



Oakland Youth Commission Meeting Notes

September 22, 2025

- I. Call to Order
 - Meeting called to order at 5:36pm by Ashley Tchanyoum
- II. Roll Call Commissioners
 - Present: *Haniel Kebede (D1), Quincy Russell (D3), Merwy Pablo Ortiz (D5), Cesia Gonzalez (D6)*
At-Large Commissioners: Nathan YuHeng Li, Ashley Tchanyoum, Dylan Granger, Naiomi Paz Romero-Price, Pelayo C.D. Llamas III, Sophia Tien Nguyen, Edward Lorenzo, Elizabeth Moreno
 - Late: *Ella Killingsworth (D7), Edamevoh Ajayi (D4)*
 - Excused: *Fozyah Alarqaban (At-Large), Kayson Naik (D2), Calupe Kaufusi (At-Large)*
- III. Welcome, Agenda Review
 - No questions or additions
- IV. Introductions and Check In
 - Name, school, and one thing you did this summer
- V. Create Agreements
 - Added agreement: One Mic
- VI. Public Comment
 - No public comment
- VII. Check-In Question #2
- VIII. Item 1: Guest Presentation: Jelani Killings, Ethics Trainings
 - Provided an overview of the Public Ethics Commission, the Brown Act and the Sunshine Ordinance



- The Public Ethics Commission's duties include ensuring compliance with the City of Oakland's government ethics, campaign finance, transparency, and lobbyist registration laws
 - The Sunshine Ordinance requires that all meetings of a local body must be open and public and all action items must be taken must be reported and available for public input.

IX. Break and Icebreaker game

X. Announcements

- Adding the By-Laws Action item to the October Agenda

XI. Closing

- One thing you appreciated about today's meeting

XII. Meeting Adjourned at 7:22pm

Government Ethics Training

Presented by
Jelani Killings, Ethics Analyst



Public Ethics Commission

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

**Oakland
Campaign
Reform Act**

**Oakland Fair
Elections Act**

TRANSPARENCY

**Sunshine
Ordinance**

**Lobbyist
Registration
Act**

ETHICS

**Government
Ethics Act**

**Conflict of
Interest Code
(Form 700)**

Our goal is to help you...

- Be aware of government ethics laws
- Spot ethical issues (yellow flags) when they arise
- Know where to go for help
- Serve as a conduit to promote ethical service
- Identify your own goals, strengths, and areas to develop to serve with integrity



Why is Public Service Different?

- We are **Public Servants**, our work is *PUBLIC!!*
- Good public service demands that people be treated fairly, honestly, and with the utmost courtesy.
- It is important to keep an open mind in all of your discussions, and to consider all opinions expressed during public meetings before making a decision.

Roles and Responsibilities

- Most of Oakland's Boards and Commissions were established to **provide information and advice** to the City Council or the Office of the Mayor.
- **City staff** serve in a support capacity to boards and commissions. Staff frequently provides recommendations to public bodies that are based on technical requirements of the law or established City policy.
- Oakland boards and commissions cannot function without **attendance and active participation** of their members. In some cases, failure to regularly attend meeting could result in removal from board or commission.

Ethics Laws: Why?

- Ensure people serve with integrity, serve the public
- Ensure the public's funds are protected, fiscal responsibility
- Limit improper influence
- Ensure the public can see what government is doing (transparency)
- Build/ensure public trust in government (public perception is important)
- Keep people honest
- Taxpayers → City → City workers



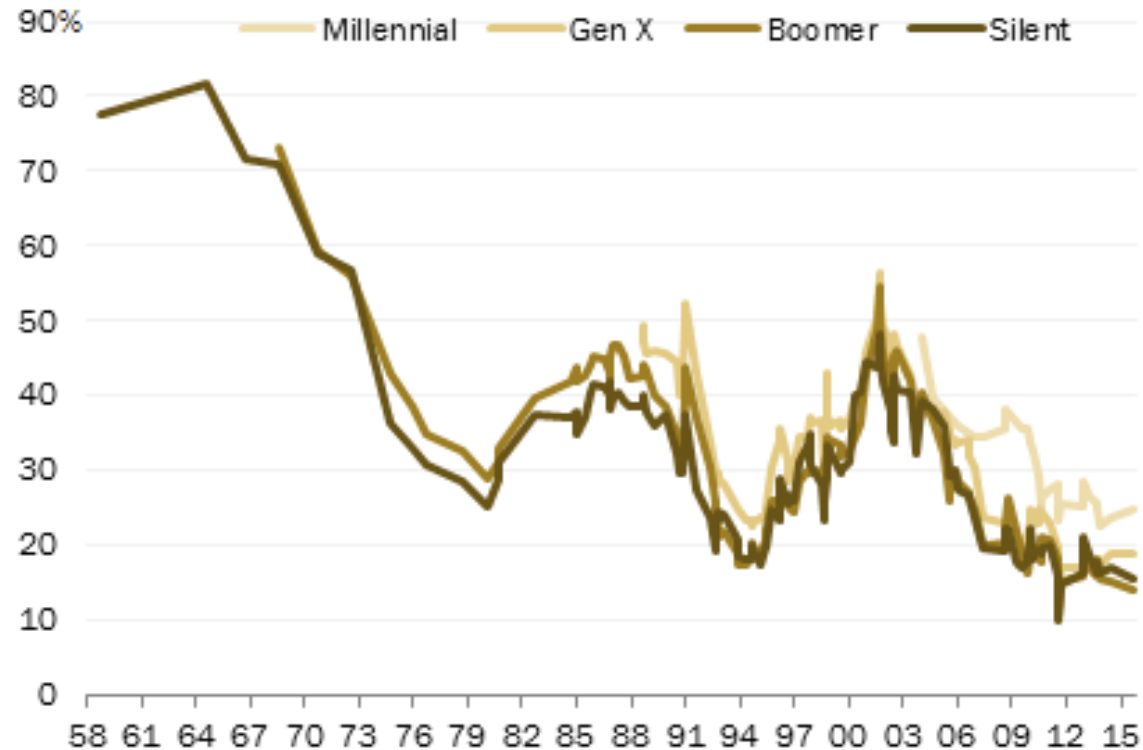
PUBLIC SERVANTS: GUARDIANS of PUBLIC TRUST

City staff and officials are empowered and entrusted by the public to use City time, money and property in a legal and responsible manner



Trust in government by generation: 1958-2015

Trust government to do what is right just about always/most of the time ...



Survey conducted Aug. 27-Oct. 4, 2015. Q15. Trend sources: Pew Research Center, National Election Studies, Gallup, ABC/Washington Post, CBS/New York Times, and CNN Polls. From 1976-2014 the trend line represents a three-survey moving average.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

It's a Process...

This takes more than just knowledge of the laws, but solidification of personal values, personal strength, and partnerships.

Never be afraid to call and ask, or if you've made a decision and need to resolve an error, call the PEC or the City Attorney's office.



Government Ethics Act (O.M.C. Chapter 2.25)

The Oakland Government Ethics Act was passed by City Council in December 2014.

Intended to provide a clear, comprehensive, and locally enforceable framework of ethics laws.



Who does GEA apply to?

The Government Ethics Act applies to ALL Public Servants. “Public Servants” include:

- Elected or appointed City officeholders
- City Board/Commission members (including Port Commissioners)
- City Employees (full or part-time)
- Consultant who must file a Form 700 (SEI)




What does GEA cover?

- Form 700
- Conflicts of Interest
- Misuse of City Resources
- Gift Restrictions
- Post-Employment Restrictions

Government Ethics

Government Ethics Act Introduction




**City of Oakland**
Government Ethics Training*

Welcome! Thank you for taking the time to receive this important government ethics training provided by the City's Public Ethics Commission, or "PEC."

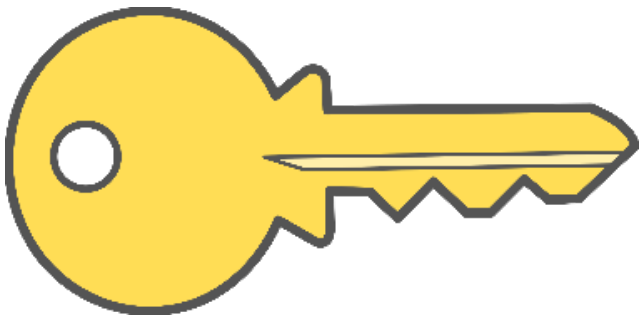
The PEC is an independent City board that oversees compliance with Oakland's campaign finance, transparency, lobbying, and ethics laws in order to ensure fairness, openness, honesty, and integrity in City government. The PEC facilitates policy and technology improvements, enforces violations of the law, and educates City officials, staff, and citizens about ethics related laws and policies.

*This training is composed of audio narration and interactive content. You will need headphones or speakers to listen to the narration.



Always ask yourself...

1. How will my action build public trust?
2. Is this the right thing to do?



Key = to think about potential issues long before they occur, because it's more difficult to be rational in the moment.

Personal Assessment

Building public trust requires the following ideals:

1. Ethical
2. Professional
3. Service-Oriented
4. Organized
5. Fiscally Responsible
6. Collaborative
7. Communicative
8. Innovative

Remember: Public office is a public trust.

As a Public Servant, you are entrusted with making decisions about City resources. Your job is to make decisions and use your position for the good of the community, not for personal or political gain.



Government Ethics Quiz

- What is the mission of the Public Ethics Commission?
- What three areas of law does the PEC oversee?
- What year was the Government Ethics Act passed?
- What form are Board and Commission members required to file upon assuming/leaving office and annually by April 1?
- What are the 8 ideals for building public trust?

When you spot a yellow flag, call...



Public Ethics Commission

(510) 238-3593

ethicscommission@oaklandca.gov

www.oaklandca.gov/pec



City Attorney's Office

(510) 238-3601

webmaster@oaklandcityattorney.org

www.oaklandcityattorney.org



Fair Political Practices Commission

(866) ASK-FPPC (275-3772)

advice@fppc.ca.gov

www.fppc.ca.gov



OAKLAND SUNSHINE ORDINANCE

Open Meetings

PRESENTED BY THE OAKLAND PUBLIC ETHICS COMMISSION



Sunshine Ordinance – O.M.C. 2.20

“[The Sunshine Ordinance] is intended in part to clarify and supplement the . . . Brown Act . . . to assure that the people of the City of Oakland can be fully informed and thereby retain control over the instruments of local government in their city.” (Sunshine – Oakland Muni. Code § 2.20.010)



Purpose

- All meetings of a local body must be open and public, except for closed sessions authorized by law.
- Closed session authorizations must be narrowly construed.
- All persons must be permitted to attend open and public meetings.
- Voting by secret ballot is prohibited.
- The body must report all actions taken and the vote or abstention of each member present for the action.



Council emails violated Open Meeting Law

**County Park Board Accused
of Sunshine Law Violations**

Secret Meetings?

NEWSPAPER HEADLINES

**Loss of open meeting lawsuit
to cost city more than \$100k
in legal fees**

**Ethics complaint filed against
city council member**

TRANSPARENCY



What is a Local Body?

O.M.C. 2.20.030(E)

- Oakland City Council and Board of Port Commissioners
- Board, commission, task force established by the Charter (e.g., Public Ethics Commission, Civil Service Board, Police and Fire Retirement Board).
- Board, commission, task force established by the City Council or Port Board by ordinance, resolution or motion.
- Advisory board, commission or task force created and appointed by Mayor that exists for longer than 12 months.
- Standing committees of the above, with continuing subject matter jurisdiction or a meeting schedule fixed by charter, ordinance, resolution or formal action.



What Constitutes a Public Meeting?

O.M.C. 2.20.030(F)

Any congregation of a majority of the members of a local body at the same time and location to do any of the following relating to any item that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the local body:

- Hear
- Discuss
- Deliberate
- Take action



Keep in mind

A majority of the members of a local body are not permitted to use a series of communications of any kind, directly or through intermediaries, to discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item of business that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the local body



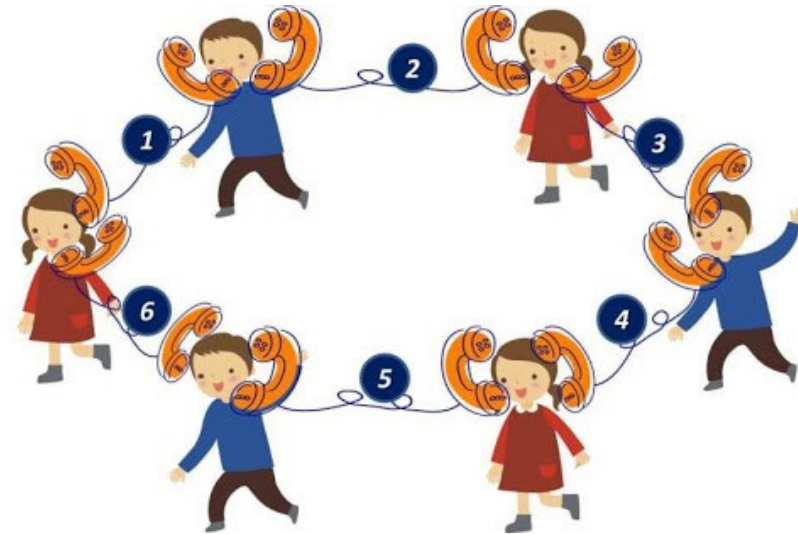
Meal Gatherings

A meal gathering conducted before, during or after a public meeting is considered part of the public meeting and must be properly noticed and made open to the public.



Be Aware

A “meeting” can occur if a staff or member of a public body calls, faxes, or emails other members to develop a consensus regarding an item of business, even if members never communicate to each other directly.



Actions that violate open meeting laws

- Email communications among a quorum or more of the council/committee regarding matters within their subject matter jurisdiction.
- Conversations between a quorum of the Council/committees at a dinner, conference, party or other social/public event regarding matters within their subject matter jurisdiction.
- Asking council aides, staff or city officials about the positions of a quorum or more of the council/committee regarding matters within their subject matter jurisdiction.



What about communication among board members by telephone or social media?

- Both are subject to Sunshine laws
- Who's to know if a quorum of a board discusses a matter in a conference call or a series of calls among members?
- If someone obtained proof that such communication occurred among the members of your board, that would support a complaint that you'd violated the law.

Tip: Always be aware of the number of members with whom you discuss board-related matters.



Exceptions

Provided Council/committee members do not discuss City business among themselves, a quorum may attend:

- Conferences open to the public;
- Open and public community meetings organized by persons or organizations other than the City;
- Open and noticed meetings of another local agency;
- Open and noticed meetings of the legislative body of another local agency;
- Social or ceremonial events;



All meetings of local bodies must be open and public

O.M.C. 2.20.050

- Must establish by formal action the time and place for holding regular meetings and shall conduct such regular meetings in accordance with such resolution or formal action
- Meetings must be held within in City of Oakland boundaries.
- Includes: retreats, workshops, training sessions, meal gatherings, etc.
- Meetings should be held on weekday evenings “whenever reasonably possible.”



Barriers to Attendance Prohibited

O.M.C. 2.20.140

A local body cannot:

- conduct any meeting, conference or other function in any facility which is inaccessible to persons with physical disabilities, or
- Restrict attendance by members of the public by requiring payment or statement of their name

Any person attending an open meeting of a local body shall have the right to record, photograph or broadcast the proceedings.



Public Testimony

O.M.C. 2.20.150

A meeting of a local body must provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address a local body on items of interest to the public that are within the local body's subject matter jurisdiction.

OPEN FORUM: Regular and special meetings must provide opportunity for public comment on non-agenda matters at the beginning or end of the meeting.



Public Testimony

O.M.C. 2.20.150

- Cannot prohibit speakers from expressing public criticism about City services, procedures, activities, etc.
- Members of the public must be allowed to speak on all items appearing on the agenda, even if the Council/committee removes the item.
- Each member of the public that wishes to speak on an item must be allowed to speak prior to council vote on the item.



Resources

PEC Advice and Assistance

- (510) 238-3593
- ethicscommission@oaklandca.gov
- PEC Website:
www.oaklandca.gov/pec

