

BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE ON ETHICS ORDINANCE MEETING NOTES

Thursday, August 26, 2004

CH – Room 204 Building

Attending: Councilmember Ken Yeager (Chair), Councilmember Cindy Chavez, Vice Mayor Pat Dando, Councilmember Chuck Reed

Staff: Rick Doyle (City Attorney), Lee Price (City Clerk), Norm Sato (City Attorney's Office).

Task Force Discussion of the City's Gift Ordinance Exceptions

City Attorney Doyle compared the City's current gift ordinance to State Law and responded to a variety of questions from the Task Force. The Task Force then reviewed the list of exceptions in the current ordinance (Section 12.08.030. Gifts not prohibited) and developed the following recommendations:

- A. Gift limit threshold - Increase from \$15 to \$50 to be consistent with State law
- B. Informational materials – No change
- C. Gifts of hospitality – No change
- D. Reciprocal gifts for weddings and birthdays – City Attorney directed to tighten up the language and track state law.
- E. Meals and beverages in a business or social setting – Remove the exception from the list given inconsistency with State law (\$50 requires disclosure)
- F. Honorariums and awards – City Attorney directed to track State law
- G. Panels and seminars – No change
- H. Admission to events – City Attorney directed to return with better definitions of "civic" and "cultural"
- I. Employment interviews, government employer– No change
- J. Employment interviews, private employer– No change
- K. Authorized travel – No change, but direction given to City Attorney to consider issues with trips sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce
- L. City or Agency business – No change
- M. Gifts of flowers, plants and balloons – No change
- N. Prize awards based on chance – City Attorney directed to track State law

The Task Force requested that the City Attorney bring back in two weeks a revised ordinance for review and consideration.

Note: The Task Force did not discuss the Revolving Door Ordinance. That matter was postponed for two weeks.

There were no oral communications.

At 11:54 a.m. the meeting was adjourned.