

- Ethics Officer's June 2009 Monthly Report

Summary

This report provides a general update on the progress and activities for the Ethics Office for June 2009.

Attachments

None

Detailed Report

Activities

1. The Ethics Officer and Ethics Educator are continuing to create online materials.
2. The Directors' ethics manual is in revision to reflect policy changes put into effect since the 2005 initial writing.
3. The Ethics Office staff conducted Day 1 for seven new hires and Day 2 orientation for two employees.
4. The Ethics Office Web site logged 1,016 visitors from June 1-30, 2009.

Logged Questions and Matters of Concern

1. **May 6, 2009 – Issue: Policy Issues**
A query was received from an employee regarding Metropolitan's fundraising policy. After consulting with the Legal Department, it was found that 50/50 raffles are in violation of California law and are therefore prohibited. (374)
Disposition: Closed
2. **May 10, 2009 – Issue: Policy Issues**
A query was received from an employee regarding who should be allowed to reside in Metropolitan-owned residences. The matter was reviewed with the facility supervisor and the relative of the concern is no longer residing in the Metropolitan-owned residence. (376)
Disposition: Closed
3. **June 9, 2009 – Issue: Policy Issues**
An anonymous concern was received regarding the alleged violation of the Brown Act at the June 9, 2009 Board of Directors meeting. The Intake Committee for Director Concerns met on June 23, 2009 and the Committee recommended not to proceed with formal investigation. As further analysis was requested before a Board vote, no action was taken on the substance of the matter. The Committee also recognized that some Board members may be less familiar with the Brown Act requirements than others and that the weighting of the votes on our Board creates special considerations. Therefore, the Committee recommended mandatory training for Board members on the Brown Act and how it applies to Metropolitan's Board weighting and actions. The Legal Department and Ethics Officer will work with the Board Chairman to schedule the training.
Disposition: Closed
4. **June 11, 2009 – Issue: Customer Relations**
A concern was received through the hotline from a member of the public who reported a pipe leak on the March Air Force Base. The matter was referred to Water System Operations for response.
Disposition: Closed

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5. **June 15, 2009 – Issue: Policy Issues**

A concern was received through the hotline from a contractor regarding the appropriateness of a competitor requesting bid information. No bid information was revealed and the requesting contractor was found to have not acted deceptively.

Disposition: Closed

6. **June 15, 2009 – Issue: Employee Relations**

An anonymous concern was received regarding the ACE classification study. As no ethical violations were identified, the matter was referred to management.

Disposition: Closed

7. **June 17, 2009 – Issue: Policy Issues**

An anonymous concern was received through the hotline regarding an employee's alleged violation of company policy by storing personal property at a Metropolitan facility. It was found that the storage of the employee's personal property had been approved by management.

Disposition: Closed

8. **June 23, 2009 – Issue: Favoritism**

An anonymous concern was received through the hotline regarding alleged favoritism in the recruitment of summer positions. The matter is being investigated.

Disposition: Pending

9. **June 25, 2009 – Issue: Gifts**

A query was received from an employee regarding accepting travel costs to attend training at a vendor's facility. Further information has been requested.

Disposition: Pending

10. **June 26, 2009 – Issue: Misuse of Property**

An anonymous concern was received through the hotline regarding an employee who was allegedly driving a company vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. The matter is under investigation.

Disposition: Pending

11. **June 28, 2009 – Issue: Misuse of Position**

A concern was received from an employee regarding the alleged misuse of position by a manager. Further information was requested.

Disposition: Pending