

## MOTION

### *Office of Anti-Corruption and Transparency (LA ACT)*

Multiple efforts have been made over the years to reign in quid pro quo activity, in Los Angeles (CF 07-3294-S2, CF 17-0042, CF 17-0058, *et al.*). Yet time and time again, we have seen Los Angeles City elected officials, candidates, and high-ranking city staff come under scrutiny for violation of campaign finance laws, city ethics laws, and federal corruption laws, with not nearly enough action to address this problem.

Pay-to-play politics is made possible when power is exploited for personal or financial gain. In Los Angeles, that power rests predominantly in land use. To specifically address corruption in Los Angeles, it is critical that greater accountability and transparency exist between City officials and developers with land use matters and business interests before the City.

A number of municipalities and local government agencies provide working examples of efforts to stamp out corruption, increase transparency and accountability, and help to re-instill trust in government. Philadelphia's Office of the Inspector General works to keep City government free from fraud, corruption, and misconduct. The Office has the authority to conduct investigations of all government entities under the Mayor's jurisdiction, and has the ability to issue subpoenas, examine all city documents, contracts, and monetary expenditures, demand testimony from City employees, and recommend administrative discipline and policy improvements.

Chicago's Office of Inspector General investigates allegations of wrongdoing, audits and reviews City programs to identify inefficiency, waste and potential for misconduct, holds public hearings as appropriate and may issue subpoenas for testimony or documents relevant to an investigation. The Office operates independent of city government with a legally defined term separate from all elected officials, and with a budget protected by law to prevent retaliation by those whom it exercises its investigative and audit authority over.

Here at home, Los Angeles County's Office of Inspector General was created in 2014 to provide independent and comprehensive oversight and monitoring of the Sheriff's Department and its jail facilities. The Inspector General reports directly to the Board of Supervisors and makes regular reports to the Board on the Department's operations. The Los Angeles Unified School District's Office of the Inspector General, which reports directly to the Board of Education, is tasked with rooting out waste, mismanagement or wrongdoing in the District and has been granted a significant amount of independence to do so. And the Los Angeles Police Department's Office of the Inspector General, which was one of the Christopher Commission reform recommendations, conducts systemic reviews of the Department's disciplinary system and may undertake special projects as directed by the Board of Police Commissioners.

Corruption is a violation of the public's trust, upon which all democratic government rests. Trust is our foundation, and at a time when the City of Los Angeles faces numerous crises, we need the honest engagement of every Angeleno to meet the challenges of our time. City Hall must take corruption seriously and make every possible effort to root it out and rebuild that foundation.

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**I THEREFORE MOVE**, that the Chief Legislative Analyst be instructed to report back on best practices in other jurisdictions or agencies for the development, implementation, structure and operation of an independent auditors/investigators office (Office of Anti-Corruption and Transparency) to provide focused, independent and comprehensive oversight and monitoring of land use, development and construction processes and approvals in the City of Los Angeles.

**I FURTHER MOVE**, that the Chief Legislative Analyst, with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer and City Attorney, be instructed/requested to report back on the feasibility and with recommendations, including budget requirements, amendments Los Angeles Municipal Code Administrative Code and/or City Charter for the creation of an independent auditors/investigators office (Office of Anti-Corruption and Transparency), focused on land use, development and construction in the City of Los Angeles, tasked with identifying and preventing fraud, corruption, and misconduct, and with the authority to conduct investigations of all government entities, the ability to issue subpoenas, examine all city documents, contracts, and monetary expenditures, compel testimony from City employees and elected officials, and recommend administrative discipline and policy improvements.

PRESENTED BY:   
DAVID E. RYU  
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY:   
PAUL KORETZ  
Councilmember, 5th District

**ORIGINAL**