley elective office and one or more ballot measures shall be allocated equally among the candidate and the ballot measures unless otherwise indicated by the donor in writing.

(c) When Donor Must Specify Allocation

If equal allocation of a contribution would result in exceeding Berkeley's \$250 per candidate contribution limit, the treasurer of the recipient committee shall promptly require the contributor to indicate in writing a preferred allocation so as to comply with the requirements of BMC Section 2.12.415.

R2.12.415.1 Separate Accounting of Candidate Contributions

(a) A committee which receives or makes contributions or makes expenditures in support of or opposition to both any candidate for Berkeley elective office and any non-Berkeley candidate or any measure shall maintain sufficient separate accounting so as to insure that expenditures made on behalf of or against each Berkeley candidate do not exceed contributions made in relation to that candidate. Either a separate candidate campaign account must be established or Commission staff must approve a written explanation of the committee's method of separate accounting.

(b) If a committee establishes a separate candidate campaign account, all contributions received by the committee in support of or opposition to any candidate for Berkeley elective office, and only such contributions, shall be deposited in this account. All disbursements made by the committee in support of or opposition to any candidate for Berkeley elective office shall be made from this account. No contribution received directly or indirectly from a corporation or labor union shall be deposited in a candidate campaign account.

R2.12.415.2 Cumulation of Candidate Contributions(a) Cumulative Period

Separate four-year cumulative periods for elective offices of staggered four-year terms shall apply for each election for the purpose of administering the \$250 per candidate contribution limitations of BMC Section 2.12.415. The cumulative period will commence on January 1 of the year immediately following the election.

(b) Contributions to Prior Cumulative Period to Help Retire a Campaign Debt

A candidate for Berkeley elective office who has not received the maximum contribution from a particular contributor permitted by BMC Section 2.12.415 for an election may receive a contribution from that contributor intended for other than the current cumulative period only as necessary to retire debt from a previous election, provided, however, that such additional contributions may not be accepted after the end of the second semi-annual filing period (i.e., December 31st) in the next even-numbered year following such election. Unless otherwise stated in writing by the contributor, contributions from that contributor will be deemed received for the current period.

(c) Applicability to Run-Off Elections

For purposes of this regulation, the provisions of subparagraph (b) above, are applicable to the retirement of debt from a run-off election.

R2.12.415.3 Joint Account Contributions

Except as provided in BMC Section 2.12.440 and R2.12.440 with respect to business organizations, a contribution may be made on a joint account. A contribution drawn on a joint account is presumed to come from the person or persons who signed the check or other instrument. When more than one party to the joint account intends to make a contribution using a single check or other instrument, each party to the joint account intending to make the contribution must sign the check or other instrument, or sign a written statement accompanying the check or other instrument indicating that all of the signatories intend to make the contribution. The amount of the contribution shall be allocated equally between or among the signers, unless otherwise indicated by the contributors.

R2.12.440 Candidate Contributions from Certain Organizations and Business Entities Including Corporations and Labor Unions

(a) The campaign treasurer must make all reasonable inquiries concerning, and is responsible for insuring the propriety of, the source of all campaign contributions in support of or opposition to any candidate for Berkeley elective office, especially those obviously not from individuals. If the treasurer knows or should reasonably know that the contribution is from a prohibited source, it must be refunded to the donor promptly.

(b) No proprietorship, firm, partnership, joint venture, syndicate, business trust, company, corporation, including non-profit corporation or labor union may contribute to any candidate or committee supporting or opposing any candidate. A contributor who has received contributions from this type of organization is not precluded from making contributions to candidates for Berkeley elective office or their campaigns provided either:

- (1) the contributor establishes a separate bank account into which monies not contributed by this type of organization are deposited and from which contributions to Berkeley elective office campaigns are made, or
- (2) the contributor maintains reasonable accounting methods so as to demonstrate that any contributions made to Berkeley elective office campaigns originate from sufficient funds not contributed by this type of organization.

(c) The campaign treasurer who receives contributions from a contributor receiving contributions from this type of organization must receive a written statement which indicates that the contributor complies with either (b)(1) or (b)(2), above, before depositing such contributions.

(d) Adequate records and other information shall be maintained and made available for inspection by the Commission, the City Clerk, and the City Attorney upon request. Nothing in this regulation limits the right of any person to make contributions in aid of a ballot measure from any source of funds.

R2.12.500.1 Eligibility for Fair Elections campaign funding

For purposes of the requirement that the Commission certify that a candidate applicant is or is not eligible to be a Participating Candidate at the earliest practicable time under Berkeley Municipal Code section 2.12.500.B, the Commission shall make the certification determination no later than the next regular Commission meeting following the Secretary's receipt of the completed written application, provided that the completed application is received in time to provide copies to the Commission prior to the meeting, and to be placed on the agenda consistent with the Brown Act.

R2.12.500.2 Qualified Contributions

For an election occurring during the period of December 1, 2019 through December 31, 2020, the dollar amounts listed in Berkeley Municipal Code section 2.12.500 are adjusted pursuant to section 2.12.545 as follows:

- (a) Before the close of the qualifying period, a participating candidate must collect and submit at least 30 qualified contributions, from at least 30 unique contributors, of at least ten dollars (\$10), for a total dollar amount of at least five-hundred and forty dollars (\$540).

R2.12.505.1 Fair Elections Fund payments

- (a) A Participating Candidate's initial request for Fair Elections funds shall include all information and documentation required by the City to process electronic payments which may include, but is not limited to, the Vendor Information Form, W-9 Form, Electronic Funds Transfer Form, and Federal Tax ID Number. Disbursement of Fair Elections funds will be made through electronic funds transfers to the Participating Candidate's campaign account.
- (b) Payment is not final determination. A payment of Fair Elections funds to a Participating Candidate does not constitute a final determination of the amount that the candidate is entitled to receive. Post-election review may lead to a determination that payments to the candidate were in excess, in which case the Commission will notify the Participating Candidate. The Participating Candidate must pay back an amount equal to the amount of excess payments to the City's Fair Elections Fund. A Participating Candidate's repayment of excess payments of Fair Elections funds does not limit the Commission's existing authority to administer, investigate potential violations of, enforce, and determine appropriate remedies for violations of the Berkeley Election Reform Act.
- (c) A Participating Candidate's request for a payment of Fair Elections funds in the City's electronic filing system must comply with instructions in the Fair Campaign Practices Commission Campaign Filing Manual and instructions regarding uploading of supporting documentation in the electronic filing system.
- (d) A Participating Candidate who wishes to appeal a determination by the Commission for non-payment of Fair Elections funds must submit a written appeal to the Commission within seven days of receipt of the Commission's determination. The appeal must include a clear,

concise, and accurate statement of the factual basis for the appeal and any evidence or documentation supporting the appeal. Documents that are not based upon personal knowledge shall identify the source of information. The appeal must be signed by the Participating Candidate under penalty of perjury. Appeals that are not signed under penalty of perjury or do not meet the standards for completeness will not be deemed received until such a declaration is made or the appeal is amended to be complete.

(e) When a committee returns a contribution for which it has received Fair Elections funds, the committee shall not spend the Fair Elections funds received for the returned contribution and shall remit the matching Fair Elections funds to the City within 15 calendar days of returning the contribution. If the matching funds are not repaid by the stated deadline, the committee will be subject to the penalties of BMC section 2.12.550.B.

R2.12.505.2 Fair Elections Fund Payment Amounts

For an election occurring during the period of December 1, 2019 through December 31, 2020, the dollar amounts listed in Berkeley Municipal Code section 2.12.505 are adjusted pursuant to section 2.12.545 as follows:

The aggregate amount of Fair Elections funds payments that may be made to a participating candidate during an election cycle may not exceed:

- (1) \$129,000 for a candidate running for the office of Mayor;
- (2) \$43,000 for a candidate running for the office of City Council.

R2.12.530 Use of Fair Elections Funds

For an election occurring during the period of December 1, 2019 through December 31, 2020, the dollar amounts listed in Berkeley Municipal Code section 2.12.530 are adjusted pursuant to section 2.12.545 as follows:

A participating candidate shall not use Fair Elections funds or contributions for indirect campaign purposes, including but not limited to capital assets having a value in excess of five hundred and forty dollars (\$540) and useful life extending beyond the end of the current election period determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

R2.12.545 Cost of living adjustments

The Commission shall make the cost of living adjustments set forth in Berkeley Municipal Code Section 2.12.545 starting in January 2019 and, thereafter, in January of every odd-numbered year. If the Commission does not have a regularly scheduled meeting in January of an odd-numbered year, the cost of living adjustment shall be made at the Commission's next regularly scheduled meeting.

R2.12.555 Substantial and Minor Violations

(a) A violation is deemed to be substantial if the seriousness of the offense is severe and public harm is significant. Severity and significance will be determined by assessing the following factors:

- (1) the dollar amount of the unreported or misreported violations;
- (2) the presence or lack of intent to deceive the voting public;
- (3) whether the violation appears deliberate, negligent, or inadvertent;
- (4) whether the Respondent demonstrated good faith in consulting with Commission staff during any investigation or made good faith efforts to correct any deficiencies, violations, or errors;
- (5) whether the violation was isolated or was part of a pattern of violations of this chapter by the candidate, either within the same election cycle or in past election cycles;
- (6) the effect of the violation upon the election or upon the administration of the Fair Elections Act.

(b) A violation is deemed to be minor if it is not substantial as provided above, and if the offense is minimal and has resulted in no significant public harm. A violation is minimal if it meets each of the following criteria as applicable:

- (1) the violation is merely technical or clerical in nature and is corrected when discovered. Such an error includes an incorrect contributor name, address, employer or occupation, provided that erroneously including a contribution from a non-Berkeley resident is not a technical or clerical error.
- (2) the dollar amount of the violation is small.
- (3) the violation is capable of being promptly corrected.
- (4) any improperly received funds have been promptly returned.
- (5) the individual seeking or receiving public financing has demonstrated good faith in consulting with Commission staff regarding the violation and has made good faith efforts to correct any deficiencies, violations, or errors.

(c) In the event that City staff is unable to make a determination whether a violation is minor, the issue of the scope of the violation shall promptly be presented to the Commission for its determination, and no public funds will be disbursed until the Commission makes a determination as to whether the violation is minor. In addition to the factors listed as (b)(1) – (5)

above, the following factors will be used by the Commission when reviewing a potentially minor violation:

- (1) the violation has not had any significant impact on the election process, on the fairness of the election, or on other candidates' ability to conduct their campaigns;
and
- (2) the violation does not significantly affect, or undermine, the purposes of the Fair Elections Act or its effective administration.

HISTORY OF FCPC REGULATIONS¹

- R2.12.025 Adopted May 21, 1998, to become effective immediately.
Amended February 14, 2002 to become effective immediately.
- R2.12.045 Adopted January 16, 1997, to become effective immediately.
Amended May 21, 1998, to become effective immediately.
Amended July 15, 2004 to become effective immediately.
- R2.12.095 Adopted February 18, 1993, to become effective immediately.
Amended May 21, 1998, to become effective immediately.
- IR2.2.12.070.1 Adopted June 19, 1990 to become effective immediately. Repealed
March 19, 1992. Added to Berkeley Election Reform Act pursuant
to Ordinance No. 6096-N.S.
- R2.12.100 Adopted August 21, 2008, to become effective immediately.
- R2.12.150 Adopted September 15, 1988 to become effective Jan. 1, 1989.
[Amended former Reg. 83-1, adopted December 15, 1983.]
Amended June 20, 1996 and February 20, 1997. Repealed May 21,
1998.
- R2.12.250 Adopted February 14, 2002 to become effective immediately.
Amended May 16, 2019 to become effective immediately.
- R2.12.260 Adopted May 20, 2010 to become effective immediately.
- IR2.12.270 Adopted September 15, 1988 to become effective Jan. 1, 1989.
[Replaced former Reg. 81-1, adopted Feb. 26, 1981 and amended
Dec. 15, 1983.] Repealed April 17, 1997. Added to Berkeley
Election Reform Act pursuant to Ordinance No. 6329-N.S.
- R2.12.270 Adopted September 15, 1988 to become effective Jan. 1, 1989, and
amended April 19, 1990. Amended February 14, 2002 to become
effective immediately.
- R2.12.270.1 Adopted September 15, 1988 to become effective Jan. 1, 1989.
[Replaced former Reg. 84-2, adopted May 17, 1984.] Amended
January 16, 2025 to become effective immediately.
- R2.12.270.2 Adopted April 19, 1990 to become effective immediately. Repealed
May 21, 1998.
- IR2.12.270.3 Adopted April 19, 1990 to become effective immediately. Repealed
March 19, 1992. Added to Berkeley Election Reform Act pursuant

¹ Regulations designated "IR" are interim regulations.

to Ordinance No. 6096-N.S.

- R2.12.295 Adopted March 21, 1991 to become effective April 20, 1991.
Amended February 14, 2002 to become effective immediately.
Amended July 15, 2004 to become effective immediately.
Amended May 16, 2019 to become effective immediately
- IR2.12.325.1 Adopted June 19, 1990 to become effective immediately. Repealed
March 19, 1992. Added to Berkeley Election Reform Act pursuant
to Ordinance No. 6096-N.S.
- R2.12.325.1 Adopted May 21, 1998, to become effective immediately.
Amended February 14, 2002 to become effective immediately.
Amended July 15, 2004 to become effective immediately.
- R2.12.325.2 Adopted May 21, 1998, to become effective immediately.
Amended July 21, 2016 to become effective immediately.
- R2.12.335 Adopted March 17, 2016, to become effective immediately.
Amended January 21, 2021 effective immediately.
- R2.12.415 Adopted September 15, 1988 to become effective Jan. 1, 1989, and
amended November 30, 1989. [Amended former Reg. 81-6,
adopted March 5, 1981 and amended January 19, 1984.]
- R2.12.415.1 Adopted September 15, 1988 to become effective Jan. 1, 1989.
[Replaced former Reg. 82-1, adopted August 5, 1982.] Amended
July 15, 2004 to become effective immediately.
- R2.12.415.2 Adopted September 15, 1988 to become effective Jan. 1, 1989 and
amended November 30, 1989. [Replaced former Reg. 81-7, adopted
March 5, 1981 and amended May 17, 1984.] Amended April 20,
1995 to become effective immediately. Amended February 17,
2000, to become effective immediately. Amended February 14,
2002 to become effective immediately.
- R2.12.415.3 Adopted September 15, 1988 to become effective Jan.1, 1989.
[Replaced former Reg. 84-3, adopted August 9, 1984.] Amended
May 21, 1998, to become effective immediately.
- R2.12.440 Adopted September 15, 1988 to become effective Jan. 1, 1989.
[Replaced former Reg. 82-3, adopted August 5, 1982.] Amended
April 20, 1995 to become effective immediately.
- IR2.12.440.1 Adopted September 15, 1988 to become effective Jan. 1, 1989.
[Amended former Reg. 81-2, adopted Feb. 26, 1981.] Repealed
March 19, 1992. Added to Berkeley Election Reform Act pursuant
to Ordinance No. 6096-N.S.

- R2.12.500 Adopted September 21, 2017 to become effective immediately.
Added to Berkeley Election Reform Act pursuant to Ordinance No.
7524-NS. Renumbered as R.2.12.500.1 November 21, 2019.
- R2.12.500.1 Adopted November 21, 2019 to become effective immediately.
[Renumbered former R.2.12.500]
- R2.12.500.2 Adopted November 12, 2019 to become effective immediately.
- R2.12.505 Adopted September 21, 2017 to become effective immediately.
Added to Berkeley Election Reform Act pursuant to Ordinance No.
7524-NS. Renumbered as R2.12.505.1 November 21, 2019.
- R2.12.505.1 Adopted November 21, 2019 to become effective immediately.
[Renumbered former R.2.12.505] Amended February 18, 2021
effective immediately.
- R2.12.505.2 Adopted November 21, 2019 to become effective immediately.
- R2.12.530 Adopted November 12, 2019 to become effective immediately.
- R2.12.545 Adopted September 21, 2017 to become effective immediately.
Added to Berkeley Election Reform Act pursuant to Ordinance No.
7524-NS.
- R2.12.555 Adopted May 16, 2019 to become effective immediately.
Amended September 17, 2020 to become effective immediately.

Harvey, Samuel

From: Kitt Saginor <ksaginor@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 10, 2025 10:10 AM
To: Harvey, Samuel; FCPC (Fair Campaign Practices Commission); Hylas, Stephen; Packard, Lauren
Subject: Fwd: Agenda items for FCPC December 2025

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Rithwik Sudharsan <rithwik@berkeley.edu>
Date: Mon, Nov 24, 2025 at 5:47 PM
Subject: Re: Agenda items for FCPC December 2025
To: Kitt Saginor <ksaginor@gmail.com>
Cc: FCPC (Fair Campaign Practices Commission) <FCPC@berkeleyca.gov>

Public financing matching funds disbursement processRecommended action:

- Recommend to the city clerk's office that the official training for campaign treasurers strongly discourages duplicate public finance matching requests. We could indicate that processing time may be longer if this happens, and that submitting duplicate requests knowingly or repeatedly could constitute a violation of BERA and result in penalties. See the following excerpts:

Section 2.12.505.C requires that applications for Fair Elections funds shall be accompanied by a signed statement from the candidate indicating that all information on the qualified contribution receipts is complete and accurate to the best of the candidate's knowledge.

Section 2.12.025 states that the verification shall state that the filer has used all reasonable diligence in its preparation, and that to the best of his or her knowledge it is true and complete.

Section 2.12.550 states that "If a participating candidate knowingly or willfully accepts or spends Fair Elections funding in violation of this Act, then the candidate shall repay to the Fair Elections Fund an amount equal to twice the value of Fair Elections funding unlawfully accepted or spent."

Alternative actions:

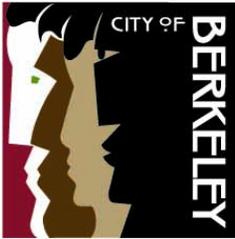
- Request the city clerk to examine whether changes to NetFile might be possible to prevent duplicate submissions, i.e. alert the user about a potential duplicate
- Request the city clerk to conduct more frequent audits for duplicates

Lobbyist Registration Forms and ProceduresRecommended action:

Request the city clerk's office to include an additional data entry cell in NetFile for lobbyist registration that contains the Company of the lobbyist, so that these can be searched easily on NetFile's spreadsheet format rather than downloading many PDF's, or doing any kind of other data manipulation.

--
Best,
Rithwik Sudharsan
+1 (916) 317-8200





Open Government Commission

Date: February 13, 2026
 To: Open Government Commission
 From: Sam Harvey, Commission Secretary
 Subject: Referral of non-filing quarterly lobbying reports: Alexander Taplin

Background

At its November 2025 meeting, the Commission received a referral from the City Clerk regarding the apparent failure by registered local governmental lobbyist Alexander Taplin to file quarterly reports for the following periods as required by the City's Lobbyist Registration Act (BMC Ch. 2.09):

1. April 1 – June 30, 2025
2. July 1 – September 30, 2025

(Attachment 1 – City Clerk referral.)

Quarterly lobbying reports are due no later than thirty days from the end of the reporting period. (BMC § 2.09.140.) These reports were therefore due to the City on July 30, 2025, and October 30, 2025 respectively. The lobbyist remains registered to lobby the City on behalf of his employer Riaz Capital.

As part of the City's ordinary practice, the City Clerk Department, sends multiple notices to lobbyists reminding them of their filing obligations. (See Attachment 1.) Following the submission of this referral to the Commission, the lobbyist filed the outstanding reports on November 19, 2025. The report for the period ending June 20, 2025 was filed 112 days late. The report for the period ending September 30, 2025 was filed 20 days late. The filings report no lobbying activity during the covered periods.

(Attachment 2.)

As an administrative matter, the Commission Secretary notes that the quarterly/annual disclosure form includes spaces to indicate the date range the report covers on the schedules where the lobbyist reports lobbying activity. (See Attachment 3, lobbyist Jul. 21, 2024 report.) However, the cover page does not include a place to indicate the date range. As a result, when, as here, a lobbyist reports no lobbying activity, and therefore does not include any attached schedules, the filed form does not provide the date range covered. Instead, the date range only appears on the City's filing portal. (See Attachment 4.) It is therefore difficult in looking at the form alone to determine the date

range covered. The Commission may wish to discuss at a future meeting whether the form should be amended to resolve this issue.

Recommendation

Upon receipt of information regarding a possible violation of the Lobbyist Registration Act, the Commission shall decide whether to (1) refer the matter to the Secretary to investigate, (2) dismiss the complaint, or (3) find probable cause of a violation of the Act. (BMC § 2.09.250.)

Following a finding of probable cause, the Commission may hold a hearing to determine if a violation has occurred, and may then determine an appropriate remedy if a violation is found. (BMC § 2.09.260.)

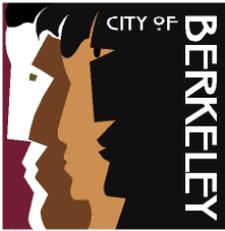
Based on the apparent late filing of two quarterly lobbying reports as outlined above, the Secretary recommends the Commission make a finding of probable cause that the Act has been violated for failure to timely file two quarterly lobbying reports in violation of BMC § 2.09.140.

Should the Commission make such a finding, the Commission should determine whether to proceed to a hearing pursuant to Section 2.09.260 to be held at a future meeting. The Commission may also dismiss this matter at any time if it determines that no further action is warranted. The Secretary notes that the two late-filed reports do not show any lobbying activity and therefore the apparent late filings do not appear to have deprived the public of timely information about lobbying activity.

The Lobbyist Registration Act does not provide for an automatic late penalty in the event of a late filing. The Commission may wish to consider whether administration of the Act could be improved through an amendment creating an automatic late filing penalty.

Attachment:

1. City Clerk referral for non-filing of lobbying reports (Nov. 6, 2025)
2. Lobbyist's late-filed reports.
3. Lobbyist's July 31, 2024 report
4. City lobbyist disclosure portal screenshot



City Clerk Department

Date: November 6, 2025
 To: Sam Harvey, Secretary, Open Government Commission
 From: Mark Numainville, City Clerk
 Subject: Referral of Non-Filing by Quarterly Lobbyist Filer

The Lobbyist Registration Act requires certain local government lobbyists to file quarterly disclosures of lobbying activity with the City Clerk Department. The following lobbyist has not filed for the April 1 – June 30, 2025, and July 1 – September 30, 2025 reporting periods:

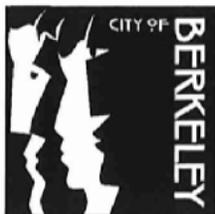
Lobbyist Filer	Employer
Alexander Taplin	Riaz Capital

Notice of the filing requirement for the reporting period 04/01/25 to 06/30/2025 was sent to quarterly lobbyist filers by the City Clerk Department on July 21, 2025, July 24, 2025. Past due notices were sent on August 14, 2025.

Notice of the filing requirement for the reporting period 07/01/25 to 09/30/2025 was sent to quarterly lobbyist filers by the City Clerk Department on October 21, 2025, October 28, 2025, and October 31, 2025.

Lobbyists are required to file a final disclosure form and registration form indicating that all lobbying activities have terminated. Berkeley Municipal Code § 2.09.120 states that in the case of an in-house local government lobbyist, the lobbyist employer or agent thereof, may complete and file the required forms.

My office recommends referral of these matters to the Open Government Commission for consideration of: 1) Whether or not the failure to file quarterly disclosure report and terminating registration report is a violation of the Lobbyist Registration Act; and 2) Appropriate enforcement action as determined by the Commission.



City Clerk Department
 2180 Milvia Street
 Berkeley, CA 94704
 (510) 981-6900
www.cityofberkeley.info
Elections@cityofberkeley.info

Date Initial Filing Received
 Official Use Only

QUARTERLY/ANNUAL DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

For each calendar quarter in which a local governmental lobbyist was required to be registered, they shall file a quarterly report with the City Clerk, unless the local governmental lobbyist is a sole proprietorship or works for a lobbying firm with four or fewer employees, in which case they shall file annually. **The reports shall be due no later than thirty (30) days after the end of the reporting period. BMC 2.09.140**

FULL NAME Riaz Taplin	
NAME OF LOBBYIST FIRM OR EMPLOYER Riaz Capital	
LOBBYIST FIRM/EMPLOYER ADDRESS [REDACTED]	
WORK PHONE 925-858-4724	WORK EMAIL

REPORTING PERIOD

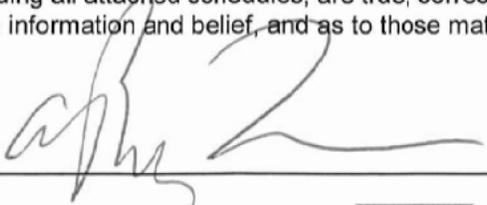
ANNUAL
 QUARTERLY
 AMENDMENT
 NO ACTIVITY TO REPORT

I am including the following disclosure schedules for each client/employer (check all that apply) 0 None # of pages.

- Schedule A: Governmental Action Disclosure
- Schedule B: Employment
- Schedule C: Compensated Services
- Schedule D: Contribution Solicitations

VERIFICATION

I have been authorized by the Lobbying Firm identified above to make this verification. I have exercised reasonable diligence in the course of reviewing this Disclosure Report for completeness and accuracy. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the contents of this Disclosure Report, including all attached schedules, are true, correct, and complete, except as to those matters which are stated on information and belief, and as to those matters I believe them to be true.

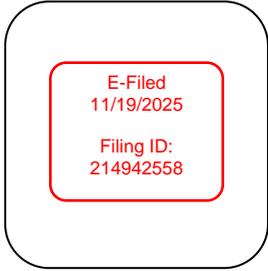
Signature: 

Date: 11/19/25

CLEAR FORM

NetFile Certification

Online Proof of Certificate Submission



Additional Information provided by Filer, if applicable

This certifies the participant named below has submitted a certificate which they attest fulfills the specified deadline.

11/19/2025

Date of Completion

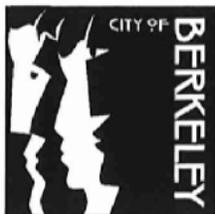
Taplin, Alexander

Participant Name

Training Time

CITY OF BERKELEY

Agency Name



City Clerk Department
 2180 Milvia Street
 Berkeley, CA 94704
 (510) 981-6900
www.cityofberkeley.info
Elections@cityofberkeley.info

Date Initial Filing Received
 Official Use Only

QUARTERLY/ANNUAL DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

For each calendar quarter in which a local governmental lobbyist was required to be registered, they shall file a quarterly report with the City Clerk, unless the local governmental lobbyist is a sole proprietorship or works for a lobbying firm with four or fewer employees, in which case they shall file annually. **The reports shall be due no later than thirty (30) days after the end of the reporting period. BMC 2.09.140**

FULL NAME Riaz Taplin	
NAME OF LOBBYIST FIRM OR EMPLOYER Riaz Capital	
LOBBYIST FIRM/EMPLOYER ADDRESS [REDACTED]	
WORK PHONE 925-858-4724	WORK EMAIL

REPORTING PERIOD

ANNUAL
 QUARTERLY
 AMENDMENT
 NO ACTIVITY TO REPORT

I am including the following disclosure schedules for each client/employer (check all that apply) 0 None # of pages.

- Schedule A: Governmental Action Disclosure
- Schedule B: Employment
- Schedule C: Compensated Services
- Schedule D: Contribution Solicitations

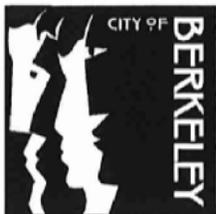
VERIFICATION

I have been authorized by the Lobbying Firm identified above to make this verification. I have exercised reasonable diligence in the course of reviewing this Disclosure Report for completeness and accuracy. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the contents of this Disclosure Report, including all attached schedules, are true, correct, and complete, except as to those matters which are stated on information and belief, and as to those matters I believe them to be true.

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 11/19/25

CLEAR FORM



City Clerk Department
 2180 Milvia Street
 Berkeley, CA 94704
 (510) 981-6900
www.cityofberkeley.info
Elections@cityofberkeley.info

Date Initial Filing Received
 Official Use Only

QUARTERLY/ANNUAL DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

For each calendar quarter in which a local governmental lobbyist was required to be registered, they shall file a quarterly report with the City Clerk, unless the local governmental lobbyist is a sole proprietorship or works for a lobbying firm with four or fewer employees, in which case they shall file annually. **The reports shall be due no later than thirty (30) days after the end of the reporting period. BMC 2.09.140**

FULL NAME Riaz Taplin	
NAME OF LOBBYIST FIRM OR EMPLOYER Riaz Capital	
LOBBYIST FIRM/EMPLOYER ADDRESS [REDACTED]	
WORK PHONE 925-858-4724	WORK EMAIL

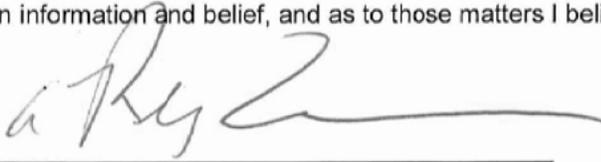
REPORTING PERIOD			
<input type="radio"/> ANNUAL	<input checked="" type="radio"/> QUARTERLY	<input type="radio"/> AMENDMENT	<input type="radio"/> NO ACTIVITY TO REPORT

I am including the following disclosure schedules for each client/employer (check all that apply) 0 None # of pages.

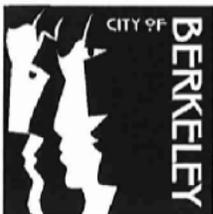
- Schedule A: Governmental Action Disclosure
- Schedule B: Employment
- Schedule C: Compensated Services
- Schedule D: Contribution Solicitations

VERIFICATION

I have been authorized by the Lobbying Firm identified above to make this verification. I have exercised reasonable diligence in the course of reviewing this Disclosure Report for completeness and accuracy. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the contents of this Disclosure Report, including all attached schedules, are true, correct, and complete, except as to those matters which are stated on information and belief, and as to those matters I believe them to be true.

Signature:  Date: 11/19/25

CLEAR FORM



City Clerk Department
 2180 Milvia Street
 Berkeley, CA 94704
 (510) 981-6900
www.cityofberkeley.info
Elections@cityofberkeley.info

Date Initial Filing Received
 Official Use Only

QUARTERLY/ANNUAL DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

For each calendar quarter in which a local governmental lobbyist was required to be registered, they shall file a quarterly report with the City Clerk, unless the local governmental lobbyist is a sole proprietorship or works for a lobbying firm with four or fewer employees, in which case they shall file annually. **The reports shall be due no later than thirty (30) days after the end of the reporting period. BMC 2.09.140**

FULL NAME Riaz Taplin	
NAME OF LOBBYIST FIRM OR EMPLOYER Riaz Capital	
LOBBYIST FIRM/EMPLOYER ADDRESS [REDACTED]	
WORK PHONE 925-858-4724	WORK EMAIL

REPORTING PERIOD

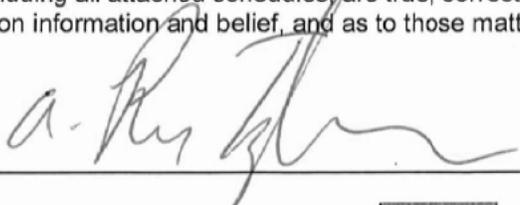
ANNUAL
 QUARTERLY
 AMENDMENT
 NO ACTIVITY TO REPORT

I am including the following disclosure schedules for each client/employer (check all that apply) 0 None # of pages.

- Schedule A: Governmental Action Disclosure
- Schedule B: Employment
- Schedule C: Compensated Services
- Schedule D: Contribution Solicitations

VERIFICATION

I have been authorized by the Lobbying Firm identified above to make this verification. I have exercised reasonable diligence in the course of reviewing this Disclosure Report for completeness and accuracy. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the contents of this Disclosure Report, including all attached schedules, are true, correct, and complete, except as to those matters which are stated on information and belief, and as to those matters I believe them to be true.

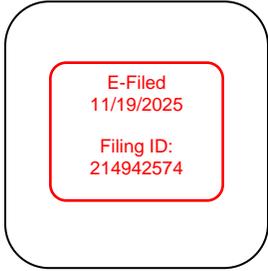
Signature: 

Date: 11/19/25

CLEAR FORM

NetFile Certification

Online Proof of Certificate Submission



Additional Information provided by Filer, if applicable

This certifies the participant named below has submitted a certificate which they attest fulfills the specified deadline.

11/19/2025

Date of Completion

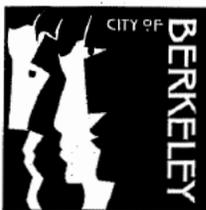
Taplin, Alexander

Participant Name

Training Time

CITY OF BERKELEY

Agency Name



City Clerk Department
 2180 Milvia Street
 Berkeley, CA 94704
 (510) 981-6900
www.cityofberkeley.info
Elections@cityofberkeley.info

Date Initial Filing Received
Official Use Only
RECEIVED
 JUL 31 2024
 CITY OF BERKELEY
 CITY CLERK DEPARTMENT

QUARTERLY/ANNUAL DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

For each calendar quarter in which a local governmental lobbyist was required to be registered, they shall file a quarterly report with the City Clerk, unless the local governmental lobbyist is a sole proprietorship or works for a lobbying firm with four or fewer employees, in which case they shall file annually. **The reports shall be due no later than thirty (30) days after the end of the reporting period.** BMC 2.09.140

FULL NAME Riaz Taplin	
NAME OF LOBBYIST FIRM OR EMPLOYER Riaz Capital	
LOBBYIST FIRM/EMPLOYER ADDRESS	
WORK PHONE 341-777-5389	WORK EMAIL riaz@riazcapital.com

REPORTING PERIOD

ANNUAL
 QUARTERLY
 AMENDMENT
 NO ACTIVITY TO REPORT

I am including the following disclosure schedules for each client/employer (check all that apply) 1 # of pages.

- Schedule A: Governmental Action Disclosure
- Schedule B: Employment
- Schedule C: Compensated Services
- Schedule D: Contribution Solicitations

VERIFICATION

I have been authorized by the Lobbying Firm identified above to make this verification. I have exercised reasonable diligence in the course of reviewing this Disclosure Report for completeness and accuracy. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the contents of this Disclosure Report, including all attached schedules, are true, correct, and complete, except as to those matters which are stated on information and belief, and as to those matters I believe them to be true.

Signature:

Date: 7/31/2024

**CITY OF BERKELEY
 LOBBYIST DISCLOSURE (BMC 2.09.140)
 SCHEDULE A: GOVERNMENTAL ACTION**

Name of Lobbyist: Riaz Taplin

Reporting Period (Insert Dates)	
<u>4/1/24</u>	<u>6/30/24</u>
from	through
Page <u>1</u> of <u>1</u>	

Any discretionary administrative or legislative actions of the City, other than an action which is ministerial in nature that the lobbyist sought to influence. The report shall contain any direct or indirect oral, written, or electronic communication with an appointed or elected City official or City employee. Please provide a brief narrative (no longer than three sentences) of the position advocated by the local governmental lobbyist on behalf of the identified client. If more space is needed, include additional schedules.

CLIENT/EMPLOYER NAME	CLIENT/EMPLOYER ADDRESS (INCLUDE CITY, STATE AND ZIP)	ITEM OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTION	POSITION ADVOCATED	NAME AND TITLE OF CITY OFFICIAL/CITY EMPLOYEE LOBBIED
1. Riaz Capital		1	ADVOCATED FOR A REGA EXEMPTION AND RESOLUTION UNDER AB1633 FOR 2500 ELLSWORTH	Jesse Argulan, Mayor
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				

RECEIVED
 MAY 10 2024
 CITY OF BERKELEY
 OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Clear Form

CITY OF BERKELEY
LOBBYIST DISCLOSURE (BMC 2.09.140)
SCHEDULE B: EMPLOYMENT

Name of Lobbyist: Riaz Taplin

If any local governmental lobbyist, or a registered client at the behest of a local governmental lobbyist, employs or requests, recommends or causes a client of the local governmental lobbyist to employ, and such client does employ, any City employee, or elected or appointed City official, in any capacity whatsoever, or a member of the immediate family of one of these individuals, the local governmental lobbyist shall disclose the following:

NAME OF PERSON EMPLOYED OR HIRED: _____

Description of Services Actually Performed:

TOTAL PAYMENTS made during the reporting period (select one):

- Less than \$250
- Between \$250 and \$1000
- Greater than \$1000 but less than \$10,000
- Greater than \$10,000

NAME OF PERSON EMPLOYED OR HIRED: _____

Description of Services Actually Performed:

TOTAL PAYMENTS made during the reporting period (select one):

- Less than \$250
- Between \$250 and \$1000
- Greater than \$1000 but less than \$10,000
- Greater than \$10,000

NAME OF PERSON EMPLOYED OR HIRED: _____

Description of Services Actually Performed:

TOTAL PAYMENTS made during the reporting period (select one):

- Less than \$250
- Between \$250 and \$1000
- Greater than \$1000 but less than \$10,000
- Greater than \$10,000

**CITY OF BERKELEY
LOBBYIST DISCLOSURE (BMC 2.09.140)
SCHEDULE C: COMPENSATED SERVICES**

Name of Lobbyist: _____

If any elected City officeholder or candidate for elected City office employs or hires a local governmental lobbyist to provide compensated services to the officeholder or candidate, the local governmental lobbyist shall disclose the following:

NAME OF PERSON EMPLOYED OR HIRED: _____
Description of Services Actually Performed:

TOTAL PAYMENTS made during the reporting period (select one):

Less than \$250
 Between \$250 and \$1000
 Greater than \$1000 but less than \$10,000
 Greater than \$10,000

NAME OF PERSON EMPLOYED OR HIRED: _____
Description of Services Actually Performed:

TOTAL PAYMENTS made during the reporting period (select one):

Less than \$250
 Between \$250 and \$1000
 Greater than \$1000 but less than \$10,000
 Greater than \$10,000

NAME OF PERSON EMPLOYED OR HIRED: _____
Description of Services Actually Performed:

TOTAL PAYMENTS made during the reporting period (select one):

Less than \$250
 Between \$250 and \$1000
 Greater than \$1000 but less than \$10,000
 Greater than \$10,000

CITY OF BERKELEY
LOBBYIST DISCLOSURE (BMC 2.09.140)
SCHEDULE D: CONTRIBUTION SOLICITATIONS

Name of Lobbyist: _____

If a local governmental lobbyist solicits any person to make a contribution to an elected City officeholder, candidate for City office or to any committee or campaign fund controlled by such officeholder or candidate, the local governmental lobbyist shall disclose the names of the persons whom the local governmental lobbyist solicited, and the officeholder or candidate for whose benefit each solicitation was made.

1. Name of Officeholder or Candidate: _____	
Names of Persons Solicited:	
Name: _____	Name: _____
2. Name of Officeholder or Candidate: _____	
Names of Persons Solicited:	
Name: _____	Name: _____
3. Name of Officeholder or Candidate: _____	
Names of Persons Solicited:	
Name: _____	Name: _____
4. Name of Officeholder or Candidate: _____	
Names of Persons Solicited:	
Name: _____	Name: _____
Name: _____	Name: _____
Name: _____	Name: _____



CITY OF BERKELEY
PUBLIC PORTAL FOR LOBBYIST DISCLOSURE

[HOME](#)

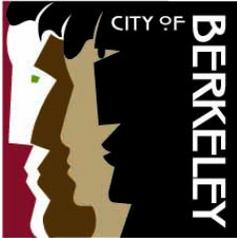
[LOBBYIST DIRECTORY](#)

SEARCH FOR FILED STATEMENTS

7 Records Found

[Export to Excel](#)

Filer Name	Date Filed	Period	Deadline	Form	Rpt #	View	Amendments
Taplin, Alexander	11/19/2025	07/01/2025 - 09/30/2025	10/31/2025	Lobbyist Disclosure		PDF	
Taplin, Alexander	11/19/2025	04/01/2025 - 06/30/2025	07/31/2025	Lobbyist Disclosure		PDF	
Taplin, Alexander	04/07/2025	01/01/2025 - 03/31/2025	04/30/2025	Lobbyist Disclosure		PDF	
Taplin, Alexander	01/31/2025	10/01/2024 - 12/31/2024	01/31/2025	Lobbyist Disclosure		PDF	
Taplin, Alexander	10/30/2024	07/01/2024 - 09/30/2024	10/31/2024	Lobbyist Disclosure		PDF	
Taplin, Alexander	07/31/2024	04/01/2024 - 06/30/2024	07/31/2024	Lobbyist Disclosure		PDF	
Taplin, Alexander	05/15/2024			Registration - Paper		PDF	



Open Government Commission

Complaint of Noncompliance

Open Government Ordinance (“OGO”) - Brown Act - Public Records Act - Lobbyist Registration Act

Name: Johlyece Dotson

Date: 10/06/2025

Mailing Address/
Contact Info: _____

Identify the area of noncompliance (check all that apply):

- OGO
- Brown Act
- ***Public Records Act
- Lobbyist Registration Act

Describe the act(s) of noncompliance. (Attach additional page if more space is needed.)

Please see attached letter

List the date(s) on which the noncompliance occurred.

Please see the attached letter

Describe any steps taken to address the noncompliance directly with City of Berkeley staff and/or elected official, including the name of any staff person involved, if known.

Please see the attached letter
CPRA REQUESTS #'S 25-1775, 25-1967, 25-1998, 25-2142, 25-2187, 25-2192, 25-2284

Documents:

Attach any written requests or complaints submitted to the City and any responses received. You should also attach any additional information that you believe will assist the Commission and staff in reviewing your complaint.

Complaints must be submitted to the Secretary of the Commission no less than 14 days prior to the Commission meeting at which it will be considered. Complaints may be submitted via email to FCPC@berkeleyca.gov

Harvey, Samuel

From: lyece1@aol.com
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 1:47 PM
To: FCPC (Fair Campaign Practices Commission)
Subject: RE: Complaint Regarding CPRA Violations – Ongoing Harassment, Misuse of City Systems, and Justification for a Second Claim
Attachments: _FCPC-Complaint-Form Non Compliance 1.pdf

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Complaint Regarding CPRA Violations – Ongoing Harassment, Misuse of City Systems, and Justification for a Second Claim

Hello,

I am submitting this complaint regarding repeated violations of the California Public Records Act (Cal. Gov. Code § 6250 et seq.) and the City of Berkeley's obligations to respond to records requests. This complaint concerns multiple CPRA requests, emails, and claims I have submitted to City staff, the City Attorney, HR, City Council, City Manager, City Auditor, and City Clerk, all relating to ongoing harassment and misuse of my personal information.

- On June 30, 2025, I filed a tort claim against the City of Berkeley, which was denied by default. The claim arose from a terrifying incident in which my personal information was fraudulently submitted to a suicide prevention website. This submission was traced back to a City of Berkeley IP address.
- After filing my claim and receiving no substantive response from the city, I received a phone call that appeared to originate from a City number. The call rang twice and disconnected with no voicemail or explanation. This incident, following the initial misuse of my information, has significantly increased my fear and concern for the safety of myself and my children.
- TPX (the City's phone service provider, or a related entity) confirmed that the phone number involved belongs to the City of Berkeley, registered at 2180 Milvia Street. 510-981-6995
- Due to these incidents, I have repeatedly instructed the city that any communications with me should be in writing only, as I no longer feel safe receiving calls. Despite my efforts, my concerns continue to go unaddressed.

- The continuing harm after the denial of my initial claim justifies the filing of a second claim to address new and ongoing harassment and events

CPRA Concerns:

- I have submitted multiple CPRA requests seeking records related to these incidents, including device and network logs, IP address traces, and internal communications from City systems. Despite these requests, I have not received full or timely responses. All requests have been subject to repeated extensions, leaving me without clarity about whether my information continues to be misused.
- Emails expressing my concerns about personal safety, harassment, and unauthorized use of my information have been sent to HR, the City Attorney, Mayor, City Council members, City Manager, City Auditor, and City Clerk, and are now included in this complaint to the Open Government Commission. No substantive responses have been received.

Specific Concerns:

- The city has failed to provide timely, complete, and responsive records regarding my CPRA requests, despite its statutory obligations.
- Repeated extensions and partial responses have left me uncertain whether my personal information continues to be misused.
- Prior CPRA requests were submitted in good faith and cover serious matters, including the fraudulent submission of my information to a suicide prevention website traced back to a City IP address and subsequent unexplained contact from a city number.
- The continuation of harassment and unauthorized activity after the denial of my first claim demonstrates the urgent need for proper oversight and accountability.

Request:

1. I respectfully request that the Open Government Commission investigate these repeated CPRA violations and compel the City of Berkeley to provide full and complete records responsive to my prior requests.

2. I request that the Commission ensure all emails, communications, and internal responses relating to my requests are formally acknowledged and included in the official record.
3. I request that the Commission take note of the continuing harm and ongoing risk to my family, including the circumstances that justify the filing of a second claim due to delayed or incomplete compliance.
4. If any responsive records do not exist, I request that the city explicitly state this in writing for each request.

Public Meeting and Attendance:

Complaints must be submitted to the Secretary of the Commission no less than 14 days prior to the meeting at which they will be considered. The Open Government Commission meets on the third Thursday of the month. Should this complaint be placed on a meeting agenda, I respectfully request that representatives from the City Attorney's Office, Human Resources Department, and City Manager's Office be present to respond to questions regarding the City's handling of my CPRA requests and related communications. Their direct participation would ensure transparency and accountability in the discussion of these serious concerns.

While I understand that the Commission may decide whether or not a public meeting is necessary, I believe this matter is significant enough to warrant one. However, based on the City's prior handling of this issue, I am also aware that a meeting may not be scheduled in an attempt to avoid further public scrutiny.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and request that the Commission treat it as urgent given the ongoing impact on my safety and the repeated lack of compliance by City staff.

To: Open Government Commission

From: Commissioner Janis Ching

Subject: **Public access to supplemental materials and amendments at City Council meetings, including the timing of presentation of such materials by the mayor or city councilmembers, such that the public may comment on them**

In the final item of the Jan 20, 2026 City Council meeting, a councilmember intentionally chose to not share her proposed amendments to Item 24 until after the public hearing was closed. The public was therefore prevented from commenting on the significant changes to the staff recommendation that was ultimately passed. Here is a transcription of the exchange that happened at time stamp 5:44, after the staff report on [Item 24](#)

Mayor Ishii: "I'm going to pass it forward to, [inaudible from Kesarwani off mic] are you ready? You don't want to present your supplemental?"

Councilmember Kesarwani: "Madam Mayor, I don't have a supplemental, I have 2 short amendments that I want to make to the ordinance." [There was then a brief Q&A with planning staff] "I think we should close the public hearing and then I can discuss my proposed amendments."

Public comment ensued, the public hearing was closed, then the councilmember presented an amendment that substantially changed the staff proposal. (Instead of requiring projects covered by this ordinance to undergo a single hearing at the Design Review Committee, Kesarwani proposed removing the Design Review process altogether for these projects.)

Harvey, Samuel

From: Kitt Saginor <ksaginor@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 10, 2025 10:10 AM
To: Harvey, Samuel; FCPC (Fair Campaign Practices Commission); Hylas, Stephen; Packard, Lauren
Subject: Fwd: Agenda items for FCPC December 2025

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Rithwik Sudharsan <rithwik@berkeley.edu>
Date: Mon, Nov 24, 2025 at 5:47 PM
Subject: Re: Agenda items for FCPC December 2025
To: Kitt Saginor <ksaginor@gmail.com>
Cc: FCPC (Fair Campaign Practices Commission) <FCPC@berkeleyca.gov>

Public financing matching funds disbursement processRecommended action:

- Recommend to the city clerk's office that the official training for campaign treasurers strongly discourages duplicate public finance matching requests. We could indicate that processing time may be longer if this happens, and that submitting duplicate requests knowingly or repeatedly could constitute a violation of BERA and result in penalties. See the following excerpts:

Section 2.12.505.C requires that applications for Fair Elections funds shall be accompanied by a signed statement from the candidate indicating that all information on the qualified contribution receipts is complete and accurate to the best of the candidate's knowledge.

Section 2.12.025 states that the verification shall state that the filer has used all reasonable diligence in its preparation, and that to the best of his or her knowledge it is true and complete.

Section 2.12.550 states that "If a participating candidate knowingly or willfully accepts or spends Fair Elections funding in violation of this Act, then the candidate shall repay to the Fair Elections Fund an amount equal to twice the value of Fair Elections funding unlawfully accepted or spent."

Alternative actions:

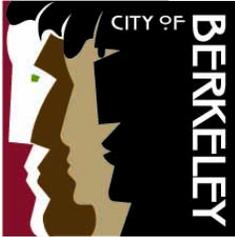
- Request the city clerk to examine whether changes to NetFile might be possible to prevent duplicate submissions, i.e. alert the user about a potential duplicate
- Request the city clerk to conduct more frequent audits for duplicates

Lobbyist Registration Forms and ProceduresRecommended action:

Request the city clerk's office to include an additional data entry cell in NetFile for lobbyist registration that contains the Company of the lobbyist, so that these can be searched easily on NetFile's spreadsheet format rather than downloading many PDF's, or doing any kind of other data manipulation.

--
Best,
Rithwik Sudharsan
+1 (916) 317-8200





Fair Campaign Practices Commission
Open Government Commission

DATE: February 13, 2026

TO: Fair Campaign Practices Commission & Open Government Commission

FROM: Sam Harvey, Commission Secretary

SUBJECT: Election of Commission Officers

City commissions must annually elect a Chair and Vice Chair.

The Chair and Vice Chair are elected by the majority of the commission for a one-year term and hold office until their successors are elected or until their terms as members of the commission expire. No commissioner shall serve as Chair for more than two consecutive years. There is no term limit for Vice Chair.

The FCPC's Rules of Procedure outline the following responsibilities for the Chair:

1. Preside at all Commission meetings
2. Appoint committees and chairpersons of committees
3. Approve the agenda prior to distribution
4. Sign correspondence on behalf of the Commission
5. Administer oaths and affirmations to persons testifying before the Commission
6. Provide guidance to the Secretary regarding staff execution of Commission business, including, but not limited to, investigations, reviewing campaign statements and audits of candidates and committees
7. Represent the Commission in dealings with the City Manager, the City Attorney, and other City staff
8. Represent the Commission before the City Council
9. Exercise the authority of the Commission with regard to administrative matters

The role of the Vice-Chair is to assume the above roles in the absence of the Chair.