

**SAN DIEGO ETHICS COMMISSION
STIPULATION, DECISION, AND ORDER
Lobbyist Campaign Disclosure Violation
(Streamlined Program)**

Petitioner, Executive Director of the San Diego Ethics Commission, and Respondent agree that this Stipulation, Decision, and Order (Stipulation) will be presented to the Commission at its next regularly scheduled meeting or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, as a final disposition of the disclosure violation described herein.

RESPONDENT: Downtown San Diego Partnership

CASE NO.: 2023-11

TYPE OF LOBBYIST: Organization Lobbyist

SAN DIEGO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION(S) VIOLATED: SDMC § 27.4017

DESCRIPTION OF VIOLATION: Failure to timely disclose a campaign contribution made by the lobbying firm's sponsored committee on a quarterly report.

QUARTERLY REPORT/S UNDER REVIEW: 3rd quarter 2022

AMENDMENTS FILED: Respondent has now filed all necessary amendments in conjunction with reaching this settlement.

MONETARY PENALTY: \$200

STATEMENT BY RESPONDENT:

I acknowledge that the violation of the SDMC described above has occurred and voluntarily request that the Ethics Commission resolve this matter by the imposition of the monetary penalty specified above. I acknowledge receipt of the *Statement of Respondent's Rights* and voluntarily waive all procedural rights to contest this matter in an administrative hearing. I have attached a check or money order made payable to the City Treasurer in the amount of the penalty described above.

Dated: _____ [REDACTED]
Josh Coyne, Vice President of Policy
Downtown San Diego Partnership

STATEMENT BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

I have reviewed the above Stipulation and recommend its approval.

Dated: _____ [REDACTED]
Sharon Spivak, Executive Director
San Diego Ethics Commission

DECISION AND ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

The Ethics Commission considered the above Stipulation at its August 17, 2023 meeting. The Ethics Commission hereby approves the Stipulation and orders that, per the Stipulation, the Respondent pay a fine in the amount of \$200.

Dated: _____ [REDACTED]
Caridad Sanchez, Chair
San Diego Ethics Commission

**SAN DIEGO ETHICS COMMISSION
STATEMENT OF RESPONDENT'S RIGHTS**

The Petitioner, Executive Director of the San Diego Ethics Commission, and Respondent(s), both identified by name on the Stipulation and Decision and Order, hereby agree that this Stipulation and Decision and Order will be submitted for consideration by the Ethics Commission at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

The parties agree to enter into this Stipulation to resolve all factual and legal issues raised in this matter by the Ethics Commission without the necessity of holding an administrative hearing to determine the liability of each Respondent named herein.

Each Respondent understands and knowingly and voluntarily waives any procedural rights under the San Diego Municipal Code (SDMC), including, but not limited to, a determination of probable cause, the issuance and receipt of an administrative complaint, the right to appear personally in any administrative hearing held in this matter, the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses testifying at the hearing, the right to subpoena witnesses to testify at the hearing, and the right to have the Ethics Commission or a volunteer hearing officer hear this matter.

Each Respondent agrees to hold the City of San Diego harmless from any claims or damages resulting from the Commission's investigation, this stipulated agreement, or any related matter. Each Respondent further agrees that the terms of this Stipulation constitute compliance with the provisions of SDMC § 26.0450 in that the Stipulation includes a recitation of facts, a reference to each violation, and an order.

It is further stipulated and agreed that each Respondent has violated the Municipal Lobbying Ordinance as described in the Stipulation.

Each Respondent acknowledges that this Stipulation is not binding upon any other law enforcement or government agency and does not preclude the Ethics Commission from referring this matter to, cooperating with, or assisting any other law enforcement or government agency regarding this or any other related matter.

The parties agree that if the Ethics Commission refuses to accept this Stipulation, it shall become null and void. Respondent further agrees that if the Ethics Commission rejects the Stipulation and a full evidentiary hearing before it becomes necessary, no member of the Ethics Commission or its staff shall be disqualified because of prior consideration of this Stipulation.

Each Respondent agrees to pay a fine in the amount specified in the Stipulation and Decision and Order. Respondent will submit a check or money order in said amount, *payable to the City Treasurer*, with the Stipulation and Decision and Order pending Commission approval of this Stipulation and execution of the Decision and Order. Each Respondent agrees to take necessary and prudent precautions to ensure compliance with all provisions of the City's lobbying laws in the future and acknowledges that the Ethics Commission may impose increased fines in connection with any future violations of the City's lobbying laws.