

Date: September 8, 2021

To: Honorable Members of the Ethics Commission

From: Rebecca Guzman Garner, Administrative Deputy City Manager *R. Garner*

Subject: **Update on Collaborations with Education Institutions**

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On June 9, 2021, the Ethics Commission (Commission) inquired about recruiting current university students to assist staff with Ethics Commission efforts. On August 11, 2021, staff provided an initial update on engaging educational institutions to collaborate with the City's ethics efforts. This memorandum provides the Commission with a status update on this item.

Staff reached out to the University of Southern California, Price School of Public Policy (Price), to gauge interest in providing an ethics-related Capstone Project for second-year online Master in Public Administration (MPA) candidates. A Capstone Project serves as the culmination of the MPA program and is meant to integrate the competencies attained in the core and electives courses as students complete a policy or management analysis for an organizational client.

Staff collaborated with Capstone Course faculty to develop a Capstone Project for students to assist the City with the design and development of a citywide ethics education program for employees, elected officials, officers, and candidates. The Ethics Capstone Project proposes that the Capstone team reviews and provides recommendation in the following areas:

- Municipal ethics program best practices;
- Key education elements;
- Options to best deliver trainings, including use of software; and,
- Ensuring the program can be implemented and administered in a sustainable manner.

During the 2021 Fall Semester, the Capstone team, usually comprised of three to four students, will serve in a consultant-client model to staff to address the areas above through a project report and briefing. Staff continue to work with Price faculty to advance the Ethics Capstone Project and will provide the Commission with updates as progress is made and more information is shared by faculty.

Since our previous update, staff also received notification from the Long Beach Community Internship Project (LBCIP), at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB), that a student was unable to be matched to the Ethics Internship this Fall; however, staff will again engage LBCIP, and other internship opportunities, at a future date.

At this time, staff recommend that a search for interns be revisited after recommendations from the Capstone Team are received to focus and provide full support to the emerging Capstone Team who will provide the City with valuable insight on ethics educational program design and implementation.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (562) 570-6979, or Special Projects Officer Julian Cernuda at (562) 570-6154.

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