



# Memorandum

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND  
CITY COUNCIL**

**FROM: DENNIS HAWKINS, CMC**

**SUBJECT: WAIVER OF REVOLVING DOOR  
RESTRICTIONS**

**DATE: August 19, 2011**

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## RECOMMENDATION:

The Rules Committee consider a request for a Waiver of the Revolving Door Restriction under Municipal Code Section 12.10.070 for:

- a. Edith Ramirez, former Redevelopment Agency employee, finding that such a waiver is in the best interest of the City.
- b. Make a recommendation to the City Council as appropriate and forward the item to the full Council for action on August 30, 2011

## BACKGROUND:

The City Council adopted Ordinance 28074 on June 26, 2007 which revised San Jose Municipal Code Chapter 12.10 – Revolving Door Restrictions. As defined in SJMC 12.10.010, the purpose of the revolving door restrictions is to:

- A. To assure the independence, impartiality and integrity of city and agency officials and designated employees in making governmental decisions and taking governmental actions.*
- B. To prevent such former officials and designated employees from using their positions with the city or agency for personal gain.*
- C. To prevent private for-profit business entities from obtaining a real or perceived unfair advantage in dealing with the city or agency by hiring former officials and designated employees.*

Under Municipal Code Section 12.10.030, former officials and designated employees are prohibited for two years after terminating City or Redevelopment Agency employment from pursuing:

- A. Work on any legislative or administrative matter on which the official or employee worked on behalf of the city or agency during the twelve months prior to termination of service, or which was within the former city or agency official's or designated employee's area of job responsibility. "Work on any legislative or*

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*administrative matter" includes, but is not limited to, providing advice or recommending any action with regard to a city or agency legislative or administrative matter such as a project involving land use, development, or public works. Legislative matters include city council, agency board and city board or commission actions related to ordinances, resolutions, agreements, permits or licenses.*

*B. Represent anyone else on any matter, whether or not for compensation, before the city council, redevelopment agency board, any commission thereof, any individual member of the city council, redevelopment agency board, or commission, or any staff of the city or agency.*

The ordinance has exceptions to the prohibitions for (a) employees or volunteers of specified nonprofit organizations; (b) an employee or official of a government entity; or (c) an independent contractor who provides transitional services where it has been determined to be in the best interest of the City or Agency.

The most recent Council action regarding the City's revolving door restrictions took place on December 15, 2009. While considering the Mayor's Biennial Ethics Review, the Council approved a streamlined approach to respond to requests for waivers from former employees. The new process contemplates a review of the request by and a recommendation from the Rules and Open Government Committee to the full Council.

**ANALYSIS:**

Edith Ramirez, a former employee of the Redevelopment Agency who was separated from the Agency due to staffing reductions, has requested approval of a waiver of the revolving door requirements by the Council. Under the expedited process, the Rules Committee is responsible to consider the facts or merits in Ms. Ramirez's situation and make a recommendation to the Council.

In Ms. Ramirez's case, she has requested a blanket waiver of the revolving door restrictions so that she may start a consulting business to provide a variety of services to public agencies, non-profit organizations, and private businesses. Her letter is attached.

At this time, it is not clear who Ms. Ramirez's clients will be, what specific services she will provide to them, and whether such work is in the City's interests. In reviewing other similar waiver requests, the former employee has been performing work that meets an interest of the City, involves services the City has contracted for through an independent third party following competitive processes and/or the services provided do fulfill a governmental purpose and need. The City Council may waive the Revolving Door Ordinance prohibitions if the Council finds that such a waiver is in the best interest of the City and is consistent with the purposes of the ordinance.

**PUBLIC OUTREACH**

This item does not meet any of the criteria outlined below. However, the memo has been posted on the City Clerk's website as a part of the August 24, 2011 Rules Committee Meeting Agenda and a subsequent Council Agenda.

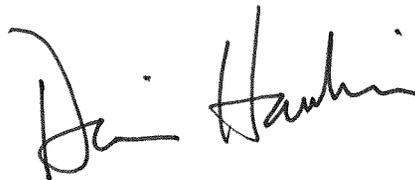
- Criterion 1: Requires Council action on the use of public funds equal to \$1 million or greater. (Required: Website Posting)
  
- Criterion 2: Adoption of a new or revised policy that may have implications for public health, safety, quality of life, or financial/economic vitality of the City. (Required: E-mail and Website Posting)
  
- Criterion 3: Consideration of proposed changes to service delivery, programs, staffing that may have impacts to community services and have been identified by staff, , or a Community group that requires special outreach. (Required: E-mail, Website Posting, Community Meetings, Notice in appropriate newspapers)

**COORDINATION**

This memorandum has been coordinated with the Office of the City Attorney.

**CEQA**

Not a project



DENNIS D. HAWKINS, CMC  
City Clerk

For questions, please contact Dennis Hawkins, City Clerk, at 408-535-1275.



Edith Ramirez



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August 18, 2011

Mayor and City Council  
City of San Jose  
200 E. Santa Clara St.  
San Jose, CA 95113

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council:

Due to staff reductions at the Redevelopment Agency, my position, along with many others, was eliminated. Although I was laid off, I am still subject to the Revolving Door Policy. Therefore, I respectfully request a waiver of the Revolving Door Prohibition policy as provided under Chapter 12.10.070

It is my intention to begin my own consulting business and provide project management, government relations, community outreach, policy analysis, and contract management services to public agencies, non-profit organization and private companies.

I thank you for your consideration and I look forward to the opportunity to serve the City of San Jose once again.

Respectfully yours,

Edith Ramirez