

MEMORANDUM OF LAW

DATE: January 3, 1994

TO: Councilmember Juan Vargas

FROM: City Attorney

SUBJECT: Disclosure and Potential Disqualification
Obligations Arising from Acceptance of Travel

Via your Chief of Staff Ralph Inzunza, you have asked whether it would be lawful for you to accept an invitation from the United Jewish Federation of San Diego County to travel to Israel on February 12-19, 1994, at their expense. In particular, you want to know whether acceptance of the invitation would invoke disclosure obligations or trigger potential disqualification. This responds to that request.

Disclosure Obligations

As a general rule a local elected official may not accept gifts in excess of \$1,000 from a single source. Government Code section 89501, as amended in 1990; 2 Cal. Code of Regs. section 18940(c). Reimbursement for travel expenses, lodging, and reasonable subsistence in connection therewith is an exception to that rule. Government Code section 89501; 2 Cal. Code of Regs. sections 18950-18950.4. I enclose a copy of the Fair Political Practices Commission's ("FPPC") Gifts and Travel Regulations for your reference. 2 Cal. Code of Regs. sections 18940.1 through 18954.

Disqualification Requirements

Under Government Code section 87103(e), you may also be disqualified from considering or voting on any matter that concerns the United Jewish Federation (for example, if they are a potential grantee of CDBG monies administered by the City) for a period of twelve (12) months because the amount of the gift exceeds \$250.

JOHN W. WITT, City Attorney

By

Cristie C. McGuire

Deputy City Attorney

CCM:jrl:011(x043.2)

Attachment

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