



Los Angeles City Ethics Commission

January 24, 2012

The Honorable City Council
c/o June Lagmay, City Clerk
200 North Spring Street
City Hall – 3rd Floor
Los Angeles CA 90012

**Re: Council File Number 11-0452-S8
Selection of Frederick H. Pickel as Executive Director of the Office of Public
Accountability**

FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

Dear Councilmembers:

On January 20, 2012, the Office of Public Accountability's (OPA) Citizen's Committee for the Selection of the Executive Director transmitted to the City Clerk a letter indicating their selection of Dr. Frederick H. Pickel as the executive director of OPA. The Ethics Commission received Dr. Pickel's pre-confirmation statement of economic interests (SEI) on January 23, 2012, and this letter is provided for your consideration as part of the confirmation process. A copy of this letter is also being provided to Dr. Pickel to help him avoid potential conflicts of interests that may arise in the course of his tenure as the executive director of OPA.

Dr. Pickel reports on his SEI an ownership interest in Wilshire Energy Consulting Group, Inc., which he reports received income of \$10,000 or more from Charles River Associates, Powerex, Nestle, and Pharmavite. He also discloses a former ownership interest in Frederick H. Pickel Consulting, which he reports received income of \$10,000 or more from IBM. In addition, Dr. Pickel reports income from Aspen Group, Inc. for consulting services, a gift from Economic Insight, Inc., and travel reimbursement from Google. Dr. Pickel further discloses that he holds several interests in stock, which are identified in the attached document.

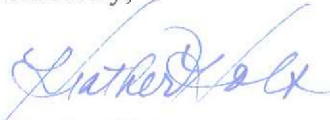
If a matter involving any of these interests comes before Dr. Pickel in his position as the executive director of OPA, he should, before acting, seek the advice of the City Attorney regarding whether he should disqualify himself. We are unable to assess if or how frequently Dr. Pickel would be in a position of having to disqualify himself.

Interests disclosed on an SEI are not the only interests that can give rise to a conflict of interests. Recusal may be required under City Charter § 222, for example, which states that the City Attorney may provide a written opinion concerning the obligation of a City official to refrain from acting on a matter when it may violate state law or when action may not be in the

public interest. If a matter raises a potential conflict of interests, we encourage Dr. Pickel to seek the advice of the City Attorney before acting.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Ethics Program Manager Shannon Prior at (213) 978-1960.

Sincerely,



Heather Holt
Executive Director

Attachment

cc: OPA's Citizen's Committee for the Selection of the Executive Director
Dr. Frederick H. Pickel