CITY OF OAKLAND
Public Ethics Commission
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TO: Public Ethics Commission
FROM: Daniel Purnell
DATE: May 4, 2009

At its meeting of April 6, 2009, 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 1, 2009, 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 and population figures for cities closer in population size to the City of Oakland; 2) the city council meeting schedules of the surveyed cities; 3) the average income of Oakland residents; and 4) jurisdictions that impose restrictions on so-called "outside income" for City Council members.

A. Additional Compensation And Population Figures

Commission staff surveyed the cities of Anaheim, Bakersfield, Riverside and Stockton to add another basis of comparison to Oakland's current salary for City Councilmembers. The additional information has been incorporated into the chart prepared for the Commission at its April 6, 2009, meeting. ***Attachment 1.*** The revised chart demonstrates: The current monthly salary for Oakland City Councilmembers is $6,023. The average monthly salary for the eight largest cities in California is $5,996. The average monthly city council salary for the most populous cities immediately greater than Oakland (Sacramento, Fresno, Long Beach and San Francisco) and immediately less than Oakland (Santa Ana, Anaheim, Bakersfield and Riverside) is $3,022.

B. Meeting Schedules For Surveyed Cities

The Commission requested staff to provide the city council meeting schedules for other surveyed jurisdictions. The results are tabulated in ***Attachment 2.***

C. Restrictions On Outside Income

The Commission inquired whether any of the surveyed jurisdictions impose limits on outside income for city councilmembers. Only Los Angeles has an express prohibition against councilmembers receiving "earned" outside income in addition to their city-paid salary.

D. Average Household Income

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 $3,932. The estimated per capita monthly income is $2,399.

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 1, 2009, 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