CITY OF OAKLAND
Public Ethics Commission
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TO: Public Ethics Commission
FROM: Daniel Purnell
DATE: May 3, 2010

At its meeting of April 5, 2010, the Commission considered a staff report pertaining to the Commission's required review and adjustment of City Council salaries. At the meeting, the Commission requested staff to provide additional information to assist in its review. This report addresses the questions raised by the Commission and further requests the Commission to direct staff to prepare draft resolutions to effect a salary adjustment so the Commission can take final action at its June 7, 2010, meeting.

I. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUESTED BY THE COMMISSION

The Commission directed staff to provide the Commission with information on the following topics: 1) City Council compensation, population and general fund budget amounts for cities closer in population size to the City of Oakland; 2) the meeting schedules of the surveyed cities; and, 3) the average income of Oakland residents.

A. Additional City Information

Commission staff selected the cities of Sacramento, Santa Ana, Anaheim and Bakersfield as cities of "comparable" size to Oakland. The additional information pertaining to city population, compensation, general fund budgets and meeting schedules has been incorporated into the attached chart. The information on the chart demonstrates: The current monthly salary for Oakland City Councilmembers is $6,072. The average monthly salary of the comparable cities is $2,573 including Oakland, and $1,698 excluding Oakland.

B. Average Income For Oakland Residents

The Commission inquired about the average income for Oakland residents. According to census survey data compiled by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and

the Association of Bay Area Governments, the estimated median household monthly income is $4,050. The estimated per capita monthly income is $2,508.

II. REQUESTED ACTION

In order to meet its City Charter obligation to provide an annual adjustment of City Council salaries, the Commission will need to take action at its June 7, 2010, meeting. Commission staff seeks direction from the Commission in order to prepare drafts of the resolutions the Commission will need to consider at the June meeting. At the very least, the Commission is required to increase City Council salaries by the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The question is whether the Commission would like staff to prepare alternative draft resolutions providing for a salary adjustment greater than the change in the CPI of up to five percent, or for an adjustment of greater than five percent, which would require a public vote to ratify.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel D. Purnell
Executive Director