



Los Angeles City Ethics Commission

August 28, 2013

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

**Re: Council File Number 13-1057
Appointment of Dr. Jimmy Hara to the
Board of Fire Commissioners**

FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

Dear Councilmembers:

On August 14, 2013, the Mayor transmitted to the City Clerk a letter indicating his appointment of Dr. Jimmy Hara to the Board of Fire Commissioners. The Ethics Commission received Mr. Hara's pre-confirmation statement of economic interests (SEI) on August 28, 2013, and this letter is provided for your consideration as part of the confirmation process. A copy of this letter is also being provided to Mr. Hara to help him avoid potential conflicts of interests that may arise in the course of his tenure as a member of the Board of Fire Commissioners.

Mr. Hara reports on his SEI salary income from Charles Drew University, where he is an associate dean and professor, and from Kaiser Permanente, where he is a physician. Additionally, Dr. Hara reports gifts from the American Board of Family Medicine, UCLA, and the White Memorial Charitable Foundation. If a matter involving any of these interests comes before the Board of Fire Commissioners, Dr. Hara 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. Hara would be in a position of having to recuse himself.

Interests disclosed on an SEI are not the only interests that can give rise to a conflict of interests. For example, state law may require recusal by a board or commission member due to certain business activities of the clients of that member's employer. Additionally, recusal may be required under City Charter § 222, 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.

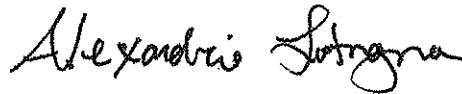
If a matter raises a potential conflict of interests, we encourage Dr. Hara to seek the advice of the City Attorney before acting. If Dr. Hara is required to disqualify himself from acting on a matter, Los Angeles Municipal Code § 49.5.6(J) and Executive Directive 2005-1 require him to file a Recusal Notification Form (CEC Form 51) with the Ethics Commission and the Mayor's office. If a board or commission member is disqualified from acting on three or more agenda items in a year because of a conflict caused by the same interest, the Ethics Commission is required by City Charter § 707 to review the conflict. If the Ethics Commission

determines that the member has a significant and continuing conflict of interests, it must order divestment of the interest that is causing the conflict.

In addition to reviewing a nominee's SEI, the Ethics Commission also verifies that the nominee is a registered City voter. We have received a completed Residence Verification Form for Dr. Hara, which affirms that he is registered to vote in the City.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at (213) 978-1960.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexandria Latragna". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alexandria Latragna
Ethics Program Analyst

cc: Mayor Eric Garcetti
Dr. Jimmy Hara