CITY OF OAKLAND
PUBLIC ETHICS COMMISSION
Special Commission Meeting
One Frank Ogawa Plaza (City Hall)
Hearing Room 2
Wednesday, April 15, 2026
6:30 p.m.

Commissioners:
Francis Upton IV (Chair) | Karun Tilak (Vice-Chair) | Luke Apfeld | Tanya Bayeva | L. Lawrence Brandon | Angi Fisher | Ryan Micik

Commission Staff in attendance:
Suzanne Doran, Executive Director | Tovah Ackerman, Enforcement Chief | Alex Van Buskirk, Ethics Investigator | Jelani Killings, Ethics Analyst | Niels Thorsen, Ethics Analyst | Bhawna Chowdhary, Law Clerk

Legal Counsel:
Christina Cameron, Partner, Devaney Pate Morris & Cameron, LLP

PUBLIC ETHICS COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

PRELIMINARY ITEMS

1. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Members present: Chair Francis Upton IV, Vice-Chair Karun Tilak, L. Lawrence Brandon, Angi Fisher, and Ryan Micik.

Members absent: Luke Apfeld, Tanya Bayeva.

2. Staff and Commissioner Announcements.

Chair Upton announced that members of the public can now participate in meetings remotely via Zoom as well as in person.

3. Open Forum.

Public Comment: Ralph Kanz.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Approval of Commission Meeting Draft Minutes.

a. January 21, 2026, Revised Regular Meeting Minutes.

Brandon moved, and Tilak seconded, to adopt the January 21, 2026, regular meeting minutes as corrected.

Public Comment: Ralph Kanz.

Ayes: Tilak, Brandon, Fisher, Micik, Upton.

Noes: None.

Abstentions: None.

Vote: 5-0.

Motion passed.

b. March 18, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes.

Tilak moved, and Brandon seconded, to adopt the March 18, 2026, regular meeting minutes.

Public Comment: Ralph Kanz.

Ayes: Tilak, Brandon, Fisher, Micik, Upton.

Noes: None.

Abstentions: None.

Vote: 5-0.

Motion passed.

5. Biennial City Attorney Salary Adjustment.

Executive Director Doran presented, and the Commission discussed, staff's recommendation to adjust the City Attorney salary in accordance with Oakland City Charter Section 401(1).

Tilak moved, and Upton seconded, to approve Resolution 26-02, authorizing a 5.4 percent increase in the City Attorney's salary to an authorized annual salary of $338,290.60, in accordance with City Charter Section 401(1).

Public Comment: Ralph Kanz.

Ayes: Tilak, Brandon, Fisher, Micik, Upton.

Noes: None.

Abstentions: None.

Vote: 5-0.

Motion passed.

6. Biennial City Auditor Salary Adjustment.

Executive Director Doran presented, and the Commission discussed staff's recommendation to adjust the City Auditor salary in accordance with Oakland City Charter Section 403(1).

Michael C. Houston presented an alternative salary adjustment proposal for the Commission's consideration, which was included with the agenda materials.

Brandon moved, and Upton seconded, to increase the City Auditor's salary to $252,544.78 per the recommendations presented by Mr. Houston.

Public Comment: None.

Ayes: Brandon.

Noes: Tilak, Fisher, Micik, Upton.

Abstentions: None.

Vote: 1-4.

Motion Failed.

Tilak moved, and Micik seconded, to approve Resolution 26-03 authorizing a 5.4 percent increase in the City Auditor's salary to an authorized annual salary of $238,849.15, in accordance with City Charter Section 403(1).

Public Comment: None.

Ayes: Tilak, Brandon, Fisher, Micik.

Noes: Upton.

Abstentions: None.

Vote: 4-1.

Motion passed.

7. In the Matter of Tovah Ackerman, Enforcement Chief (PEC #26-03).

Enforcement Chief presented PEC Cases No. 26-03 and No. 26-04 jointly for Commission consideration and stated that the complainant has been referred to a nearby jurisdiction in accordance with the PEC Mediation and Complaint Procedures (IV(A)(4)). Staff recommended that the Commission close PEC Case No. 26-03 and No. 26-04 without further action.

Chair Upton recommended taking items 7 and 8 as one vote.

Micik moved, and Upton seconded, to close PEC Cases No. 26-03 and No. 26-04 with no action.

The Chair noted Public Comment would be opened for item 7 and then item 8, since the items were agendized separately.

Public Comment Item 7: None.

Public Comment Item 8: None.

Ayes: Tilak, Brandon, Fisher, Micik, Upton.

Noes: None.

Abstentions: None.

Vote: 5-0.

Motion passed.

8. In the Matter of the Oakland Public Ethics Commission (PEC #26-04).

Combined with Item 7. See above for discussion and action.

9. 2025 Case Closure Plan – Form 700 Cases

PEC staff recommended that the Commission close ten respondent-specific Annual Form 700 late and non-filer matters from 2023 and 2024 with individual warning letters. Enforcement Chief Tovah Ackerman presented, and the Commission discussed the staff's recommendation to close the following cases:

a. **Form 700 Late-Filers**

i. In the Matter of Chris Jackson (PEC # 24-05.26). Staff recommends that the Commission close PEC Case No. 24-05.26 with a Warning Letter.
ii. In the Matter of Fred Mangrum (PEC # 24-05.36). Staff recommends that the Commission close PEC Case No. 24-05.36 with a Warning Letter.
iii. In the Matter of Ali Obad (PEC # 24-05.46). Staff recommends that the Commission close PEC Case No. 24-05.46 with a Warning Letter.
iv. In the Matter of Michael Wallace (PEC # 24-05.61). Staff recommends that the Commission close PEC Case No. 24-05.61 with a Warning Letter.
v. In the Matter of Arthur Watson, Jr. (PEC # 24-05.63). Staff recommends that the Commission close PEC Case No. 24-05.63 with a Warning Letter.
vi. In the Matter of Fred Kelley (PEC # 23-16.8). Staff recommends that the Commission close PEC Case No. 23-16.8 with a Warning Letter.

b. **Form 700 Non-Filers**

i. In the Matter of Tanya Boyce (PEC # 24-05.6). Staff recommends that the Commission close PEC Case No. 24-05.6 with a Warning Letter.
ii. In the Matter of Demitri Taylor (PEC # 24-05.57). Staff recommends that the Commission close PEC Case No. 24-05.57 with a Warning Letter.
iii. In the Matter of Taib Alaoui (PEC # 23-16.3) and In the Matter of Taib Alaoui (PEC # 24-05.1). Staff recommends that the Commission close PEC Case Nos. 23-16.3 and # 24-05.1 with a Warning Letter.

Tilak moved, and Fisher seconded, to adopt staff's recommendation.

Public Comment: Ralph Kanz.

Ayes: Tilak, Brandon, Fisher, Micik, Upton.

Noes: None.

Abstentions: None.

Vote: 5-0.

Motion passed.

10. 2025 Case Closure Plan.

PEC staff are working to close cases according to a seven-point rubric to address a severe complaint backlog. Enforcement Chief Tovah Ackerman presented, and the Commission discussed the staff's recommendation to close the following cases:

a. In the Matter of David Silver (PEC # 24-02). Staff recommends that the Commission close PEC Case No. 24-02 with a Warning Letter.
b. In the Matter of Cherisse Gash, et al. (PEC # 24-09.01). Staff recommends that the Commission close PEC Case No. 24-09.01 after a referral to the FPPC.
c. In the Matters of Ike Smart City, Clayton Collett, and Michael Colbruno (PEC #s 22-11.1, 22-11.2, 22-11.3). Staff recommends that the Commission close PEC Case Nos. 22-11.1, 22-11.2, 22-11.3 with No Action.

Upton moved, and Micik seconded, to adopt staff's recommendation.

Public Comment: Ralph Kanz.

Ayes: Tilak, Brandon, Fisher, Micik, Upton.

Noes: None.

Abstentions: None.

Vote: 5-0.

Motion passed.

11. Future Meeting Business.

Commissioner Brandon requested updates on Democracy Dollars and opportunities for community engagement.

Public Comment: None.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.