Meeting Minutes Fair Political Practices Commission Law and Policy Committee Meeting June 11, 2024 10:00 am

The Law and Policy Committee meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

1. Public Comment for items not on the agenda.

2. Approval of May 2024 minutes.

MOTION: To approve May 2024 Committee minutes. Moved by Commissioner Baker, seconded by Chair Silver. The motion was approved 2-0.

3. Legislative Update.

Lindsey Nakano, Senior FPPC Legislative Counsel, presented her report on legislation, mentioning

19 active FPPC bills.

Commissioner Baker asked if the described amendments to SB 1170 would include a meeting with a professional as opposed to a prescription and whether there are limitations to the use of campaign funds. She gave the example of using campaign funds to pay the portion insurance may not have covered. Ms. Nakano stated that the bill would only cover therapy and counseling services, and she would find the answer to whether campaign funds could be used to pay an additional balance not covered by insurance.

Commissioner Baker additionally discussed the difficulties of medical billing and how a medical bill may come after the committee has been terminated and asked if the bill's author would be willing to clarify the language if it's ambiguous in this scenario.

During a discussion of SB 1181 (Glazer), Chair Silver asked if Ms. Nakano had obtained the Attorney General's opinion letter, which had been discussed at prior meetings. Ms. Nakano stated she has been in contact; however, the opinion letter was private beforehand, so it was stored differently, making it harder to access. Commissioner Baker asked Ms. Nakano to explain the potential change to the city attorney provision. Ms. Nakano stated she did not have that information today but would be prepared to discuss it during Thursday's Commission meeting. Commissioner Baker wanted to know why that piece was being carved out. Galena West, Executive Director, discussed the potential rationale: When you are an appointed city attorney, you can choose to run for another office, whereas an elected city attorney has to run for another office, so it's a job requirement. Dave Bainbridge, General Counsel, stated that in addition attorneys are uniquely positioned because they are sometimes asked to advise on contracts. Elected attorneys are especially unique because they have job obligations and may receive campaign contributions. Commissioner Baker gave an example of a city attorney running for office And if someone contributed to their campaign and the attorney had to advise the City Council, would that person be able to participate in the advice and what are the limitations. Mr. Bainbridge responded that they are tasked with advising the City Council and would not be allowed to advise if they received a contribution from the party. Commissioner Baker asked if the goal was to exempt them from the provisions. Mr. Bainbridge agreed that they would exclude elected city attorneys from the law.

Commissioner Baker also discussed potential loopholes that could be made possible through the bill.

4. Discussion of items for the next Committee meeting.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting. Moved by Chair Silver, seconded by Commissioner Baker. The motion was approved 2-0.

The meeting adjourned at 10:23 a.m.