



**CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS**  
455 N. Rexford Drive  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210  
Municipal Gallery  
**Sunshine Task Force Committee**

**SPECIAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

Thursday, September 28, 2017  
6:00 PM

**Meeting Called to Order**

Date / Time: September 28, 2017 / 6:11 pm

**In Attendance:** Mayor Lili Bosse, Councilmember John A. Mirisch, Chuck Aronberg, Sonia Berman, Mark Elliot, Fred Fenster, Judie Fenton, Gloria Seiff, Thomas White, Marcia Hobbs/The Beverly Hills Courier, Steve Mayer, Susan Mishler, Alissa Roston, Victoria Talbot/The Beverly Hills Courier, Debbie Weiss, City Attorney Larry Wiener, Chief Assistant City Attorney Lolly Enriquez, Director of Emergency Management/Resilience and Recovery Pamela Mottice-Muller, Director of Public Works Shana Epstein, Assistant City Clerk Lourdes Sy-Rodriguez

**1) Public Comment**

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

1. Steve Mayer – spoke about letters not being read into the record or acknowledged during City Council and Commission meetings. Mayor Bosse responded that due to time constraint, not all letters can be read into the record.
2. Mark Elliot – spoke about Commission minutes only reflecting the names of public speakers but not what they spoke about; it would be helpful for someone who wants to know what happened at the meeting to just read what the speakers spoke about in the minutes rather than watching the entire video online
3. Thomas White – spoke about the public's exclusion from commenting, rebutting, correcting misstatements or misrepresentations by applicants and their representatives and experts, after the close of Council and Commission public hearings.
4. Fred Fenster – asked whether the Sunshine Task Force Committee is a permanent committee regardless of who the Mayor is. Mayor Bosse clarified that it is.

## **2) Discussion of the Amendments to the Legislative Advocate Ordinance**

City Attorney Laurence Wiener distributed copies of the redlined version of the ordinance showing the changes made based on the discussions from the previous meeting.

Mr. Wiener responded to Ms. Debbie Weiss' question regarding the definition of "ministerial" as it pertains to lobbying by right projects. He will revise the definition based on Ms. Weiss' comments.

Mr. Thomas White commented that some of the lobbyist forms submitted have missing information. Staff should review submitted forms for completeness and reject incomplete submissions. IT should make sure that the system does not accept incomplete forms.

Ms. Victoria Talbots from The Beverly Hills Courier pointed out that Jason Sommers has not filed a lobbyist form even though he is lobbying presently and in the past.

Councilmember Mirisch recommended escalating penalties for violations. Mr. Wiener pointed out that the maximum administrative penalty is currently \$500.00. Mr. White suggested that the right to lobby should be suspended if the lobbyist fails to file the form – which Mr. Wiener said the City cannot do.

Councilmember Mirisch suggested that the online database should list all past work by the lobbyist and should be cross-referenced by individual and firm, and should list everyone working with the lobbyist/in the lobbyist's firm. Mr. Wiener stated that it may be difficult to track if the lobbyist leaves the firm and forms an LLC but he will look at any recourse the City can take. Mr. Fred Fenster suggested that a question be added on the form asking if the lobbyist has ever worked for a firm that has been sanctioned and in what capacity.

Ms. Marcia Hobbs from The Beverly Hills Courier suggested that the Community Development Department staff check if the lobbyists working on projects for approval before the Planning Commission have filed forms.

Ms. Weiss asked how long it takes the City to investigate a complaint that a resident has filed against a lobbyist.

## **3) Discussion of Amendments to the Ordinance Related to Lobbyists Serving on Commissions**

In response to Ms. Alissa Roston's question, Councilmember Mirisch clarified that current Commissioners cannot be lobbyists and if they become a lobbyist, they have to file a lobbyist form and leave the commission. An exception will be Charitable Solicitations Commissioner Murray Fischer who will be "grandfathered" since there was no policy in place when he was appointed. City Attorney Wiener stated that he will revise the ordinance to apply to commissioners who start lobbying moving forward.

Mr. White brought up that the same people are serving on commissions over and over. Councilmember Mirisch stated that this will change as there are now new policies in place including policies regarding moving from one Commission to another and spouses serving on Commissions.

Mayor Bosse directed Mr. Wiener to present a draft ordinance to Council at the October 17, 2017 Study Session.

#### **4) Discussion of Future Meeting Dates**

Future Meeting Dates:

- Monday, November 13, 2017 at 5:00pm in the Municipal Gallery
- Monday, February 12, 2018 at 6:00pm in the Municipal Gallery

Mayor Bosse announced the future meeting dates and asked the members for other matters they wished discussed.

Mr. White suggested that the Committee look into other projects to discuss at future meetings aside from the lobbyist form, perhaps look at what other cities are doing.

#### **5) Adjournment**

Date / Time: September 28, 2017 / 7:17 pm