

**CITY OF SAN DIEGO
ETHICS COMMISSION**

Office of the Executive Director

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: January 18, 2007

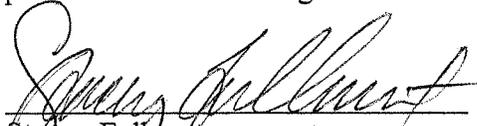
TO: The Committee on Rules, Open Government and Intergovernmental Relations

FROM: Stacey Fulhorst, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendments to the California Government Code

On September 20, 2006, the Ethics Commission appeared before the Rules Committee to discuss proposed changes to the Commission's Investigative and Enforcement Procedures. At that time, the Committee directed the Ethics Commission to work with the State of California to advance legislation that would allow local candidates to create and maintain legal defense funds independent of their campaign committees. This change to the state law would have the effect of not forcing local candidates and officeholders to co-mingle campaign funds with legal defense funds. In addition, this change would enable local officeholders to close their campaign committees following the cessation of campaign activities without losing the opportunity to establish a legal defense fund at a later date.

I was recently advised that it is not appropriate for the Ethics Commission to handle this request, and that the City's Intergovernmental Relations staff is responsible for processing legislative proposals in Sacramento. Accordingly, I have conferred with both Job Nelson and Brent Eidson, and provided them with background information regarding the proposed changes, as well as a summary of my efforts to date. Although I will continue to provide any necessary support, Messrs. Nelson and Eidson will be identifying a sponsor for the bill and will be moving it through the California Legislature. If you have any questions concerning the status of this bill, please contact the Intergovernmental Relations staff.


Stacey Fulhorst
Executive Director

cc: Chris Cameron, Rules Committee Consultant
Job Nelson, Associate Director, Intergovernmental Relations
Brent Eidson, Deputy Director/Policy Advisor, Intergovernmental Relations