

KAMALA D. HARRIS
Attorney General

State of California
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



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April 13, 2015

Terry L. White, Chief Deputy
Office of the City Attorney
1685 Main Street, Room 310
Santa Monica, California 90401

Dear Mr. White:

We received your April 7, 2015 letter and enclosures from a citizens group alleging that Mayor Pamela O'Connor repeatedly violated a city ordinance. As we understand it, the ordinance generally prohibits a public official from accepting campaign funds from entities that received a public benefit as a result of the official's vote.

You included a letter from the District Attorney's Office declining to take up the complaint, although your office perceived a conflict of interest in the City Attorney investigating and possibly prosecuting a member of the City Council. We recognize the potential for conflict if the City Attorney herself, who serves at the Council's pleasure, personally handles the matter. We concur with the District Attorney's Office, though, that the assignment of a deputy city attorney who is properly insulated from the rest of your office and the City Council should obviate any conflict concerns.

Thank you for bringing the matter to our attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lance Winters", written over a horizontal line.

LANCE E. WINTERS
Senior Assistant Attorney General

For KAMALA D. HARRIS
Attorney General

2015 APR 16 AM 11:07

1685 MAIN ST. CA 90401