

City of Sacramento  
**Ethics Commission Report**  
915 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814  
www.cityofsacramento.org

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**File ID:** 2025-00310

2/24/2025

**Consent Item 2.**

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**Ethics Commission Complaint Log**

File ID: 2025-00310

**Location:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Pass a **Motion** approving the Ethics Commission Complaint Log.

**Contact:** Mindy Cuppy, MMC, City Clerk, (916) 808-5442, mcuppy@cityofsacramento.org, Office of the City Clerk

**Presenter:** None

**Attachments:**

1-Description/Analysis

2-Ethics Commission Complaint Log

**Description/Analysis**

**Issue Detail:** The purpose of the Ethics Commission is to review and consider complaints against elected and appointed City officials, as further described in Sacramento City Code section 2.112.030, to ensure that those officials are conforming their conduct to the City's laws and policies.

The Ethics Commission has the power and duty to review, investigate, and consider complaints alleging violations of the following:

- Section 35 of the Sacramento City Charter ("Limitation on future employment")
- Chapter 1.20 ("Fair Campaign Practices")
- Chapter 2.13 ("Campaign Contribution Limitations") and Chapter 2.14 ("Campaign Spending Limits and Public Campaign Financing"), if the city has not contracted with the Fair Political Practices Commission for enforcement of those chapters
- Chapter 2.15 ("Lobbyist Registration and Reporting Code")

- Chapter 2.16 (“Conflict of Interest”)
- Chapter 4.02 (“Code of Ethics”)
- Chapter 4.04 (“Transparent Government and Public Engagement”)
- Chapter 3 (“Conduct of Members”) and Rule 6.E (“Closed Sessions”) of the Council Rules of Procedure

The attached log describes complaints received to date and their respective statuses.

**Policy Considerations:** The Commission’s authority extends only to city elected officials, candidates for city elected office, independent expenditure committees, members of boards and commissions, the city manager, the city clerk, the city attorney, the city treasurer, the city auditor, the director of the office of public safety accountability, and lobbyists.

**Economic Impacts:** None.

**Environmental Considerations:** None.

**Sustainability:** None.

**Commission/Committee Action:** None.

**Rationale for Recommendation:** None.

**Financial Considerations:** None.

**Local Business Enterprise (LBE):** None.

**Sacramento Ethics Commission Complaint Log**

Updated 02/18/2025

| Complaint No.        | Date Received | Method Received            | Alleged Violation   | Alleged Violation Details  | Disposition  | Referred To           | Disposition Date |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------------------|---|--|--|-----------------------|------------------|
| <b>Pending</b>       |               |                            |   |  |  |                       |                  |
| <b>Dispositioned</b> |               |                            |   |  |  |                       |                  |
| 2024-008             | 9/25/2024     | Online                     | City Code Chapter 4.02 ("Code of Ethics")   | I recieved yesterday a notice of Assignment from a company called Professional Account Management, LLC. concerning a parking violation. I have never heard of this organization and am suspecting SCAM. Could you please forward this email to someone that could verify that the violation is legitate and that I have not previously paid it? Thanks   | Dismissed by City Clerk-Lack of Jurisdiction. Complaint was not about an individual and issue cited was not under the jursdiction of the commission.   | City Parking Division | 9/25/2024        |
| 2024-007             | 9/7/2024      | Online                     | City Code Chapter 1.20 ("Code of Fair Campaign Practices")<br>City Code Chapter 4.02 ("Code of Ethics") | Campaign sign placed in roadway center divider, contrary to camaign and zoning ordinances. Located at the westbound intersection of H and J streets near SacState.   | Dismissed by City Clerk-Lack of Jurisdiction. 1.20 and 4.02 do not cover political signage. Complainant was referred to city code chapter 15.148.310 and to the 311 website link regarding signage complaints. | 311                   | 9/10/2024        |
| 2024-006             | 7/18/2024     | Online                     | Chapter 2.15 ("Lobbyist Registration and Reporting Code")   | has been the District Director for almost two decades. He has NEVER filed an annual form 700 disclosure form. He is working as a lobbyist for the Building Industry Association (BIA) and has never disclosed this. He is embedded on the 5th floor with all of the council members and the Mayor and has the opportunity to influence legislation around housing and development that comes before the council. | Dismissed by City Clerk-Lack of Jurisdiction. Respondent is not under the jurisdiction of the Ethics Commission.   | n/a                   | 7/18/2024        |
| 2024-005             | 6/28/2024     | Email, Online, and Dropbox | City Code Chapter 4.02 ("Code of Ethics")   | Sacramento City Manager Mr. Howard Chan, Assistant City Manager Mr. Mario Lara, and Office of Public Safety and Accountability (OPSA) Director Dr. LaTasha Watson for breaking "Public Trust" of their powers and authorities to protect the benefits of public but protect the benefits of Sacramento Police Officers.  | Dismissed by City Clerk-Lack of Jurisdiction   |                       | 7/5/2024         |

| Complaint No. | Date Received | Method Received | Alleged Violation   | Alleged Violation Details  | Disposition  | Referred To | Disposition Date |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|---|--|--|-------------|------------------|
| 2024-009      | 5/30/2024     | Email           | Chapter 2.16 ("Conflict of Interest")   | <p>Recently, the City Council considered whether your commission should have subpoena power. Attached is a document outlining why it is essential for your commission to have subpoena power and to use that power to subpoena financial records and the client list related to her practice as an attorney. There was a Sacramento Bee article discussing this situation and even surfaced an attempt by her office to interfere with city code enforcement on behalf of her client. The City CPRA process is inadequate and Kaplan has not provided documentation related to her client list. This is being sent to you anonymously because she has clearly demonstrated capacity to retaliate against people. Please take action and hold a hearing to investigate Lisa Kaplan's financial conflicts of interest.</p> <p>Please see attached statement of fact. The complaint includes official Natomas Unified School District meeting minutes identifying a voting pattern by Lisa Kaplan that resulted in \$183 million dollars in no bid contracts being awarded to Vanir LLC and various contractors with campaign finance ties to Kaplan. Further, it is demonstrated that Lisa Kaplan understood her need to recuse herself in these proceedings yet later she voted in affirmation of awarding her client and donors millions of dollars in public money, including but not limited to a 'blank check' contract.</p>  | Dismissed by City Clerk - Reached out to complainant for more information and as of 2/18/25 there was no response. | n/a         | 2/18/2025        |
| 2024-002      | 2/12/2024     | Online          | Chapter 3 ("Conduct of Members") and Rule 6.E (Closed Sessions) of the Council Rules of Procedure | <p>I am writing to kindly request your attention to a matter that constitutes an act of violation by Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg, of the City of Sacramento Council Rules and Procedures, of the Rosenberg's Rules of Order and of the Ralph. M. Brown Act.</p> <p>The City of Sacramento Council Rules and Procedures stipulates that "The Mayor is considered a member of the council" and "possesses no veto power over actions of the council". The City of Sacramento Council Rules and Procedures also establishes a process for Council member Proposal Requests that "modulates the agenda requests of individual council members by referring those requests to the relevant city council standing committee for review" (see attached Flowchart).</p> <p>The Rosenberg's Rules of Order stipulate that "A motion to table an item (or to bring it back to the body) requires a simple majority vote". The Ralph. M. Brown Act Code stipulates that "Each agenda for a regular public meeting must provide the public with an opportunity to address the legislative body on any item on the agenda, before or during the legislative body's consideration of the item, and on any item of interest to the public that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body."</p> <p>In violation of the City of Sacramento Council Rules and Procedures, Mayor Steinberg vetoed on 1/26/24, the inclusion in the Council's Agenda of a Ceasefire Resolution introduced by Council Member Katie Valenzuela and Council Member Mai</p> | Dismissed by Ethics Commission-Complaint Unfounded   |             | 6/24/2024        |

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|---------------|---------------|-----------------|--|--|--|------------------------------|------------------|
| 2024-004      | 5/17/2024     | online          | City Code Chapter 4.02 ("Code of Ethics")  | Sacramento City Manager Mr. Howard Chan, Assistant City Manager Mr. Mario Lara, and Office of Public Safety and Accountability (OPSA) Director Dr. LaTasha Watson.   | Dismissed by City Clerk-Lack of Jurisdiction   |                              | 5/28/2024        |
| 2024-003      | 5/15/2024     | online          | City Code Chapter 4.02 ("Code of Ethics")  | Ethics complaint of SPD Chief Lester, Deputy Chief Monk, & Captain Kinney  | Dismissed by City Clerk-Lack of Jurisdiction   |                              | 5/15/2024        |
| 2024-001      | 1/2/2024      | Online          | City Code Chapter 4.02 (Code of Ethics)  | I continually have my car ticketed (parking). I have and pay for a parking permit to park where I am parking. I have to contest the parking ticket even though I have a parking permit; This is harassment.<br>I pay for a parking permit and I am still ticketed. I have to dispute the ticket and then the "violation" will be dismissed. I have received over \$1000 worth of parking ticket by the City of Sacramento and they all have been dismissed because of errors on the side of the City of Sacramento Parking division. This is harassment.   | Dismissed by City Clerk-Lack of Jurisdiction   | Public Works                 | 1/3/2024         |
| 2023-007      | 8/3/2023      | Online          | City Code Chapter 2.13 Campaign Contribution and Chapter 2.14 Campaign Spending Limits and Public Campaign Financing | On July 31st, Councilmember Valenzuela posted her mid-year campaign finance statement covering the period from 1/1/23-6/30/23. On that report, she reported raising \$39,960.37, which is almost \$6,000 over the limit off year election limit of \$34,000 noted in city code 2.13.080. The definition of an "off-election year" in code 2.13.040 is the "period from January 1st through June 30th of the year preceding the year of election is considered an off-election year, while the period from July 1st through December 31st of that year is considered part of the election year."  | Dismissed by Ethics Commission-Complaint Unfounded                                       | Sacramento Ethics Commission | 11/20/2023       |
| 2023-009      | 10/19/2023    | Online          | City Code Chapter 4.02 (Code of Ethics)  | Date is start of ongoing illegal revenue tactics that City managerial staff, up to and including, Howard Chan condone, encourage and refuse to correct. Details of the more heinous acts and undeniable evidence with code violations is attached in a 13 page pdf named "2023-10-18 stmt for crime report re City of Sac 2.pdf" There is much more evidence available.  | Dismissed by City Clerk-Lack of Jurisdiction   | Public Works                 | 10/26/2023       |
| 2023-006      | 7/27/2023     | Online          | City Code Chapter 2.13 Campaign Contribution and Chapter 2.14 Campaign Spending Limits and Public Campaign Financing | Ms. Cofer raised \$158,738 between 1/1/2023 and 6/3/2023. The aggregate off-election year contribution limit is \$67,900. Flojaune clearly has broken the City of Sacramento's campaign finance law by more than \$90k. References: 2.13.080 Aggregate off-election year contribution limits...(b) No mayor or candidate for the city office of mayor shall accept contributions totaling more than \$67,900 in any single off-election year. Definition of "Off-election year" 1. For purposes of a regular election for city elective office, the period from January 1st through June 30th of the year preceding the year of the election is considered an off-election year while the period from July 1st through December 31st of that year is considered part of the election year and the aggregate limitations on off-year contributions set forth in Section 2.13.050 are not applicable to contributions made during that period. | Dismissed by the Sacramento Ethics Commission on October 23, 2023, Resolution 2023-0001. | Sacramento Ethics Commission | 10/23/2023       |

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| 2023-008      | 9/13/2023     | Online          | Chapter 2.16 ("Conflict of Interest")   | has used his position in power to assert that I was using "verbal abuse" in my email to City officials and councilmembers regarding concerns of our child care center and the City's authority over operational aspects of child care centers, especially the outdoor time for children. Please see the emails in the attachment. Nowhere in my emails was I using verbal abuse, because that has never been my intention and for him to distract the group using his title in our email communication should be investigated.  | Dismissed by City Clerk-Lack of Jurisdiction              | CDD              | 9/14/2023        |
| 2023-005      | 5/17/2023     | Via Email       | Unknown   | I requested inspections 10/29/21 #211029-804883<br>2/11/22 #22021-944488<br>3/19/23 #220316-995046<br>My request was for a violation of r807.1 section M 1305Douglas<br>Douglas Perison was the investor that showed 11/7/21<br>That came that day and didn't site Mercy Housing for the violation which added 2 more years of harassment by Mercy Housing renovation of the attic access which blocked access in case of emergency. Douglas<br>Person portrait to be an investigator for this jurisdiction told me after 3/22/23 mentioned r807.1 section M1305 told me it was out of his jurisdiction from 2021-2023 I was asked my address so I would be directed to the right department in 2021 which I did Douglas Pierson Why did he show and who he spoke to before arriving? This was a conspiracy between Mercy Housing and Douglas Peirson so no violation for Mercy Housing. Not right he sided with Mercy Housing with the intent to cause ongoing harm. | Dismissed by City Clerk-Lack of Jurisdiction and Referred | Code Enforcement | 5/22/2023        |
| 2023-004      | 4/22/2023     | Online          | City Code § 2.16 (Conflict of Interest), § 4.02 (Code of Ethics), and Chapter 3 (Conduct of Members), and Rule 6E (Closed Sessions) of the Council Rules of Procedure | ACTIONS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBER SEAN LOLOEE<br>Council member Loloe's conduct has blatantly and repeatedly violated the City of Sacramento Council Rules of Procedure. Council member Loloe made false statements about my character and professional standing. He made unwelcomed offensive remarks about my body and suggestive gestures towards my body. Council member Loloe pursued me throughout the event approaching me on multiple separate occasions despite declining his request to engage in a conversation and my requests that he leave me alone.<br>He used his platform as a City Council Member and the power afforded to his position to attack my credibility, discourage other attendees from speaking with me, and intimidate me both physically and psychologically. Council member Loloe made a willful expression of intent to cause harm to my mother, which he made good on that day by assaulting and battering me as a means to harm her. | Dismissed by City Clerk-Lack of Jurisdiction              |                  | 4/24/2023        |

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| 2023-003      | 4/13/2023     | Online          | Chapter 4.02 ("Code of Ethics")  | The councilmember was representing the city at an event when he verbally assaulted and slandered my daughter and myself. He slandered my name. He called my daughter a fucking bitch. I am the community organizer that called the authorities on Lotoee for exploitive labor violations. The federal Dept of Labor fined him over \$60k for backpay  | Dismissed by City Clerk-Lack of Jurisdiction |                                     | 4/24/2023        |
| 2022-009      | 10/18/2022    | Online          | Chapter 3 and Rule 6.E (Closed Sessions) of the Council Rules of Procedure | Chapter 3 ("Conduct of Members") - I have never once felt welcomed by any member of the Sacramento City Council. These people are evil... They put me in jail so I wouldn't participate... Katie Valenzuela is the worst person ever and has embarrassed you beyond belief.... Check the VOP from the case that she had created so they couldn't consider my application for the Utilities Rate Advisory Commission. Also, look at the comment made by Ashby on the record at the last PPEC meeting right after interviews... That shows advance knowledge and discussion of these issues amongst the Committee's Membership...   | Dismissed by City Clerk-Lack of Jurisdiction | Independent Evaluator on 10/26/2022 | 2/27/2023        |
| 2023-002      | 2/9/2023      | Via Email       | Unknown  | I have been having problems with getting code enforcement to take my case seriously. There is a stop work order on our address and our landlord has not stopped doing work. My attempts to have code enforcement come out and see this have been completely ignored despite being previously told they can't do anything unless they see stuff happening. This was all after we filed a complaint on October 4th. They say an initial inspection was done on October 5th but that isn't possible because that is when the renovations were most obvious and there are code violations outside they found when they actually did come out. They only took action after I reached out to someone at Planning I'd spoken to about our issues and they reached out to code enforcement. They actually started investigating but never spoke to us and refuse to comment on any aspect of the case, even aspects that are public record. Based on statements made by the officer and my landlord, it seems as though code enforcement may be working with our landlord to help him clean up the huge mess he made. How do I complain about this? | Dismissed by City Clerk-Lack of Jurisdiction | Community Development Department    | 2/17/2023        |
| 2023-001      | 1/30/2023     | Via Email       | Unknown  | Hello to whom it may concern I have a unethical behavior complaint for Lisa Howard who works for the franchise tax board i would like to know who I could speak to or who I can reach to speak about serious matter concerning use of government Information in an abusive manner to gain information on a person. Could you please direct me to the right department to guide me through this process in which I am speaking to my lawyer tomorrow about and there is proof but it will have to be investigated on. I am hiring a private investigator with my own money and will follow through till then. Please contact me as soon as possible thank you.   | Dismissed by City Clerk-Lack of Jurisdiction | Franchise Tax Board                 | 2/2/2023         |

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|---------------|---------------|-----------------|--|---|---|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 2022-010      | 12/19/2022    | Online          | Chapter 4.02 ("Code of Ethics")  | Our small non-profit relies on volunteers for our programs and projects. The names of these volunteers and their contact information are accumulated on a database. It is our commitment to our volunteers that we do not share or sell their private information. One of our projects has been the maintenance and management of the McKinley Park Rose Garden - which we did from April 2012 to November 30, 2022. As of December 1, 2022 the City of Sacramento Department of Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment took over the maintenance of the Rose Garden. As part of the city's plans to maintain the garden they are planning two volunteer days in the Rose Garden. On the evening of Thursday, December 8, Shannon Brown, Assistant Director of the Department of Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment attended a Sacramento Rose Society Meeting where she spoke with a former employee of the Friends of East Sacramento who shared with her that she still had access to the Friends of East Sacramento's volunteer data. Ms. Brown, knowing that the database was private and proprietary data and that neither our former employee nor the City was authorized to use, pressured the former employee to email the people on the list with information about the City's two upcoming volunteer days. Ms. Brown worked with the former employee on the content of the email on Monday, December 12 and that evening emailed the former employee pressuring her to send out the emails to the database. It is our belief that Ms. Brown was relying on a database that she knew was stolen in order to ensure the success of her events and to | Dismissed by City Clerk-Lack of Jurisdiction              | Forwarded to the Director of YPCE | 12/20/2022       |
| 2022-008      | 12/6/2022     | Via Email       |  | Sacramento's pet registration process through Docupet   | Dismissed by City Clerk-Lack of Jurisdiction and Referred | Whistle Blower Hotline            | 12/6/2022        |
| 2022-007      | 11/7/2022     | Online          | Section 35 of the Sacramento City Charter (Limitation on Future Employment)<br>City Code Chapter 1.20 (Code of Fair Campaign Practices)<br>City Code Chapter 2.13 (Campaign Contribution Limitations) and Chapter 2.14 (Campaign Spending Limits and Public Campaign Financing)<br>City Code Chapter 2.15 (Lobbyist Registration and Reporting Code)<br>City Code Chapter 2.16 (Conflict of Interest)<br>City Code Chapter 4.02 (Code of Ethics)<br>City Code Chapter 4.04 (Sunshine Ordinance)<br>Chapter 3 (Conduct of Members) and Rule 6.E (Closed Sessions) of the Council Rules of Procedure | Did you know your inspector general Dwight white was prosecuted for criminal conduct and had his law license suspended for theft ?<br><a href="https://www.isba.org/barnews/2021/05/illinoisupremecourtdisbarsfoursusp">https://www.isba.org/barnews/2021/05/illinoisupremecourtdisbarsfoursusp</a>   | Dismissed by City Clerk-Lack of Jurisdiction              | n/a                               | 11/8/2022        |



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|---------------|---------------|-----------------|--|--|---|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 2022-006      | 8/30/2022     | Email           | Chapter 4.02 ("Code of Ethics")  | <p>Councilmember Valenzuela is a current registered lobbyist in the State of California for her business, ""Valenzuela Consulting" listed in the California Secretary of State's Lobbyist Directory (page 315): <a href="https://prd.cdn.sos.ca.gov/Lobbying_Directory.pdf">https://prd.cdn.sos.ca.gov/Lobbying_Directory.pdf</a>. According to her current Form 700, which includes activities through December 31, 2021, Valenzuela Consulting generated between \$100,000 and \$1 million in income in 2021. Sources of income reported include the Greenlining Institute (between \$10,000 and \$100,000), the Center for Race Poverty and the Environment (between \$10,000 and \$100,000), the Energy Foundation (between \$10,000 and \$100,000), Voice for Progress (between \$500 and \$1,000), Amazon Watch (between \$1,000 and \$10,000), Physicians for Social Responsibility (between \$1,000 and \$10,000), and the Central Valley Air Quality Coalition (between \$1,000 and \$10,000). Ms. Valenzuela also lists as a "current" occupation on LinkedIn, "Environmental Justice Consultant," describing her job as "I support environmental justice organizations on state-level advocacy. My clients are leading the fight for a just transition away from fossil fuels."</p> <p>This presents an obvious conflict on city-related business related to fossil fuels. Yet rather than abstain from such votes and duties to prevent such conflicts, Councilmember actively</p> | Dismissed by Ethics Commission on 10.24/22.               | Independent Evaluator on 9/9/2022 | 10/24/2022       |
| 2022-005      | 6/30/2022     | Online          | Chapter 4.02 ("Code of Ethics")  | <p>City laws and code enforcement is not being upheld despite numerous attempts to make him and the public works department aware of the situation. Code states that polluting leaf blowers cannot be used before 9 a.m. I have contacted 311 multiple times, I have contacted Martin Ramos multiple times and the department of Public works and the landscapers continue to start polluting at 7 a.m. every week. I wish I could also complain about the choice to hire companies that use gas powered leaf blowers that pollute the air in my neighborhood, but clean air is apparently not a priority for the city.</p>  | Dismissed by City Clerk-Lack of Jurisdiction and Referred | Public Works                      | 6/30/2022        |
| 2022-004      | 6/23/2022     | Online          | City Code Chapter 1.20 (Code of Fair Campaign Practices)<br>City Code Chapter 4.02 (Code of Ethics)<br>Chapter 3 (Conduct of Members) and Rule 6.E (Closed Sessions) of the Council Rules of Procedure | <p>Recent reporting from the Sacramento Bee has revealed that Sacramento City Councilmember Sean Loloee does not live at the Nogales Street address that he listed in his 2019 candidate forms (July 11, 2019). In fact, he lives in Granite Bay (Placer County). Additionally, he appears to have voted three times using the Nogales Street address, including in the June 2022 election. That would mean he perjured himself on his candidate forms and committed voter fraud up to three times in the last two years.</p>  | Dismissed by City Clerk-Lack of Jurisdiction and Referred | n/a                               | 6/30/2022        |

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|---------------|---------------|-----------------|--|--|--|--|------------------|
| 2022-003      | 4/20/2022     | Online          | City Code Chapter 4.02                           | I submitted a PRR on June 18 2021. I keep receiving messages saying the information will be provided next month but each month the fulfillment of the request is delayed such that nearly a year has passed without me now having any expectation that it will actually be filled. There comes a point when one must regard delays as effectively a refusal to comply with the CPRA. Please examine this issue as my perception is that someone in the relevant department is willfully refusing to provide the requested information. | Dismissed by City Clerk-Lack of Jurisdiction   | Office of the City Clerk / Public Records Request Unit | 4/28/2022        |
| 2022-002      | 2/17/2022     | Online          | City Code Chapter 4.02<br>City Code Chapter 4.04 | Councilmember Valenzuela is misusing public funds for political purposes. Her official city logo and signage on all of her official City of Sacramento materials (website, social media accounts, signage for events, etc) is identical to her campaign materials. Same colors, same typeface, same style, same graphics. This is a misuse of public resources under Penal Code Section 424, and Government Code Sections 84564 and 8314, and also should fall into the City's Ethics Code as indicated above.                         | Hearing conducted by the Sacramento Ethics Commission on 4/25/2022. The Commission found insufficient evidence to sustain a violation of any Ethics Law and dismissed the complaint. | Dismissed by Ethics Commission.                        | 4/25/2022        |
| 2022-001      | 1/4/2022      | Via Email       | Chapter 2.16 ("Conflict of Interest")            | Many residents of East Sacramento have concerns about the ethics, lack of transparency, and conflict-of-interest activity that appears to be exhibited by Cecily Hastings. Ms. Hastings is the founder of the nonprofit group called Friends of East Sacramento (FOES), and the founder of the for-profit newspapers called Inside Sacramento. See letter for full complaint.  | Hearing conducted by the Sacramento Ethics Commission on 4/25/2022. The Commission found insufficient evidence to sustain a violation of any Ethics Law and dismissed the complaint. | Dismissed by Ethics Commission.                        |                  |