SUNSHINE ORDINANCE TASK FORCE



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ORDER OF DETERMINATION February 27, 2017

DATE ISSUED February 1, 2017

CASE TITLE – Michael Petrelis v. Director LeeAnn Pelham and Commissioners Paul Renne, Peter Keane and Quentin Kopp, Ethics Commission (File No. 16091)

FACTS OF THE CASE

On September 28, 2016, the following petition/complaint was filed with the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (SOTF):

File No. 16091: Petition/Complaint filed by Michael Petrelis against Director LeeAnn Pelham and Commissioners Paul Renne, Peter Keane and Quentin Kopp (Ethics Commission), for allegedly violating Administrative Code (Sunshine Ordinance), Sections 67.15 and 67.21, by not allowing an opportunity for members of the public to directly address a policy body on items of interested to the public that are within the policy body's jurisdiction, abridging or prohibiting public criticism of the policy, procedures programs or services of the City and by failing to respond to a request for public records in a timely and/or complete manner (September 26, 2016, Ethics Commission meeting).

HEARING ON THE COMPLAINT

On January 9, 2017, the Compliance and Amendments Committee (Committee) acting in its capacity to hear petitions/complaints heard the matter and referred it to the Task Force for hearing.

On February 1, 2017, the SOTF reviewed the recommendation from Committee and held a hearing to review the merits of the petition/complaint.

The SOTF reviewed the video recording of the Ethics Commission meeting. **Michael Petrelis** (Petitioner/Complainant) provided an overview of the petition/complaint and requested that the SOTF find violations. Mr. Petrelis stated that he was entitled to three minutes of uninterrupted public comment at the Ethics Commission meeting. There were no speakers in support of the Petitioner/Complainant. Jessica Blome, Ethics Commission (Respondent), provided a summary of the department's position. Ms. Blome stated that the public comment timer was paused during the Ethics Commission members' interruption and Mr. Petrelis was provided three minutes for public comment. A

question and answer period followed. The Respondent and Complainant were provided the opportunity for rebuttals

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSION OF LAW

Based on the testimony and evidence presented the SOTF found no violations of Administrative Code (Sunshine Ordinance), Section 67.15.

ORDER OF DETERMINATION

Member Tesfai, seconded by Member Hinze, moved to find that the Director LeeAnn Pelham and Commissioners Paul Renne, Peter Keane and Quentin Kopp (Ethics Commission), did not violated Administrative Code (Sunshine Ordinance), Section 67.15.

The motion PASSED by the following vote:

Ayes: 7 - Baranetsky, Tesfai, Cannata, Fischer, Hinze, Hyland, B. Wolfe

Noes: 0 - None Absent: 1 - Chopra

Excused: 3 - Eldon, J. Wolf, Maass

Bruce Wolfe, Chair Sunshine Ordinance Task Force

Michael Petrelis (Petitioner/Complainant)
 Director LeeAnn Pelham, Ethics Commission (Respondent)
 Jessica Blome, Ethics Commission (Respondent)