

# Regular Meeting of the Ethics Review Commission

**Wednesday, July 8, 2020, 3:00- 4:30 PM**

## **Ethics Review Commission meeting to be held July 8, 2020 with Social Distancing Modifications**

Public comment will be allowed via telephone; no in-person input will be allowed. **All speakers must register in advance no later than Tuesday, JULY 7, 2020 by Noon.** All public comment will occur at the beginning of the meeting.

To speak remotely at the **July 8, 2020 ETHICS REVIEW COMMISSION** Meeting, persons must:

- Call or email the board liaison at **512.974.2915** and **[sue.palmer@austintexas.gov](mailto:sue.palmer@austintexas.gov)** no later than noon, (the day before the meeting). The information required is the speaker name, item number(s) they wish to speak on, whether they are for/against/neutral, and a telephone number or email address.
- Once a request to speak has been called in or emailed to the board liaison, residents will receive either an email or phone call providing the telephone number to call on the day of the scheduled meeting.
- Speakers must call in at least 15 minutes prior to meeting start in order to speak, late callers will not be accepted and will not be able to speak.
- Speakers will be placed in a queue until their time to speak.
- Handouts or other information may be emailed to **[sue.palmer@austintexas.gov](mailto:sue.palmer@austintexas.gov)** by Noon the day before the scheduled meeting. This information will be provided to Board and Commission members in advance of the meeting.
- If this meeting is broadcast live, residents may watch the meeting here:  
**<http://www.austintexas.gov/page/watch-atxn-live>**



**ETHICS REVIEW COMMISSION  
JULY 8, 2020 AT 3:00 P.M.  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCING**

**CURRENT COMMISSION MEMBERS:**

Chair Luis Soberon	Vice-Chair J. Michael Ohueri	Secretary Kenneth “Tray” Gober
Debra Danburg	Betsy Greenberg	Mary Kahle
Raafia Lari	Robin Lerner	Donna Beth McCormick
Nathan Ryan	Pedro A. Villalobos	

**AGENDA**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

Because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, all citizen communications will occur at the beginning of the meeting. Speakers are limited to a maximum time limit of three minutes per speaker only on items listed below.

**1. OLD BUSINESS**

Discussion and possible action regarding the following:

- a. 2020 Austin city council candidate forums update (by City staff, League of Women Voters-Austin Area, and ERC Candidate Forum Working Group) about forum logistics / set up and published information about the forums.
- b. Working group status reports and/or recommendations on the following.
  - i. Working group one (Vice-Chair Ohueri and Commissioners Greenberg and Lerner) on the following subjects:
    - Commission sanctions including effectiveness, past cases, and recommendations.
    - Potential amendments to City Code, Chapter 2-7 (Ethics and Financial Disclosure).
  - ii. Working group two (Chair Soberon, Secretary Gober, and Commissioner Lari) on the following subjects:
    - Commission procedures including effectiveness, past cases, and recommendations.

- Scope of work of the Commission (powers, duties, and obligations), including effectiveness, past cases, and recommendations.
- Potential amendments to the Rules of the Ethics Review Commission.
- Best practices for city attorney opinions including effectiveness, past cases, and recommendations.

## **2. NEW BUSINESS**

Discussion and possible action regarding the following:

- a. Setting up a Working Group on race, identity, and equity and identifying the subject matter for the working group, such as : (i) planning for the Equity Officer's presentation or training at a future Commission meeting; (ii) helping focus the Commission's evaluation of racial injustice and how the Commission can operate more fairly and effectively in light of racial injustice.
- b. Transparency in the open meeting process in consideration of individuals without internet access or other technology challenges for virtual viewing and participation.

## **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JUNE 10, 2020 REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING.**

Discussion and possible action regarding the minutes for the June 10, 2020 regular commission meeting.

## **4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least two (2) days (48 hours) before the meeting date. Please call Sue Palmer at the Law Department, at (512) 974-2915 for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.

For more information on the Ethics Review Commission, please contact Sue Palmer at (512) 974-2915 or Lynn Carter at (512) 974-2171.