

Good Afternoon Commissioners and Staff,

My name is Dan Pressburg, I've lived at my current address on South Street for the past 37 years in the historical Landmark called "Long Beach Dairy and Creamery" other than my service in the military, I have lived in California most of my life.

Thank you for this opportunity to meet with you and applying for the Ethics Commission.

By definition a Commission is advisory however, an Ethics Commission is a standing body with limited delegated authority to interpret and enforce certain of the City's ethics regulations. It can also play a role in training, education, and set standards for transparency. Its standards must have a compliance factor of some kind in order to follow what it is required as a body to do.

"Ethics" has become a matter of growing interest and concern throughout many parts of the world. It has been a matter of importance throughout the private sector, at all levels of governments, in many countries, and of course at the personal level.

1. What specific qualities do you have that you feel will make you a good Ethics Commission member?

My belief is that a commissioner needs to be fair-minded, diligent, and concerned with equitably enforcing its adopted ethics laws/standards as set by the commission. I spent many years in compliance in the closing of banks for the FDIC, FSLIC, and establishment of the RTC as well as auditing accounts and putting together bid packages, marketing assets and selling property. In private business as a Bank Consultant, at Credit Unions, we were being audited twice a year by Federal Banking Standards with compliance based upon practices and institution's CAMEL Rating (investments and lending). Personally, it is important to understand enforcement and compliance. I am familiar with many rules governing compliance and have that understanding when it comes to banking. How it will apply or first be established is a question for the Commission. There are certain standards we must maintain and review to be an open and transparent body.

My background also includes service in and to the community. I have been recognized with numerous awards from Nationally, with Congress, the state, County and City and that has helped me in achieving a certain focus level, insight and completing the task at hand. However, none of the recognition would be possible without my relationships, friends, and the community that supported the activities. It would be my intention to be able to work as a unit to arrive at an answer that is open and accountable.

2. What is your interest in becoming involved in the city's Ethics Commission.

For me personally to become a commissioner would allow me to work with a team of individuals to create a Code of Values and Standards of Conduct for the city and certain entities;

This presents an opportunity of educating and sharing in such a way as to help stakeholders throughout the community to be involved and comply with the city and how answers are arrived at openly.

In turn that would help ensure transparency and accountability being expressed for the public with parameters that can be followed while giving and receiving information about how we are on things and what we are doing.

So being advisory, we would be able to recommend an action or potentially have the ability act on a situation with some form of compliance with rules or statutes that apply to certain instances.

We must have the strength of character to avoid shortcuts and reexamine issues, there also needs to be some intuitiveness to see if something is amiss, and set standards to comply with ethical behavior. We should be able to look at things with a certain amount of objectivity but have empathy to be able to place ourselves in someone else's shoes in order to come up with a viable solution. There should also be a holistic approach as to how decisions are made.

Ethics in this city should not be defined so much by who we are or what we are about but through a certain maintenance of traditional methods and really how we treat one another and provide transparency when arriving at a conclusion.

3. What would be the one accomplishment that you most hope to look back upon at the end of your service as an Ethics Commission member?

For an ethics commissioner I believe should strive to achieve the goal of promoting public confidence, transparency, and accountability in its decision-making processes and then applying those decisions with equality across the board. I believe just being fair-minded and diligent is a good start. Also, I believe members should be concerned with a certain amount being able to enforce its adopted ethics laws and requirements. My role as a member of Ethics Commission would be to contribute and help substantiate our decisions and to provide advice and recommendations. We should be able to review certain occurrences where there is a conflict in ethical practices. It may be where it is felt that someone feels those (obligations) things have not been met or determined. "Ethical Standards" are really a combination of good, common sense and an application of a common value system that adheres to established guidelines.

I believe that it would be a wonderful accomplishment if we are able to set the bar high enough with certain standards for those who may follow. That we are practical in our decisions as we recommend them. This would allow us to seamlessly move forward on the issues that the Commission is presented with.