

**BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE ON ETHICS  
MEETING NOTES**

Thursday, November 1, 2004

City Hall – Room 204

Present: Councilmember Ken Yeager (Chair)  
Vice Mayor Pat Dando  
Councilmember Cindy Chavez (arrived 10:12 a.m.)  
Councilmember Chuck Reed

Absent: None.

Staff: City Clerk, Lee Price  
City Attorney Richard Doyle  
Norm Sato, City Attorney's Office  
Peter Jensen, City Manager's Office

I Introduction

Council Member Yeager called the meeting to order at 9:44 a.m.

II Task Force Review and Discussion of and Recommendations for Council Policy 0-28 (Censure) and related issues

City Attorney Doyle presented an outline of the staff report and provided a historical overview of four former council members accused of behavior unbecoming to an elected official (criminal/illegal, unethical and/or in conflict of economic interests). He noted that there was no status to report on the District Attorney's on-going investigation into allegations against Council Member Gregory and emphasized that there are no criminal charges pending.

Council Member Reed said doing nothing is unacceptable and suggested other actions are contemplated by the Council Policy. Council Member Yeager outlined suggestions set forth in his memorandum entitled "Framework for Censure Policy" dated November 1, 2004, which incorporates options "reprimand" as a step between admonition and censure. Discussion followed regarding the investigative authority provided by Charter.

The Task Force agreed to forward on to the full City Council on November 2<sup>nd</sup> Council Member Yeager's memorandum, and further, asked the City Attorney to clarify at that

time the Council's investigative power and the options available. Additionally, he was asked to provide a status report on the District Attorney's investigation, as well as the Elections Commission's investigative efforts.

The City Manager's Office was directed to bring back on November 10<sup>th</sup> a revised draft of the Censure Policy, which should include options outlined in Council Member Yeager's memorandum.

### III Oral Communications

- 1) Bobbie Fischler expressed the importance of the proposed admonition process.
- 2) Phillip Bump expressed concerns about the protection of an individual's constitutional rights and supported the proposed Censure policy with the exclusion of any punitive actions.
- 3) Bob Bronstein expressed concerns about due process and protecting civil rights. He argued that legislative bodies should not take on a judicial role.

### IV Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.