

Sasha Linker

From: Kim Cooper [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 04, 2020 1:21 PM
To: CommAsst
Subject: June 4 2020 meeting, Agenda item 3: Behested Payment Discussion

EXTERNAL EMAIL

Dear Fair Political Practices Commission,

I urge you to enact strong restrictions on the solicitation of behested payments by elected officials in California.

I believe this practice contributes to public corruption and a lack of transparency in government.

Here in Los Angeles, the DOJ has obtained multiple guilty plea agreements under the RICO Act related to Councilmember Jose Huizar.

Huizar operated several developer-funded nonprofit organizations out of his City Council office, which created a lack of transparency around policy decisions for city owned transit, parks and public streets. The meetings held by these organizations were not public, their email communications were not discoverable under the CPRA, and the people running nonprofits were not responsive to community inquiries.

In one particularly egregious incident, the sole large donation to one of Jose Huizar's nonprofits (Pershing Square Renew) reportedly came from the same developer (Macfarlane) that soon after won a multi-billion dollar development competition a block away. But because Pershing Square Renew is not a nonprofit in good standing with the state of California, it is impossible to determine if Macfarlane ever actually gave the large donation that was announced to the press.

This blog post further illuminates the problems with Pershing Square Renew:

<https://restorepershing-square.blogspot.com/2020/01/california-attorney-general-jose.html>

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter.

best regards,
Kim Cooper

Los Angeles, CA