



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
455 N. Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
Conference Room 4A
Sunshine Task Force Committee

SPECIAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

July 16, 2018
4:00 PM

Meeting Called to Order

Date / Time: July 16, 2018 / 4:03 pm

In Attendance: Mayor Julian A. Gold, M.D., Councilmember Robert Wunderlich, Chuck Aronberg, Ed Brown, Linda Brown, Mark Elliot, Marcia Hobbs/The Beverly Hills Courier, Myra Lurie, Steve Mayer, Susan Mishler, Ronald Richards, Alissa Roston, Victoria Talbot/The Beverly Hills Courier, Thomas White, Debbie Weiss, Assistant City Manager George Chavez, Chief Assistant City Attorney Lolly Enriquez, Chief Information Officer David Schirmer, Public Information Manager Keith Sterling, Assistant City Clerk Lourdes Sy-Rodriguez

1) Public Comment

- a. Members of the public will be given the opportunity to directly address the Committee on any items not listed on the agenda.

Linda Brown asked that an item on Calle Vista basement be agendaized for discussion at the next Sunshine Task Force meeting.

Steve Mayer asked for three items to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting: a) Departments' noticing requirements; b) property acquisition; and c) City lawsuits posted in the City's website.

Mayor Gold directed staff to add "Follow Up Items from the Last Meeting" as a permanent item on future agendas.

2) Enforcement of Lobbying Violations

Debbie Weiss spoke about the lobbying violations that she reported to the City Clerk and City Attorney for enforcement. She requested an update on what is happening to her complaints and a discussion on what the reasonable amount of time is to have them addressed.

Chief Assistant City Attorney Lolly Enriquez clarified that complaints filed with their office are forwarded to the City Prosecutor's Office (Dapeer, Rosenblit and Litvak) which, per the Municipal Code, will investigate any charges that a person has knowingly, willfully and materially violated.

Ronald Richards suggested that a provision be added to the ordinance for enforcement to be carried out by a private citizen so that he or private lawyers can take on violation cases and not rely on the City Prosecutor's Office to bring legal action. He further explained the prosecution procedures for a lobbyist to be barred.

Thomas White brought to the Committee's attention the "California Private Attorney General", in which a private attorney can pursue a lawsuit considered to be in the public interest and benefitting the general public on behalf of a citizen or group of citizens.

Marcia Hobbs from The Beverly Hills Courier suggested that three months should be enough time to deal with violations.

Mayor Gold directed the City Attorney to discuss the pros and cons of a private right of action at the next meeting. Councilmember Wunderlich also recommended that staff research how Los Angeles or neighboring cities are dealing with this matter and use the material as benchmark information for our own.

Mr. White also asked that staff diligently review all forms submitted to the City so that the lobbyist registration forms are completely filled in. Staff and the City Attorney's Office were directed to describe the process regarding legislative advocate forms at the next meeting.

- 3) Make searchable on the City's website local election campaign finance data from public records/information (e.g., California Form 460 and candidate's campaign committee). Such searchable access already exists in connection with County, State and Federal elections.

Mayor Gold explained that this item came about at the June 5, 2018 Special Election when Vice Mayor Mirisch and the City Council asked the City Clerk to get the campaign forms from the Los Angeles County (LAC)/Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) for Measure BH and post in the City's website so that people will know who funded the school bonds.

Mr. White stated that he asked that this item be placed on the agenda because the campaign forms for City elections are in the City's website but the information is not searchable. Chief Information Officer David Schirmer explained that some of the forms are handwritten and thus creating a challenge with searchability.

Mark Elliot also requested that Form 700s be published in the City's website.

Mayor Gold asked staff to reach out and ask filers to type their forms so that they can be searchable and directed Mr. Schirmer to improve the searchability of documents and put the Fair Political Practices Commission link in the City's website.

Mr. White asked staff to provide a list of things that were requested at this meeting to the Committee members and participants.

Mayor Gold indicated he will speak to LAC Supervisor Sheila Kuehl about getting documents from the LAC for free.

- 4) Adjournment
Date / Time: July 16, 2018 / 4:59 pm