



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

SPECIAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Monday, April 24, 2017
5:00 PM

Meeting Called to Order

Date / Time: April 24, 2017 / 5:00 pm

In Attendance: Mayor Lili Bosse, Councilmember John A. Mirisch, Sonia Berman, Ed Brown, Fred Fenster, Judie Fenton, Murray D. Fischer, Marilyn Gallup, Myra Lurie, Alissa Roston, Stella Sarraf, Gloria Seiff, Thomas White, Mitchell Dawson, Mark Elliot, Harvey Englander/Englander, Knabe & Allen, Luke Harold/Beverly Press, Marcia Hobbs/The Beverly Hills Courier, Victoria Talbot/The Beverly Hills Courier, Joseph N. Tilem, Steve Webb, Debbie Weiss, Assistant City Manager George Chavez, Director of Emergency Management Pamela Mottice-Muller, City Attorney Larry Wiener, Chief Assistant City Attorney Lolly Enriquez, Director of Community Development Susan Healy Keene, Assistant Director of Community Development/City Planner Ryan Gohlich, Director of Public Works Shana Epstein, Community Outreach Manager Huma Ahmed, Assistant City Clerk Lourdes Sy-Rodriguez

1) Public Comment

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

1. Debbie Weiss

2) Legislative Advocate Form

The following were discussed / suggested:

- The purpose of the legislative advocate form is for openness and transparency
- Decisions are usually influenced by money in political campaigns; lobbyists should not be allowed to give money to political campaigns
- There has to be escalating penalties for violations
- Lobbyists don't want to divulge how much clients are paying them and clients don't want to divulge how much they're paying

- Add the following tiers to the compensation field: \$25,000, \$50,000, \$75,000 or more
- The “business development” stage (lobbyist does not get paid until the client signs the contract) or when a lobbyist is making inquiries for a potential client is not considered lobbying
- The trigger to file the form is the execution of a retainer/written agreement or when the client starts paying the lobbyist
- Filing the lobbyist form should not be a negative thing, it is just for information
- “Expediters” who are paid to regularly advocate should also file the form
- There should be a policy for advocates who speak at Commission meetings to identify themselves as advocates and they should file a form (e.g., Jason Somers lobbies at Planning Commission meetings but has not filed a form)
- City staff should advise lobbyists who contact them to file a form
- Revise the definition of a “city official” to include City staff members (not just City Council or City Commission)
- Lobbyists are paid; the definition does not include people who are just giving advice or conducting ministerial actions
- When the lobbyist is filing the form but has not yet received compensation, put an estimated total compensation that will be received on the form and then amend the form later to show total compensation received
- Mr. Fischer reported that he tried to update his filing but could not; Council liaisons directed City staff to have IT add the ability to do an amendment to the online form
- On the “contact with Councilmember, Commissioner or City staff” area, City Attorney Wiener suggested that the lobbyist be required to identify the contacts only when meeting in person or for phone calls of 30 minutes or longer
- Mayor Bosse appointed Mr. White, Mr. Fischer, Mr. Fenster, and Mr. Wiener to a subcommittee to work on the revisions to the form which will be brought to Council for approval afterwards; she encouraged the other committee members to reach out to any of the four subcommittee members to give their input
- Mayor Bosse asked the Committee members to invite anybody they believe should attend or would be interested to attend future Sunshine Task Force Committee meetings
- Mayor Bosse asked City staff to schedule a meeting in 3-4 weeks to discuss the revisions to the form

3) Adjournment

Date / Time: April 24, 2017 / 7:00 pm