

Ad Hoc Committee on General Investigating and Ethics Meeting Record

The Ad Hoc Committee on General Investigating and Ethics meetings are recorded. Agenda materials are available online at www.dallascityhall.com.

Meeting Date: October 21, 2021

Convened: 1:34 p.m.

Adjourned: 3:13 p.m.

Committee Members Present: (in Council Briefing Room, 6ES)

Cara Mendelsohn, Chair
Adam McGough
Paula Blackmon
Tennell Atkins
Jaynie Schultz

City Staff Present:

Chris Caso, City Attorney
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary

Presenters:

Tim Powers, Chair, Ethics Reform Task Force
Thomas Perkins, former City Attorney, UNT College of Law

AGENDA

Call to Order (1:34 p.m.)

Chair Mendelsohn called the meeting to order. There were five registered speakers. City Secretary, Biliera Johnson, read the speaker guidelines and called each speaker to begin their comments and provided each speaker with three minutes to speak.

In accordance with the City Council Rules of Procedure, the city council provided "open microphone" opportunities for the following individuals to comment on matters that were scheduled on the city council committee agenda or to present concerns or address issues that were not matters for consideration listed on the posted meeting agenda:

Open Microphone – Beginning of Meeting:

SPEAKER: Yolanda Williams (Videoconference)
SUBJECT: Ethics reform/task force recommendation

SPEAKER: Alexandria Stein (In-Person)
SUBJECT: Racist misgendering

SPEAKER: Kevin Felder (Videoconference)
SUBJECT: Council Ad Hoc Committee

SPEAKER: Rabbi Debra Robbins (Videoconference)
SUBJECT: Ethics reform

SPEAKER: Anna Offit (Videoconference)
SUBJECT: Ethics reform proposal

During commentary from speaker Kevin Felder, Councilmember Paula Blackmon raised a point of order as he was not speaking germane on the topic of ethics. Chair Mendelson read a section of the speaker rules to which he readdressed his comments.

Chair Mendelsohn announced a revised schedule:

- Thursday, November 4th, 1pm - agenda to include public input on ethics, ethics experts, receive staff comments, possibly an additional item about data loss; and approval of meeting minutes from October 14th and 21st meetings
- Thursday November 18th, 4pm - agenda to include ethics, public input, and review proposed ordinance and data loss
- Thursday, December 2nd, 1pm – agenda to include ethics if needed and data loss, if needed.

Chair Mendelsohn also encouraged everyone to sign up and speak at future Ad Hoc Committee on General Investigating and Ethics meetings about ethics reform by contacting the City Secretary's Office.

Before the presentation of the City of Dallas Ethics Reform Task Force report and recommendations, Chair Mendelsohn thanked all the members of the Ethics Reform Task Force for their time, commitment, and reporting. Members are:

Timothy E. Powers, Hayne and Boone, LLP – Chair
Elizabeth B. Gibson, Toyota Motor North America, Inc.
Daniel J. Micciche, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, LLP, and Dallas ISD Board of Trustees
Professor Anna Offit, SMU Dedman School of Law
Professor Thomas P. Perkins, Jr., UNT Dallas College of Law
Rabbi Debra J. Robbins, Temple Emanu-El

A. City of Dallas Ethics Reform Task Force report and recommendations

[Tim Powers, Chair, Ethics Reform Task Force]

[Thomas Perkins, former City Attorney and UNT Dallas College of Law]

Mr. Powers presented an overview of the City of Dallas Ethics Reform Task Force report and spoke briefly summarizing the report's four core recommendations:

1. Establish Office of Inspector General for Complaint Handling and Oversight.
2. Foster Top-Down Culture of Ethical Excellence and Integrity
3. Simplify and Clarify the Ethics Code
4. Improve Reporting Transparency

Mr. Perkins spoke briefly regarding the report and stated the primary focus and top core recommendation was on the establishment of Office of Inspector General for Complaint Handling and Oversight.

Chair Mendelsohn opened the floor for discussion and/or questions and answers from committee members to task force members. Questions from councilmembers ranged from sources used to develop report, timeframe on establishment of an Office of Inspector General, staff concerns and future implementation plans.

After discussion and Q & A concluded, Chair Mendelsohn thanked everyone for their participation. Next meeting would include feedback from staff and other councilmembers to share with task force members seeking their review and input on ethics reform.

Meeting adjourned at 3:13pm

APPROVED BY:



**Cara Mendelsohn, Chair
Ad Hoc Committee on General Investigating
and Ethics**

ATTESTED BY:



**Monica Anderson, Coordinator
Ad Hoc Committee on General Investigating
and Ethics**

DRAFT