

Acceptance, Distribution, Use and Reporting of Tickets (Ticket Policy)

Scope: CITYWIDE

Policy Contact

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California Code of Regulations Title 2 Sections 18944.1; 18942.3

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I. Purpose

This Ticket Policy is provided to ensure that the City of Sacramento’s distribution of tickets to entertainment, amusement, recreational, or similar events furthers a public purpose in accordance with title 2, section 18944.1, of the California Code of Regulations. Tickets that are distributed as provided in this policy will not result in a gift to the city official who receives the tickets.

2. Definitions

“**Accept**” means to take actual possession of a ticket or to take any action exercising direction or control over the ticket.

“**Behest**” means under the control or at the direction of, in cooperation, consultation, coordination, or concert with, at the request or suggestion of, or with the express, prior consent of a city official.

“**Ceremonial Role**” means “ceremonial role” as defined in title 2, section 18942.3, of the California Code of Regulations, as it now exists or as it may be amended in the future.

“**City**” means the City of Sacramento.

“**City official**” means every member, officer, employee, or consultant of the city who is required to file a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) under state law or the city’s current conflict of interest code.

“**Community Groups**” means recognized community groups, non-profit organizations, schools, youth groups, and similar groups and organizations.

“**Immediate family**” means a person’s spouse and dependent children.

“**Pass**” means a ticket that provides repeated access, entry, or admission to a facility or series of events for which similar passes are sold to the public.

“**Suite License Agreement**” means the agreement between the City of Sacramento and Sacramento Kings Limited Partnership for the city’s license to use a suite inside the Golden 1 Center.

“**Ticket**” means anything that provides access, entry, or admission to a specific event or function for which similar tickets are sold to the public to view, listen to, or otherwise take advantage of the attraction or activity for which the ticket is sold. “Ticket” includes a “pass” as defined in this section, so that wherever this policy uses the term “ticket,” it means both tickets and passes. “Ticket” includes access to and use of the City’s suite at the Golden 1 Center City Suite pursuant to the Suite License Agreement. A ticket includes any benefits that the ticket provides.

“**Ticket Administrator**” means the city clerk or city clerk’s designee.

3. Applicability

- a.** This policy applies to a ticket only if all of the following conditions are met:
 - (i) it has been accepted by the ticket administrator;
 - (ii) it is for admission to a facility, event, show, or performance;
 - (iii) it is for an entertainment, amusement, recreational, or similar purpose; and
 - (iv) it is either:
 - (A) provided by the ticket administrator to a city official, or
 - (B) provided by the ticket administrator at the behest of a city official.
- b.** This policy does not apply to a ticket if:
 - (i) the ticket administrator has not accepted the ticket;
 - (ii) the city official treats the ticket as income consistent with applicable state and federal income tax laws and the city reports the distribution of the ticket as income to the city official in compliance with the reporting requirements in Section 8 of this policy;
 - (iii) the city official reimburses the city for the ticket;
 - (iv) the ticket is received from an outside source and the ticket is earmarked by the outside source for use by the city official who uses the ticket; or
 - (v) it is for a city official to perform a ceremonial role on behalf of the city.
- c.** This policy applies only to the benefits that the city official receives from the ticket that are provided to all members of the public with the same class of ticket. If the city official receives benefits, such as food and beverages, that are not provided to all members of the public with the same class of ticket, then the city official shall treat those benefits as gifts unless the city official provides consideration of equal or greater value for the benefits.

4. Public Purpose.

- a.** Tickets may only be distributed to, or at the behest of, a city official for one or more of the following public purposes:
 - (i) to promote economic development;
 - (ii) to promote city business, resources, programs, and facilities;

- (iii) to monitor and evaluate city venues and city-sponsored events;
 - (iv) to promote cultural, recreational, and educational facilities, services and programs available to the public within the City of Sacramento;
 - (v) to support general employee morale or retention; or
 - (vi) to reward public service.
- b.** The distribution of any ticket to a city official (except members of the city council) for his or her personal use to support general employee morale, retention, or to reward public service serves a public purpose if the city receives the ticket:
- (i) pursuant to the terms of a contract for use of public property;
 - (ii) because the city controls the event; or
 - (iii) by purchase at fair market value.

For purposes of this subsection, “personal use” means use by the city official, his or her immediate family, or no more than one guest.

5. Distribution of Tickets - Generally.

- a.** The city council hereby delegates the authority to implement this policy to the ticket administrator.
- b.** The ticket administrator shall establish written procedures for the distribution of tickets in accordance with this policy. The procedures may provide for the distribution of tickets to the city clerk as long as the distribution is consistent with this policy. The written procedures must be posted on the city’s website in a prominent fashion.
- c.** All requests for tickets under this policy must be made in accordance with the procedures established by the ticket administrator.
- d.** The ticket administrator shall determine the face value of tickets for purposes of Section 3.b.(ii) and 3.b.(iii) of this policy.

6. Golden I Center.

- a.** Tickets received by the city for events at the Golden I Center are subject to this policy.
- b.** For tickets provided to the city pursuant to the Suite License Agreement, the ticket administrator shall use best efforts to achieve an annual allocation of events as follows:

- (i) Community Groups: 30%
 - (ii) Economic development purposes: 30%
 - (iii) City Manager, City Attorney, City Clerk, and City Treasurer: 4% for these offices combined
 - (iv) City Departments and Non-Charter Offices (Independent Budget Analyst and City Auditor): 10% for these offices and departments combined; their use shall be primarily for the public purposes identified in subsections (i) or (vi) of Section 4.a.
 - (v) Mayor: 10%
 - (vi) Councilmembers: 2% for each councilmember
 - (vii) The city desires to maximize the effective use of the tickets for economic development purposes; therefore, the ticket administrator may give priority to requests for tickets that are to be used for economic development purposes.
 - (viii) Tickets behested by a city official count toward the percentage allocations above.
 - (ix) The ticket administrator may distribute any remaining tickets to city officials, local businesses, economic development prospects, members of other governmental entities, or other third parties in accordance with this policy. Tickets distributed under this subsection (ix) do not count toward the percentage allocations above.
- c. The written procedures established under Section 5.b. must include specific procedures for the distribution of tickets to the Golden I Center in accordance with this policy.

7. Prohibition on Transfer.

A city official who has received tickets under this policy shall not transfer any of the tickets to any other person except to the city official’s immediate family or one guest solely for their attendance at the event.

8. Return of Tickets.

A city official, or any member of the city official’s immediate family, may return an unused ticket. A returned ticket may be redistributed in accordance with this policy.

9. Reporting.

- a. Within 45 days of distribution of a ticket, the ticket administrator shall report the

distribution on the Fair Political Practices Commission’s Form 802 as provided in this Section 9.

- b. Except as provided in subsections c and d below, the ticket administrator shall report the following information on the Form 802:
 - (i) The name of the person receiving the ticket;
 - (ii) A description of the event;
 - (iii) The date of the event;
 - (iv) The face value of the ticket;
 - (v) The number of tickets provided to each person;
 - (vi) If the ticket is behested, the name of the city official who behested the ticket; and,
 - (vii) A description of the public purpose under which the distribution was made or, alternatively, that the ticket was distributed as income to the city official.
- c. If tickets are distributed to an organization outside the city pursuant to this policy, the ticket administrator may report the name, address, description of the organization, and the number of tickets provided to the organization in lieu of reporting the names of each individual from the organization as otherwise required in subsection b above.
- d. If tickets are distributed to an office or department of the city pursuant to this policy, the ticket administrator may report the name of the office or department and the number of tickets provided to the office or department in lieu of reporting the names of each individual city official as otherwise required in subsection b above.

10. Website Posting.

The city shall post all completed Form 802s, or a summary of the information on the Form 802, on its website.

11. Tickets not Covered by this Policy.

Tickets not covered by this policy may be subject to separate disclosure requirements and the annual gift limit under the California Political Reform Act and related regulations. A city official who receives or behests tickets not covered by this policy is solely responsible for determining, and complying with, all reporting requirements and the annual gift limit applicable to such tickets.