



## 2020 ORANGE COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION (CRC)

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### Committee Summary Report

#### Ethics Concerning Lobbyists Committee

October 10, 2019  
Comptroller's 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
9:15 a.m.

#### Committee Members:

Lee Steinhauer, Chair  
Camille Evans  
Jeffrey Miller  
Patrick Brackins, CRC Attorney  
Jessica Vaupel, Assisting CRC as Staff  
Anissa Mercado, Assisting CRC as Staff

#### Absent Members:

Matthew Klein  
Samuel Vilchez Santiago

#### Others Present:

Chris Dawkins, Director of Audit  
Kate Latorre, Assistant County Attorney

The Ethics Concerning Lobbyists Committee meeting was held to further identify related issues and to address any member questions.

#### Public Comment

The following persons addressed the committee:

- Emmett O'Dell
- Eugene Stoccardo
- Anh Volmer
- Doug Head

#### Update by CRC Attorney

CRC Attorney Brackins provided an update on ethics commissions in other jurisdictions and local lobbying regulations and referenced the memorandum previously provided by CRC Attorney Clifford Shepard. Discussion ensued.

CRC Attorney Brackins noted that Orange County Code does provide for a local Ethics Advisory Board (Section 2-457, Article 13), but it appears that one was not formed by resolution. CRC Attorney Brackins provided copies of Ordinances 2008-15 and 2010-08 to the committee members. Discussion ensued.

Committee Chair Steinhauer questioned whether the committee could receive a copy of the Ethics Task Force Recommendation which promulgated Ordinances 2008-15 and 2010-08. Assistant County Attorney Kate Latorre advised she would provide CRC staff with a copy of the recommendation to distribute to the committee members.

CRC Chair Evans questioned the Comptroller's role in County ethics and audits. CRC Attorney Brackins and Director of Audit Dawkins contributed to the discussion. Discussion ensued.

Member Miller requested a breakdown from General Counsel of how disclosure and abstention, referenced in County Code, might address some of the issues the committee has been asked to review.

#### Update by CRC Staff

Ms. Vaupel advised staff received the requested records from the County. Once staff completes the comparison of registered lobbyists to appointed advisory board members between the years 2009-2019, staff will distribute the information to the committee members.

#### Potential Framework and Language of Ethics Commission

Committee Chair Steinhauer provided remarks concerning the suggested language offered by Member Stoccardo. Committee Chair Steinhauer communicated his preference to receive some of the information discussed today prior to making an opinion regarding Member Stoccardo's language. Discussion ensued.

Member Miller questioned whether the committee is recreating a wheel for something that is currently in place or could be addressed, modified or amended by County ordinance. Member Miller further questioned the cost of creating an ethics commission as opposed to the advisory board provided for by County ordinance. Discussion ensued.

#### Committee Chair Comments

Committee Chair Steinhauer provided remarks regarding comments made during the public comment portion of the meeting.

#### Future Action Plan

The next scheduled committee meeting will be held on Monday, October 28, 2019 at 9:15 a.m. Supporting materials, including the meeting notice, agenda, audio and summary report, may be found by visiting <https://www.occompt.com/clerk-of-the-bcc/charter-2020/meetings/>.