

Communication from Public

Name: Sean McMorris
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Council File No: 23-1097
Comments for Public Posting: Please see California Common Cause's written public comments regarding Motion 23-1097, or Item #3 on the 10/20/2023 Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations committee Agenda.



October 19, 2023

Los Angeles Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee
201 N. Spring Street
City Hall, Room 401
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Motion 23-1097 to study the establishment of a permanent Office of Compliance

Dear Chair and Councilmembers,

California Common Cause supports the motion to study a permanent Office of Compliance to assist Councilmembers with the compliance of federal, state, and City conflict-of-interest laws.

We strongly believe that such an office must be adequately funded to be effective and that it should operate under the purview of the Office of the City Attorney which, to our understanding, is the only City office that can provide Councilmembers legal advice. Because an Office of Compliance would “assist Councilmembers with identifying and avoiding potential conflicts of interest,” we believe that it would be inappropriate for such an office to fall under the purview of the Ethics Commission, which is also charged with investigating and possibly prosecuting Councilmembers who violate conflict-of-interest laws.

Finally, we write to request that the study in Motion 23-1097 consider, as part of an Office of Compliance’s duties, assistance with City Council compliance with the state’s newly amended anti-pay-to-play law, SB 1439 (Glazer), a critically important change to the Levine Act made by the Legislature in 2022.¹

Including SB 1439 compliance within the scope of duties of an Office of Compliance will greatly assist with the compliance of this important law and would also stand as an example of how other cities can facilitate SB 1439 compliance.

Sincerely,

Sean McMorris

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¹ See Cal. Gov. Code, Se. 84308.
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=GOV§ionNum=84308;.
See also CA Leg. Info.
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB1439, See also FPPC Pay-to-Play Limits and Prohibitions (Section 84308). <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/learn/pay-to-play-limits-and-prohibitions.html>