



**MICHAEL N. FEUER**  
CITY ATTORNEY

REPORT NO. **R 19-0097**  
**APR 05 2019**

REPORT RE:

**DRAFT ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 3 OF DIVISION 24 OF THE  
LOS ANGELES ADMINISTRATIVE CODE TO REVISE CITY ETHICS COMMISSION  
REGULATIONS FOR THE PUBLIC MATCHING FUNDS PROGRAM**

The Honorable City Council  
of the City of Los Angeles  
Room 395, City Hall  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Honorable Members:

As requested by the City Ethics Commission, this Office has prepared and now transmits for your consideration the enclosed draft ordinance, approved as to form and legality. The draft ordinance amends Chapter 3 of Division 24 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code by revising Ethics Commission regulations regarding public matching funds for campaigns.

Summary of Ordinance

This draft ordinance reflects the Ethics Commission's proposal to amend public matching funds regulations by providing clarifications to the debate requirements for participating candidates. The proposed amendments require that a public matching funds candidate debate his or her opponents. If all opponents refuse to debate the candidate, the candidate must conduct a town hall meeting. The debate and a town hall meeting each must last for at least 60 minutes and the town hall meeting must focus on a question and answer session during which the candidate responds to questions from attendees.

The Ethics Commission companion proposal to amend the City's Campaign Finance Ordinance requires a separate ordinance and will be drafted upon the City Council's request. This draft ordinance amending the Ethics Commission regulations is provided to ensure the City Council is able to adhere to procedural time limits discussed below.

Time Limit and Authority for Council Action

Pursuant to Charter Section 703, the City Council must hold a public hearing and either approve or disapprove Ethics Commission regulations within 60 days of adoption by the City Ethics Commission. If not disapproved within that time, the Mayor has ten days to approve or disapprove the regulations. If not disapproved by the Mayor, the regulations have the force of law. The City Ethics Commission adopted these regulations on February 19, 2019. The last regular City Council meeting day to act on this matter is April 20, 2019.

Pursuant to Los Angeles City Charter Section 703, the City Council may only approve or disapprove the ordinance and cannot amend it, as the ordinance is the codification of the Ethics Commission's regulations. If certain changes to the Campaign Finance Ordinance proposal are made, changes to the matching funds regulations may be required. In that circumstance, the City Council may need to disapprove this ordinance prior to the October deadline so that the Ethics Commission may consider those necessary regulation changes at a later meeting.

Council Rule 38 Referral

A copy of the draft ordinance was sent, pursuant to Council Rule 38, to the City Ethics Commission, and its comments have been incorporated.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Assistant City Attorney Renee Stadel at (213) 978-7100. She or another member of this Office will be present when you consider this matter to answer questions you may have.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL N. FEUER, City Attorney

By   
DAVID MICHAELSON  
Chief Assistant City Attorney

DM:RS:cl  
Transmittal