


Date: July 21, 2020

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Laura Doud, City Auditor

From: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager 

Subject: **Ethics Commission Budget Request**

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ethics Commission met via teleconference on July 15, 2020. The attached letter, which is an outcome of that teleconference, expresses the Commission's request for designated funding in the Proposed FY 21 Budget.

If you have any questions, please contact Administrative Deputy City Manager Rebecca Garner at (562) 570-6979 or rebecca.garner@longbeach.gov.

ATTACHMENT

CC: CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY
DOUGLAS P. HAUBERT, CITY PROSECUTOR
LINDA F. TATUM, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
KEVIN JACKSON, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
TERESA CHANDLER, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
REBECCA G. GARNER, ADMINISTRATIVE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
MONIQUE DE LA GARZA, CITY CLERK

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
ETHICS COMMISSION**

**Susan Wise, Chair
Margo Morales, Vice Chair
Lani De Benedictis, Commissioner
Luke Fiedler, Commissioner**



**Kimmy Maniquis, Commissioner
Barbara A. Pollack, Commissioner
J.P. Shotwell, Commissioner**

July 21, 2020

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
City Auditor Laura Doud
City Manager Tom Modica
City of Long Beach
411 West Ocean Boulevard
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: FY 2020-2021 ETHICS COMMISSION BUDGET

Honorable Mayor Garcia, Members of the City Council, City Auditor Laura Doud, and City Manager Tom Modica:

We are writing on behalf of the Ethics Commission (Commission) to outline the need for designated funding in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (FY 21) City Budget to support the significant work of the Commission.

As you are aware, in November 2018 over 80,000 Long Beach voters approved Measure CCC thus creating the Ethics Commission. The full Commission is now seated and beginning the work envisioned by the voters. It is appropriate and necessary that the City Budget allow for the staffing of the Commission so that this work can proceed in a timely and structured manner. During our early stages of organization, and before the full Commission was in place, we have been supported by staff from the offices of the City Attorney, the City Clerk and the City Manager. This support has been greatly appreciated, however going forward, that same staffing will be necessary as well as at minimum one full time staff member, and funding for supplies and services.

We are happy to answer any questions you have about the Commission and always welcome your suggestions and concerns. As a brief summary of our progress so far, please know that the Commission first met in November 2019, soon after the first four commissioners were appointed and sworn in. We set about to design the selection process for the remaining three commissioners. City staff conducted outreach efforts, collected applications and conducted the initial screening of applications. The Commission met four times during January, February and March. We reviewed applications, and selected candidates for and conducted oral interviews. On March 13, the final selections were made to complete the Commission. However, COVID-19 intervened and delayed the onboarding process as City offices were closed.

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The full Commission of seven members is now in place and met virtually for the first time on Wednesday, July 15. The entire group is enthusiastic and eager to get to work. At that meeting, the Commissioners unanimously approved this request be made to ensure express and sufficient funding and staffing of the Commission is provided in the upcoming budget. The Commissioners also outlined topics to be covered during our August meeting. Those items include the receipt of a report from the Auditor about existing ethics programs and policies, a report from the City Attorney staff on proposed bylaws for the Commission, and a report on redistricting and the next steps required by the Commission with reference to the establishment of that body.

In short, there is much work to do be done by this Commission. What can be accomplished will be affected greatly by the staff resources. An express and sufficient budget is required in order to fulfill the mandate of the voters in adopting Measure CCC.

Please let us know if you require any additional information. We will appreciate your support of this request and look forward to working with each of you.

Sincerely,

Susan E. Anderson Wise
Ethics Commission, Chair

Margo Morales
Ethics Commission, Vice Chair

CC: REBECCA GARNER, ADMINISTRATIVE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
AMY R. WEBBER, DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY
JT NAGAYAMA, CITY CLERK ANALYST