



Los Angeles City Ethics Commission

February 25, 2014

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 14-0157
Appointment of Ilana Farar to the
Commission for Community and Family Services**

FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

Dear Councilmembers:

On February 3, 2014, the Mayor transmitted to the City Clerk a letter indicating his appointment of Ms. Ilana Farar to the Commission for Community and Family Services. The Ethics Commission received Ms. Farar's pre-confirmation statement of economic interests (SEI) on February 21, 2014, and this letter is provided for your consideration as part of the confirmation process. A copy of this letter is also being provided to Ms. Farar to help her avoid potential conflicts of interests that may arise in the course of her tenure as a member of the Commission for Community and Family Services.

Ms. Farar reports on her SEI that she holds an ownership interest in Farar & Lewis, her husband's law firm. She also discloses her spouse's income from the University of Southern California where he is an adjunct professor. If a matter involving any of these interests comes before the Commission for Community and Family Services, Ms. Farar should, before acting, seek the advice of the City Attorney regarding whether she should disqualify herself. We are unable to assess if or how frequently Ms. Farar would be in a position of having to recuse herself.

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 Ms. Farar to seek the advice of the City Attorney before acting. If Ms. Farar is required to disqualify herself from acting on a matter, Los Angeles Municipal Code § 49.5.6(J) and Executive Directive 2005-1 require her 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 filing SEIs, nominees also file Residence Verification Forms. We have received a completed form from Ms. Farar, which states that she is registered to vote in the City.

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

Sincerely,



Alexandria Latragna
Ethics Program Analyst

cc: Mayor Eric Garcetti
Ms. Ilana Farar