
LOS ANGELES CITY ETHICS COMMISSION

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ETHICS COMMISSION ENFORCES LOBBYIST CONTRIBUTION BAN

Two Lobbyists and an Elected City Official Are Fined for Campaign Contributions Prohibited by Measure R

In its first enforcement actions of the lobbying contribution ban enacted by Los Angeles voters under Measure R, the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission today fined two lobbyists and an elected City official \$1,000 each for violating Los Angeles City Charter Section 470(c)(11) in connection with the 2007 municipal elections. The provision prohibits lobbyists from giving political contributions to elected City officials they lobby and bans elected City officials from receiving those contributions. In two separate stipulated settlements, the Commission found that lobbyists Amy R. Forbes and Dominick W. Rubalcava each violated City law by giving a \$500 contribution to an elected City official, whose office they were registered to lobby, after the voter-enacted ban took effect in December 2006. In a third settlement, Councilmember Richard Alarcon and his 2007 election committee, the "Friends of Richard Alarcon for City Council," were fined \$1,000 for receiving a \$500 contribution from then-lobbyist Darlene Kuba after the law took effect. Because Kuba's contribution was made before the ban took effect, Kuba did not violate the law. The Commission's actions today resulted from the agency's routine post-election audits it conducted following the 2007 election cycle.

"Los Angeles voters banned lobbying contributions to help make City government more accountable," said Commission Executive Director, LeeAnn Pelham. "The Commission's enforcement actions today signal our commitment to upholding voters' efforts to limit undue influence of paid lobbyists in the governmental process."

Charter Section 470(c)(11) took effect December 13, 2006, and provides that "[n]o elective City officer or candidate for elective City office, nor any of his or her City controlled committees, shall solicit or accept any contribution to the officer or candidate, or to any of his or her City controlled committees, from any lobbyist or lobbying firm registered to lobby the City office for which the candidate is seeking election,

or the current City office, commission, department, bureau or agency of the candidate or officer. No person required by the ordinance to be registered as a lobbyist or lobbying firm shall make any contribution to an elective City officer or candidate for elective City office, or to any of his or her City controlled committees, if the lobbyist or lobbying firm is required by ordinance to be registered to lobby the City office for which the candidate is seeking election, or the current City office, commission, department, bureau or agency of the candidate or officer.”

In addition to assessing a \$1,000 penalty for the 470(c)(11) violation in the Alarcon matter, the Commission also found the Councilmember and his 2007 campaign committee in violation of two other provisions of City contribution and reporting laws for which he was fined an additional \$1,650.

In a fourth, unrelated enforcement action, the Commission also approved a stipulated settlement with Councilmember Herb Wesson and the “Wesson for City Council 2007” committee, levying a \$3,000 fine for excess contributions that committee received during Wesson’s 2007 election campaign.

All fines levied by the City Ethics Commission are paid to the City of Los Angeles General Fund. The stipulated settlements approved by the Commission resolve all factual and legal issues without holding an administrative enforcement hearing. Copies of the stipulations can be accessed on the Commission’s website at <http://ethics.lacity.org>.

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