

City of Chula Vista
Regular Board of Ethics Meeting
MINUTES

July 16, 2025, 5:15 p.m.
City Hall, Bldg. A, Executive Conference Room #103
276 Fourth Avenue, Chula Vista, CA

Present: Member Gersten, Member Salas, Member Torres, Member Velissaropoulos, Vice Chair Hurst, Chair Barragan

Also Present: City Attorney Verdugo, Board Secretary Montalvo

Minutes are prepared and ordered to correspond to the agenda.

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board of Ethics of the City of Chula Vista was called to order at 5:18 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Secretary Montalvo called the roll.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Robert spoke of unethical issues at City Council.

4. ACTION ITEMS

4.1 Approval of Meeting Minutes

Moved by Member Torres

Seconded by Member Salas

Board to approve the minutes dated June 18, 2025.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Yes (6): Member Gersten, Member Salas, Member Torres, Member Velissaropoulos, Vice Chair Hurst, and Chair Barragan

Result: Carried (6 to 0)

4.2 Written Communications

Moved by Member Torres

Seconded by Member Salas

Communication from Board Member Velissaropoulos requesting an excused absence from the June 18, 2025, Board of Ethics meeting.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Yes (6): Member Gersten, Member Salas, Member Torres, Member Velissaropoulos, Vice Chair Hurst, and Chair Barragan

Result: Carried (6 to 0)

4.3 Discussion of the Annual Activities Report and Authorize the Chair to Work with Staff to Finalize and Submit

Member Gersten proposed edits.

Member Torres proposed edits.

Moved by Member Torres

Seconded by Member Gersten

To authorize the Chair to work with staff to include recommendations from the board, finalize, and submit the Annual Activities report.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Yes (6): Member Gersten, Member Salas, Member Torres, Member Velissaropoulos, Vice Chair Hurst, and Chair Barragan

Result: Carried (6 to 0)

4.4 Discussion of the Campaign Contribution Enforcement Authority Selection Process Ad Hoc Sub-Committee next steps and Authorize the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee to Work with Staff to Proceed with Next Steps

City Attorney Verdugo shared this would be an opportunity to seek new qualified attorneys.

Member Ray Salas recommended changes.

Member Gersten recommended including the scope of work.

Moved by Member Gersten

Seconded by Member Velissaropoulos

To authorize the Campaign Contribution Enforcement Authority Selection Process Ad Hoc Sub-Committee to work with staff to finalize and post the job posting, select applicants, interview applicants, and bring back proposed applicants to the board for final approval vote.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Yes (6): Member Gersten, Member Salas, Member Torres, Member Velissaropoulos, Vice Chair Hurst, and Chair Barragan

Result: Carried (6 to 0)

5. PRESENTATION

5.1 Update from Lobbying Ordinance Ad Hoc Sub-Committee

Chair Barragan shared that he will have a more complete document soon. The proposed ordinance will define a lobbyist, roles as defined. They will need help from the City Clerk to create a process for registration and quarterly updates.

Committee to submit draft to staff for review.

5.2 Update from Ex Parte Communication Ad Hoc Sub-Committee

Member Gersten needs more time to review.

5.3 Update from Amendments to Code of Ethics Ad Hoc Sub-Committee

Due to the loss of a member on the committee, both Vice Chair Hurst and Member Velissaropoulos have working drafts they need to merge.

Will present at the next meeting.

5.4 Update from Campaign Contribution Enforcement Authority Selection Process Ad Hoc Sub-Committee

6. STAFF COMMENTS

City Attorney Verdugo introduced attorney Elizabeth Pietanza from his office.

7. CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair Barragan thanked City Staff for all of their support and welcomed Elizabeth Pietanza from the City Attorney's Office.

8. BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Vice Chair Hurst thanked everyone for being here.

Member Torres might be on vacation at the next meeting.

Member Gersten shared the Boards and Commissions appreciation is on next Wednesday and everyone should join.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Sydnie Montalvo, Board Secretary

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