

## CITY OF OAKLAND

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# SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL

### AGENDA REPORT

To: Oakland City Council

From: Executive Director, Public Ethics Commission

Date: February 1, 2005

Re: A Report and Recommendation From The Public Ethics Commission To

Amend Chapter 3.13 Of The Oakland Municipal Code (aka "The Limited Public Financing Act") To Provide, Among Other Things, That 1) Matching

Funds Be Available Only To Candidates For City Council And The

Oakland School Board; 2) The Maximum Amount Which A Candidate May Receive In Matching Funds Be Raised From 15 percent to 25 Percent Of The Voluntary Expenditure Limit; 3) Require Candidates To Collect Eligible Contributions Only From Sources Located Within The City Of Oakland; 4) Candidates May Receive An Initial Grant Of Matching Funds Upon A Determination Of Eligibility; And 5) Run-off Candidates Shall Be

Limited In The Receipt Of Matching Funds.

#### SUMMARY

At its regular meeting of January 4, 2005, the City Council considered proposals from the Oakland Public Ethics Commission ("Commission") and the City Council's Rules and Legislation Committee to amend the Limited Public Financing Act. The City Council directed Commission staff to provide separate "redline" versions of the proposals and to respond to several issues raised at the meeting.

A copy of the Commission's proposals is submitted in redline format as **Attachment 1**. A copy of how the Rules Committee's proposals would add to or supersede the Commission's proposals is submitted in redline format as **Attachment 2**.

The fiscal impacts and rationale for both sets of proposals were previously addressed in the City Council reports of November 18, 2004, and January 4, 2005.

#### **KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS**

To assist the City Council in evaluating the various proposals, Commission staff has prepared the following matrix summarizing the proposals and referencing them to the specific language contained in the redlines:

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SIGNIFICANT ISSUES TO	PEC PROPOSAL	RULES COMMITTEE PROPOSAL
DETERMINE	(REDLINE ATTACHMENT 1)	(REDLINE ATTACHMENT 2)
To what offices should matching funds apply?	All City Council races (including at-large); and School Board after state administration ends. Red 1; §3.13.060(A)	Only district City Council (not at-large); and School Board after state administration ends. Red 2; §3.13.060(A)
At what amount should matching funds be paid?	25 percent of voluntary expenditure ceilings. Red 1; §3.13.110(B)	30 percent of voluntary expenditure ceilings. Red 2; §3.13.110(B)
Should matching funds apply only to contributions raised from sources within the City of Oakland?	Yes; for contributions in which the donor's "principal residence" or "primary place of doing business" is located within the City. Red 1; §3.13.110(A)	No alternative proposal, but establishes specific definitions for "principal residence" and "primary place of doing business." Red 2; §3.13.040 Staff also recommends that the address printed on the check be deemed correct unless contradicted by clear evidence to the contrary. Red 2; §3.13.110(A)
Should the program provide initial, lump-sum grants to eligible candidates?	Yes; would provide an initial grant equaling 20 percent of the amount a candidate is allocated to receive upon certification of eligibility.  Red 1; §3.13.110(D)	Yes; but would split the grant to provide half upon certification of eligibility and the other half after candidate raises contributions totaling 10 percent of expenditure ceiling. Red 2; §3.13.110(E)
Should matching funds be provided to run-off candidates?	Partially; run-off candidates would receive only a lump-sum grant equaling 20 percent of the amount a candidate is allocated to receive upon certification of eligibility. No other funds shall be provided to run-off candidates.  Red 1; §3.13.110(E)	No alternative proposal.
Should the program match money orders and bank checks?	Yes; but only for contributions of less than \$100 and proof is provided ensuring the contributor used his or her own funds to buy the check or money order. Red 1; §3.13.080(G)	No; program should only match "two party" checks in which the name of the donor is printed on the check and the money is drawn from the account of the donor. Red 2; §3.13.040
Should candidates be required to file completed campaign statements as a condition of eligibility?	No proposal.	Yes; would require candidates to file completed campaign statements for each election in which they receive matching funds. Red 2; §3.13.080(G)
Should candidates be required to return any matching funds if they later return the contribution to the donor?	No proposal.	Yes; would require candidates to return within seven business days any matching funds that were based and received on a returned contribution.  Red 2; §3.13.110(D)

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The following discussion responds to issues raised at the January 4, 2005, City Council meeting:

# A. What Are The Best And Worse Case Budget Obligations Under The Two Proposals?

There are a number of factors that can affect funding for the public financing program under both the Commission's and the Rules Committee's proposals. The primary factors are the total number of candidates who choose to participate in the program and the amount each participating candidate ultimately qualifies to receive. These factors can be influenced, in turn, by the level of available funding (the more money available to candidates, the more candidates who may be encouraged to run), and by whether the program will only match contributions originating from sources located within the City (if only local contributions are matched, demand for available funds may be reduced.)

Commission staff previously provided projections demonstrating the potential costs for the June, 2006 election under both the Commission proposal and the Rules Committee proposal. These projections demonstrated costs under the Commission's proposal ranging from approximately \$185,625 on the high side to \$111,375 on the low side. Costs under the Rules Committee proposal ranged from \$222,750 on the high side to \$133,650 on the low side. High side estimates assume two candidates will receive 100 percent of available matching funds and one candidate would receive 50 percent of the amount to which he or she is entitled. Low side estimates assume one candidate will qualify for 100 percent and one candidate would qualify for 50 percent of available matching funds. The Rules Committee proposal is higher because of its proposed 30 percent match versus the Commission's 25 percent match.

Commission staff believes that if the City Council chooses to raise the amount of available matching funds from 15 percent to 25 or 30 percent of the voluntary expenditure ceiling, it is reasonable to expect that more candidates will participate in the program and thus require budgeted amounts close to the "high side" projections. This does not mean, however, that the City's financial liability under the program is unlimited. Because funds are budgeted and allocated to the program before the nomination period opens, the City's financial liability is fixed at the budgeted amount. The Commission is already authorized to allocate available matching funds to candidates on a "pro rata or other equitable basis" if the amount of money allocated is not sufficient to provide the maximum amount of funds to all participants. Thus the Commission can still administer the program with the funds the City Council chooses to provide even if it means that candidates may not actually receive the full amount for which they would otherwise be entitled.

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#### B. How Will Future Audits Be Handled?

Post-election reviews or audits of campaign spending are essential to the success and integrity of any matching fund program. Every jurisdiction known to offer public financing conducts some form of financial review after the election. Both San Francisco and Los Angeles have dedicated auditors assigned to this task although their workloads reportedly far exceed their current capacities.

Following the 2002 elections, the Oakland City Auditor's Office suspended its ongoing audits of participating campaigns on grounds that the City was not funding the office for its costs. Commission staff ultimately had to rely on candidates' FPPC campaign statements to review campaign contributions and expenditures of participating candidates.

Looking ahead to the 2006 election, Commission staff intends to work with the City's Budget Office and City Auditor's Office to ensure that a portion of the money allocated for public financing is reserved and available for auditing costs and that a protocol for campaign auditing is established before the election takes place. Finally, the Rules Committee's proposal to require all participating candidates to file timely and complete campaign statements as a condition of receiving matching funds should help to ensure better campaign reporting that will assist the auditing process.

# C. What Effect Will The Proposal To Match Only Local Contributions Have On Contributions From Statewide Labor Organizations?

The Commission is proposing that only contributions originating from donors whose "principal residence" or whose "primary place of doing business" is located within the City of Oakland be matched. The Rules Committee sought language defining and clarifying these terms. The "primary place of doing business" is proposed as the street address for the organization's principal office as filed with the California Secretary of State. Commission staff further recommends that the address printed on the check be deemed correct unless contradicted by clear evidence to the contrary.

Concern was raised at the last City Council meeting that contributions from local labor organizations may not be matchable under the proposal if a labor union's political contribution originates from the union's statewide office not located within Oakland. (The same situation would also apply to a corporate contribution from a local or branch office if the check was issued from the business' headquarters located outside the City.)

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The above issue raises the policy question of whether to match only "Oakland" contributions (as defined), and, if so, whether to create an additional exception that would match contributions from "local" sources where the entity's "primary" business office may be located outside the City. While such an exception can be drafted, it may create additional work in administering the program by requiring independent confirmation of whether there is a local business presence despite the address printed on the check. As a frame of reference, Commission staff personally reviewed and analyzed more than 3,500 checks during the 2002 election. Processing claims could be slowed if Commission staff must perform additional inquiries to verify a local business or organizational presence.

# D. What is The Effect Of Independent Expenditures On Public Financing Programs?

There are a number of asserted benefits associated with public campaign financing. Among the most commonly cited benefits are to increase competition by providing candidates with additional resources to run; to lessen the dependence on contributions from "special interests;" to reduce the time spent on campaign fundraising; to create incentives for candidates to voluntarily limit campaign spending; and to "level the playing field" among candidates for a particular office. A question was raised over the extent to which independent expenditures frustrated the benefits of a public financing program.

An "independent expenditure" is generally defined as payments made for communications which expressly advocate the nomination, election, or defeat of a clearly identified candidate but which is not made "to or at the behest of" a candidate or committee. The courts have generally ruled that independent expenditures represent a form of political speech strongly protected under the First Amendment and thus largely immune from local laws seeking to regulate the money raised or spent for such communications. Thus in an Oakland election in which all candidates have agreed to limit spending and receive public funding, any competitive balance can be disrupted if one or more candidates benefits (or becomes disadvantaged) from unregulated independent expenditures. (The same situation can result from "slate mail," which is not regulated as a campaign contribution or expenditure under state law, or from the use of so-called "issue ads.")

There are few effective policy responses available to these various "third-party" expenditures. Under the Los Angeles public financing program, candidates disadvantaged by a certain threshold of independent expenditures are entitled to a significant increase in matching funds and relief from spending ceilings. Such a policy would substantially increase the cost of Oakland's public financing program. Oakland, San Francisco and Los Angeles will also grant relief from spending ceilings in the event

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of significant independent expenditures, but these remedies do not currently apply to slate mail and are often inadequate when the independent expenditures occur close to the election. It is possible that with the growing use of absentee and mail-in ballots the use of third-party expenditures will become known earlier in the campaign process so that better remedies can be developed.

# E. How Can Participation In The Program Be Made Easier?

Some concern was raised whether the existing matching fund program was too complicated and not worth the effort to participate. As a "matching fund" program, candidates submit copies of checks to demonstrate that they have in fact received the contributions on which the payment of public funds are based. In addition, the Oakland program requires proof that the check was actually deposited into the campaign bank account to help ensure that the checks are not simply returned to the contributor uncashed as a way of defrauding the program. In addition to check copies and deposit receipts, candidates are required to submit on a Commission-created database the name, address, and contribution amount for every contribution submitted for matching funds. This database is essential to ensure that the same contribution is not matched twice during the campaign, and to permit Commission staff to scan for aggregated contributions that are not allowed under OCRA or the matching fund program. Commission staff provides extensive training, materials and assistance for all candidates who participate in the program.

Commission staff contacted several active campaign treasurers to solicit ideas how the application process could be made easier. All acknowledged the rationale for the current application procedures. One potential recommendation is to determine whether certain software used to file FPPC campaign statements can also be submitted instead of the Commission-created database. As long as the software provides the ability to search and sort data, such software could make it easier for some campaigns to apply for matching funds. Some of the Commission's proposed amendments, such as coordinating program deadlines with state filing deadlines, will help avoid duplicative work.

## SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Not applicable.

#### DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS

Not applicable.

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#### RECOMMENDATION AND ACTION REQUESTED:

The Oakland Public Ethics Commission recommends that the City Council adopt the amendments it initially proposed to the Limited Public Financing Act as contained in the attached redline. The City Council Rules and Legislation Committee recommends that the City Council consider the alternative proposals contained in this staff report.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel D. Purnell, Executive Director

**Public Ethics Commission** 

FORWARDED TO THE OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

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INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER	2005 JAN 20 CIPIATTIPE 52
ORDINANCE NO.	C.M.S.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING OAKLAND MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 3.13, THE LIMITED PUBLIC FINANCING ACT OF THE CITY OF OAKLAND, ORIGINALLY ADOPTED DECEMBER 14, 1999

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

# Article I. Findings and Purpose

#### 3.13.010 Title

This Act shall be known as the "Limited Public Financing Act of the City of Oakland."

# 3.13.020 Findings and Declarations

The findings of this Act are as follows:

- A. The financial strength of certain individuals or organizations should not enable them to exercise a disproportionate or controlling influence on the election of candidates.
- B. The rapidly increasing costs of political campaigns have forced many candidates to raise larger and larger percentages of money from interest groups with a specific financial stake in matters under consideration by city government. This has caused the public perception that votes are being improperly influenced by monetary contributions.
- C. High campaign costs are forcing officeholders to spend more time on fundraising and less time on the public's business. The constant pressure to raise contributions is distracting officeholders from urgent governmental matters.

# 3.13.030 Purpose of this Act

The purpose of this act is to accomplish the objectives stated in Oakland's Campaign Reform Act as follows:

- A. To ensure that all individuals and interest groups in our city have a fair and equal opportunity to participate in elective and governmental processes.
  - B. To reduce the influence of large contributors with a specific financial stake in matters

under consideration by the City of Oakland, and to counter the perception that decisions are influenced more by the size of contributions than by the best interests of the people of Oakland.

- C. To reduce the pressure on candidates to raise large campaign war chests for defensive purposes, beyond the amount necessary to communicate reasonably with voters.
  - D. To encourage competition for elective office.
- E. To allow candidates and office holders to spend a smaller proportion of their time on fundraising and a greater proportion of their time dealing with issues of importance to their constituents and the community.
- F. To ensure that serious candidates are able to raise enough money to communicate their views and positions adequately to the public, thereby promoting public discussion of important issues involved in political campaigns.
  - G. To help preserve public trust in governmental and electoral institutions.

#### Article II. Definitions

# 3.13.040 Interpretation of this Act

Unless the term is specifically defined in this Act or the contrary is stated or clearly appears from the text, the definitions set forth in Chapter 3.12 of the Oakland Municipal Code and in Government Code sections 81000 et seq. as amended govern the interpretation of this Act.

For purposes of this Act, contributions shall be "matchable contributions" only if they are: 1) the first \$100 or less of a contribution received and deposited by the candidate for the office being sought from each contributor to the candidate or the candidate's controlled committee and 2) received no more than one-hundred eighty (180) days before the date of the election.

# Article III. Election Campaign Fund

## 3.13.050 Election Campaign Fund

There is hereby established an account within a special revenue fund of the City of Oakland to be known as the "Election Campaign Fund."

# 3.13.060 Appropriation of Funds

A. The Oakland City Council shall appropriate to the Election Campaign Fund, under the City's current two year budget cycle, an amount sufficient to fund all candidates for city office eligible to receive limited matching funds for the following City offices: City Councilmember-at-large, District City Councilmember and School Board Director. Notwithstanding this or any other provision of law, this Act shall not apply to the elected office of School Board Director until the first election after the Oakland Unified School district regains all of its rights, duties and powers upon

the completion of the from the Election Campaign Fund conditions set forth in 2003 Cal. Stats., Chapter 14, Section 5.

- B. The Oakland Public Ethics Commission shall provide in the form and at the time directed by the Mayor and City Manager a written estimate of the amount necessary to be appropriated for any two-year budget cycle according to the provisions of this Act for all eligible candidates. The amount of funds to be allocated to the Election Campaign Fund shall be based on a consideration of anticipated campaign activity, anticipated administrative costs, and existing unspent funds within the account. The amount of funds to be allocated to the Election Campaign Fund shall not exceed \$460,000 for any two-year budget cycle, except that the allocation may exceed \$460,000 to reflect changes in the consumer price index. The Public Ethics Commission may limit the allocation of funds for any primary election to assure that sufficient funds remain available for the general election.
- C. The Election Campaign Fund shall be established as an interest bearing account. Unspent funds in the Election Campaign Fund at the end of a two year budget cycle shall remain in the Fund and accrue for disbursement to candidates eligible for matching funds in future elections and for administrative costs pursuant to subsection 3.13.060(d) below. In no event shall additional allocations to the Fund be made to cause the available balance in the Fund to exceed five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000), to include allocations made to the Public Ethics Commission pursuant to subsection 3.13.060(d) below.
- D. Up to 7.5% of the amount allocated to the Election Campaign Fund pursuant to subsections 3.13.060 (a) and (b) may be utilized by the Public Ethics Commission to cover the anticipated cost of administering the provisions of this Act. The Public Ethics Commission shall make a sufficient proportion of such funds available to the City Auditor to conduct compliance reviews as provided in section 3.13.100.

# Article IV. Eligibility for Matching Funds

# 3.13.070 Application and Withdrawal Procedures

- A. Each candidate for city office<del>no later than the time of filing his or her declaration of candidacy,</del> shall file a statement with the City Clerk on a form approved for such purpose indicating acceptance or rejection of the voluntary spending ceilings underpursuant to Oakland Municipal Code sectionSection 3.12.190.
- B. A candidate who intends to accept public matching funds from the Election Campaign Fund shall sign an oath under penalty of perjury that the candidate and the candidate's controlled committee have, to the best of his or her knowledge, complied with all applicable contribution and expenditure limitations under the Oakland Campaign Reform Act and intends to comply with such contribution and expenditure limitations at all times in which the limitations apply.
- C. If a candidate declines to accept the voluntary expenditure ceilings prescribed in Oakland Municipal Code section Section 3.12.200, the candidate shall be subject to the contribution limits of Sections 3.12.050(a) and 3.12.060 (a) and shall not be eligible for matching funds.

- D. If a candidate agrees to accept the voluntary expenditure ceilings prescribed in Oakland Municipal Code, section Code Section 3.12.200, the candidate shall be subject to the contribution limits of Oakland Municipal Code sections 3.12.050 (c) and 3.12.060 (c) Sections 3.12.050(c) and 3.12.060(d) as adjusted pursuant to sections Sections 3.12.050(d) and 3.12.060(d), and shall be eligible for public matching funds upon meeting the qualification requirements as provided in this Act.
- E. A candidate who agrees to accept the expenditure ceilings in Oakland Municipal Code section 3.12.200 shall not change the decision, unless an opposing candidate files a statement of rejection, or as otherwise provided in Oakland Municipal Code section Section 3.12.220. In the event an opposing candidate files a statement of rejection, any candidate for the same office may rescind his or her acceptance within 10 calendar days of the deadline for filing nomination papers, provided that the candidate has not accepted any contributions in amounts greater than the limitations set forth in Oakland Municipal Code section 3.12.050 (a) and 3.12.060(a). Any candidate rescinding his or her acceptance of the expenditure ceilings shall not be eligible for public matching funds. In the event expenditures ceilings are lifted pursuant to Oakland Municipal Code section Section 3.12.220, a candidate who accepted expenditure ceilings shall be permitted to continue receiving matching public funds but shall no longer be subject to expenditure ceilings.

#### 3.13.080 Qualification Procedures

An eligible candidate shall be approved to receive public matching funds if the candidate meets all of the following requirements:

- A. The candidate has filed a timely statement of acceptance of the voluntary spending ceilings and acceptance of public matching funds.
- B. The candidate is certified to appear on the ballot for the election for which matching funds are sought.
- C. Any disclosures required by the Public Ethics Commission to be filed by the candidate or candidate's controlled committee indicate that the The candidate has received matchable contributions in an aggregate amount of at least 5 percent of the expenditure ceiling for the office being sought from contributors whose principal residence or whose primary place of doing business is located within the City of Oakland and which residence sought. Matchable contributions shall consist of only the first \$100 or less of a contribution or contributions received and deposited by the candidate for the office sought from each individual contributor to the candidate or candidate's controlled committee and do not include any contributions received eighty eight or more days prior to closing of the nomination period for the office sought or business address appears on the written instrument used to make the contribution. Contributions from the candidate's own funds shall not be counted towards meeting this 5 percent threshold.
- D. The candidate is opposed by another candidate for the same office who has qualified for matching funds, or the candidate is opposed by another candidate for the same office who has received contributions or made expenditures or has cash on hand in an amount of at least 7 percent of the voluntary expenditure ceiling for that office.

- E. The candidate agrees to all conditions and requirements of the use of public funds set forth in the Act and submits to any reasonable audits or compliance reviews deemed appropriate by the Public Ethics Commission or other civil authorities.
- F. The candidate or his or her campaign treasurer or designee attends a training program conducted or sponsored by the Public Ethics Commission. The Public Ethics Commission shall conduct or sponsor at least three training programs before the nomination period closes in any general municipal election.
- G. Any contribution of less than \$100 submitted for matching funds shall, at a minimum, contain the name of the donor, the name of the payee, and be drawn from the account of the donor or drawn from the account of the financial institution to which the donor provided his or her own funds for the purpose of purchasing the financial instrument used to make the contribution. The Public Ethics Commission may require any reasonable proof that the donor used his or her own funds to purchase the financial instrument that was used to make a contribution submitted for matching funds and to verify residency or business location for purposes of Section 3.13.110(A).

#### 3.13.090 Use of Personal Funds

Unless the voluntary expenditure ceilings are lifted in accordance with Oakland Municipal Code section 3.12.220, a candidate who accepts public matching funds shall not received contribution or contributions or loans from the candidate's own funds that exceed which aggregate total exceeds 5 percent of the voluntary expenditure ceiling for the office being sought. If the voluntary expenditure ceilings for the office being sought are lifted, this provision shall not apply.

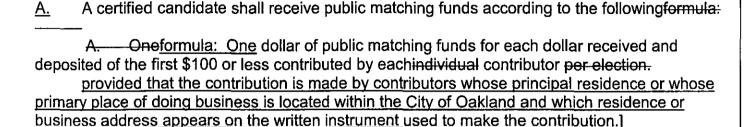
## Article V. Disbursement of Public Matching Funds.

#### 3.13.100 Duties of the Public Ethics Commission

- A. The Public Ethics Commission shall develop any and all forms necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act, including forms for statements of acceptance or rejection of expenditure ceilings and forms for candidate requests for public matching funds. The Public Ethics Commission may, in its discretion, require any document or form to be filed in an electronic format that is provided by the Public Ethics Commission to the candidates free of charge.
- B. The Public Ethics Commission shall cause the review of the statements of acceptance or rejection, nomination papers, requests for public subsidies and other campaign financial reports in a timely fashion to certify a candidate's eligibility to receive public matching funds.
- C. The certification of a candidate's eligibility for public matching funds shall provide the reasons why a candidate is or is not eligible, the amount of the public matching funds disbursed, and what actions a candidate may take to correct any insufficiencies.
- D. The City Auditor shall conduct mandatory audits or compliance reviews of all candidates accepting public matching funds. Audits or compliance reviews shall be conducted of other candidates only when necessary to determine if compliance with the eligibility requirements

of section 3.13.080(d) were met. The results of any audit(s) or compliance review(s) conducted shall be provided to the Public Ethics Commission. The City Auditor shall propose administrative standards for conducting audits and compliance reviews consistent with the requirements of this Act to be duly approved by resolution of the City Council.

# 3.13.110 Matching Fund Formula



- B. The total amount of public funds allocated to each candidate shall not exceed 45twenty-five (25) percent of the voluntary expenditure ceiling per election for the office being sought.
- C. In no event shall the Public Ethics Commission match a contribution which it has determined to be aggregated with a previously matched contribution from another person pursuant to Section 3.12.080.
- D. Upon certification of a candidate's eligibility, the candidate shall receive an initial lump-sum payment representing twenty percent of the total amount of available matching funds for which he or she is allocated to receive. Thereafter, a certified candidate shall receive matching funds according to the formula contained in Section 3.13.110(A).
- E. Each candidate who qualifies for a run-off election shall receive a lump-sum payment equal to the lump-sum payment he or she received pursuant to Section 3.13.110(D). No other matching funds shall be available to a run-off candidate.

## 3.13.120 Disbursement of Public Funds

- A. A candidate or candidate's controlled committee, certified as eligible to receive public matching funds, shall submit a request for public matching funds to the Public Ethics Commission each time a threshold of \$3,000 or more in matchable funds is reached.
- B. A candidate or candidate's controlled committee, certified as eligible to receive public matching funds, may submit a request for public matching funds of \$1,000 or more 10 calendar days before the election.
- C. The Public Ethics Commission shall have 10 calendar days to cause the review and approval or denial of the request and disburse the public funds to the candidate or candidate's controlled committee.
- D. The request for public matching funds shall be made on a form determined by the Commission, and shall include copies of each check eligible to be matched by public funds.

# 3.13.130 Deposit of Public Funds

All public funds shall be deposited directly into the candidate's campaign checking account.

# 3.13.140 Use of Matching Funds

Public matching funds may only be used for lawful qualified campaign expenditures incurred by a candidate during the election for which the funds were allocated.

# 3.13.150 Return of Matching Funds

- A. Public matching funds provided by this Act remain the property of the City until disbursed or encumbered for lawful qualified campaign expenditures.
- B. Unencumbered matching funds must be returned to the Election Campaign Fund within thirty (30)no later than thirty-one (31) calendar days from the day following the defeat, withdrawal or election to office by the certified candidate.earlier of the last day of the semi-annual reporting period following the election, or the candidate's withdrawal from the election. Any unencumbered campaign funds remaining after the defeat, withdrawal or election to office by the certified candidate, as of the last day of the semi-annual reporting period following the up to the amount of matching funds received for that election by thecandidate, election, or the candidate's withdrawal from the election, shall be considered unencumbered matching funds to be returned to the Election Campaign Fund pursuant to this section.

  Fund, up to the amount of matching funds received for that election by the candidate.
- C. Public matching funds shall not be disbursed to the certified candidate from the Election Campaign Fund to match any contribution following the defeat, withdrawal, or election to office by the candidate except that public matching funds may be disbursed to a certified candidate after the date of the election for which matching funds are sought provided that the candidate submitted a properly documented claim form for public matching funds before the date of the election.

# 3.13.160 Proof of Payment

- A. Each certified candidate or candidate's controlled committee which received public matching funds shall provide to the Public Ethics Commission sufficient proof of all disbursements made from matching funds no later than the due date for the next campaign finance report.
- B. The Public Ethics Commission shall determine what constitutes sufficient proof of payment.

#### 3.13.170 Public Debates

While not a condition for receiving matching funds, candidates receiving public matching funds are strongly encouraged to participate in one or more nonpartisan candidate debates for each election.

#### 3.13.180 Enforcement

The Public Ethics Commission is the sole body for civil enforcement of this Act. In the event criminal violations of the Act come to the attention of the Public Ethics Commission, the Commission shall promptly advise in writing the City Attorney and the appropriate prosecuting enforcement agency.

#### 3.13.190 Criminal Misdemeanor Actions

Any person who knowingly or willfully 1) misrepresents his or her eligibility for matching funds, 2) violates sections 3.13.090, 3.13.130, 3.13.140 or 3.13.150(b), or 3) causes, aids or abets any other person to violate the provisions set forth in this section, is guilty of a misdemeanor. Prosecution shall be commenced within four (4) years after the date on which the violation occurred.

#### 3.13.200. Enforcement Actions

- A. Any person who intentionally or negligently 1) misrepresents his or her eligibility for matching funds, 2) violates sections 3.13.130, 3.13.140 or 3.13.150(b), or 3) causes, aids or abets any other person to violate the provisions set forth in this section, is subject to enforcement proceedings before the Public Ethics Commission pursuant to the Public Ethics Commission General Rules of Procedure.
- B. If two or more persons are responsible for any violation, they shall be jointly and severally liable.
- C. Any person alleging a violation of this Act shall first file with the Public Ethics Commission a written complaint on a form approved for such purpose. The complaint shall contain a statement of the grounds for believing a violation has occurred. The Public Ethics Commission shall review, investigate and make determinations regarding any alleged violation consistent with the Public Ethics Commission's General Complaint Procedures.
- D. The Commission has full authority to settle any action involving public matching funds in the interest of justice.
- E. If the Commission determines a violation has occurred, the Commission is hereby authorized to administer appropriate penalties and fines not to exceed \$1,000 per violation and to order the repayment of matching funds received or expended in violation of law.
- F. The Public Ethics Commission may sue for injunctive relief to enjoin violations or to compel compliance with the provisions of this Act.
- G. No complaint alleging a violation of any provision of this Act shall be filed more than two (2) years after the date the violation occurred.

#### 3.13.220 Construction

The Act shall be liberally construed to accomplish its purposes.

# 3.13.240 Applicability of Other Laws

Nothing in this Act shall exempt any person from applicable provisions of any other laws of the city, state or other appropriate jurisdiction.

# 3.13.260 Severability

If any provision of this Act, or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance, shall be held invalid, the remainder of this Act to the extent it can be given effect, or the application of such provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is held invalid, shall not be affected thereby, and to this extent the provisions of this Act are severable.

#### 3.13.270 Effective Date

The effective date of this Act shall be January 1, 2001.

# 3.13.280 Effect On Run-Off Municipal Elections.

Chapter 3.13 of this Code (Sections 3.13.010 - 3.13.260, inclusive) shall have no effect for the 2004 general and runoff municipal elections.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, (DATE), 2001

#### PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES- BRUNNER, CHANG, BROOKS, NADEL, REID, WAN, QUAN, AND PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE

NOES-

ABSENT-

ABSTENTION-

ATTEST:

CEDA FLOYD
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER	
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OFFACEROVEDASON	TORMAND LEGALITY
OAKLAND	former
2005 JAN 20 PM	CHAHORNEY

ORDINANCE	NO.	C.M.S.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING OAKLAND MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 3.13, THE LIMITED PUBLIC FINANCING ACT OF THE CITY OF OAKLAND, ORIGINALLY ADOPTED DECEMBER 14, 1999

WHEREAS, the Limited Public Financing Act Of The City Of Oakland (hereinafter the "Act") was passed by the City Council on December 14, 1999 and became effective on January 1, 2001; and

WHEREAS, the City Council duly considered and adopted at its regular meeting of November 28, 2000, a report from the Oakland Public Ethics Commission proposing various specific amendments to the Act and administrative regulations thereto; and

WHEREAS, the City Council intends for such amendments to the Act to apply to the District Six special election to be held on April 17, 2001;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, that Oakland Municipal Code Chapter 3.13 is amended to read as follows:

# Article I. Findings and Purpose

#### 3.13.010 Title

This Act shall be known as the "Limited Public Financing Act of the City of Oakland."

## 3.13.020 Findings and Declarations

The findings of this Act are as follows:

- A. The financial strength of certain individuals or organizations should not enable them to exercise a disproportionate or controlling influence on the election of candidates.
- B. The rapidly increasing costs of political campaigns have forced many candidates to raise larger and larger percentages of money from interest groups with a specific financial stake in matters under consideration by city government. This has caused the public perception that votes are being improperly influenced by monetary contributions.
- C. High campaign costs are forcing officeholders to spend more time on fundraising and less time on the public's business. The constant pressure to raise contributions is distracting officeholders from urgent governmental matters.

# 3.13.030 Purpose of this Act

The purpose of this act is to accomplish the objectives stated in Oakland's Campaign Reform Act as follows:

- A. To ensure that all individuals and interest groups in our city have a fair and equal opportunity to participate in elective and governmental processes.
- B. To reduce the influence of large contributors with a specific financial stake in matters under consideration by the City of Oakland, and to counter the perception that decisions are influenced more by the size of contributions than by the best interests of the people of Oakland.
- C. To reduce the pressure on candidates to raise large campaign war chests for defensive purposes, beyond the amount necessary to communicate reasonably with voters.
  - D. To encourage competition for elective office.
- E. To allow candidates and office holders to spend a smaller proportion of their time on fundraising and a greater proportion of their time dealing with issues of importance to their constituents and the community.
- F. To ensure that serious candidates are able to raise enough money to communicate their views and positions adequately to the public, thereby promoting public discussion of important issues involved in political campaigns.
  - G. To help preserve public trust in governmental and electoral institutions.

#### Article II. Definitions

# 3.13.040 Interpretation of this Act

Unless the term is specifically defined in this Act or the contrary is stated or clearly appears from the text, the definitions set forth in Chapter 3.12 of the Oakland Municipal Code and in Government Code sections 81000 et seq. as amended govern the interpretation of this Act.

For purposes of this Act, contributions shall be "matchable contributions" only if they are: 1) the first \$100 or less of a contribution received and deposited by the candidate for the office being sought from each contributor to the candidate or the candidate's controlled committee, 2) received no more than one-hundred eighty (180) days before the date of the election, and 3) made on a financial instrument containing the name of the donor, the name of the payee and drawn on the account of the donor.

For purposes of this Act, "principal residence" shall mean the place in which a person's habitation is fixed, wherein the person has the intention of remaining, and to which, whenever he or she is absent, the person has the intention of returning.

For purposes of this Act, "primary place of doing business" shall mean the street address of a corporation's or association's principal executive office as filed with the California Secretary of

State or the street address of an unincorporated association's principal office as filed with the California Secretary of State.

# Article III. Election Campaign Fund

# 3.13.050 Election Campaign Fund

There is hereby established an account within a special revenue fund of the City of Oakland to be known as the "Election Campaign Fund."

# 3.13.060 Appropriation of Funds

- A. The Oakland City Council shall appropriate to the Election Campaign Fund, under the City's current two year budget cycle, an amount sufficient to fund all candidates for city office eligible to receive limited matching funds for the following City offices: District City Councilmember and School Board Director. Notwithstanding this or any other provision of law, this Act shall not apply to the elected office of School Board Director until the first election after the Oakland Unified School District regains all of its rights, duties and powers upon the completion of the conditions set forth in 2003 Cal. from the Election Campaign Fund. Stats., Chapter 14, Section 5(e).
- B. The Oakland Public Ethics Commission shall provide in the form and at the time directed by the Mayor and City Manager a written estimate of the amount necessary to be appropriated for any two-year budget cycle according to the provisions of this Act for all eligible candidates. The amount of funds to be allocated to the Election Campaign Fund shall be based on a consideration of anticipated campaign activity, anticipated administrative costs, and existing unspent funds within the account. The amount of funds to be allocated to the Election Campaign Fund shall not exceed \$460,000 for any two-year budget cycle, except that the allocation may exceed \$460,000 to reflect changes in the consumer price index. The Public Ethics Commission may limit the allocation of funds for any primary election to assure that sufficient funds remain available for the general election.
- C. The Election Campaign Fund shall be established as an interest bearing account. Unspent funds in the Election Campaign Fund at the end of a two year budget cycle shall remain in the Fund and accrue for disbursement to candidates eligible for matching funds in future elections and for administrative costs pursuant to subsection 3.13.060(d) below. In no event shall additional allocations to the Fund be made to cause the available balance in the Fund to exceed five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000), to include allocations made to the Public Ethics Commission pursuant to subsection 3.13.060(d) below.
- D. Up to 7.5% of the amount allocated to the Election Campaign Fund pursuant to subsections 3.13.060 (a) and (b) may be utilized by the Public Ethics Commission to cover the anticipated cost of administering the provisions of this Act. The Public Ethics Commission shall make a sufficient proportion of such funds available to the City Auditor to conduct compliance reviews as provided in section 3.13.100.

# Article IV. Eligibility for Matching Funds

# 3.13.070 Application and Withdrawal Procedures

- A. Each candidate for city office<del>no later than the time of filing his or her declaration of candidacy,</del> shall file a statement with the City Clerk on a form approved for such purpose indicating acceptance or rejection of the voluntary spending ceilings underpursuant to Oakland Municipal Code section 3.12.190.
- B. A candidate who intends to accept public matching funds from the Election Campaign Fund shall sign an oath under penalty of perjury that the candidate and the candidate's controlled committee have, to the best of his or her knowledge, complied with all applicable contribution and expenditure limitations under the Oakland Campaign Reform Act and intends to comply with such contribution and expenditure limitations at all times in which the limitations apply.
- C. If a candidate declines to accept the voluntary expenditure ceilings prescribed in Oakland Municipal Code section Section 3.12.200, the candidate shall be subject to the contribution limits of Sections 3.12.050(a) and 3.12.060 (a) and shall not be eligible for matching funds.
- D. If a candidate agrees to accept the voluntary expenditure ceilings prescribed in Oakland Municipal Code, section Code Section 3.12.200, the candidate shall be subject to the contribution limits of Oakland Municipal Code sections Sections 3.12.050 (e)(b) and 3.12.060 (e)(b) as adjusted pursuant to sections Sections 3.12.050(d) and 3.12.060(d),3.12.050(g) and 3.12.060(g), and shall be eligible for public matching funds upon meeting the qualification requirements as provided in this Act.
- E. A candidate who agrees to accept the expenditure ceilings in Oakland Municipal Code sectionSection 3.12.200 shall not change the decision, unless an opposing candidate files a statement of rejection, or as otherwise provided in Oakland Municipal Code sectionSection 3.12.220. In the event an opposing candidate files a statement of rejection, any candidate for the same office may rescind his or her acceptance within 10 calendar days of the deadline for filing nomination papers, provided that the candidate has not accepted any contributions in amounts greater than the limitations set forth in Oakland Municipal Code sectionSection 3.12.050 (a) and 3.12.060(a). Any candidate rescinding his or her acceptance of the expenditure ceilings shall not be eligible for public matching funds. In the event expenditures ceilings are lifted pursuant to Oakland Municipal Code sectionSection 3.12.220, a candidate who accepted expenditure ceilings shall be permitted to continue receiving matching public funds but shall no longer be subject to expenditure ceilings.

#### 3.13.080 Qualification Procedures

An eligible candidate shall be approved to receive public matching funds if the candidate meets all of the following requirements:

- A. The candidate has filed a timely statement of acceptance of the voluntary spending ceilings and acceptance of public matching funds.
- B. The candidate is certified to appear on the ballot for the election for which matching funds are sought.

- C. Any disclosures required by the Public Ethics Commission to be filed by the eandidate or candidate's controlled committee indicate that the The candidate has received matchable contributions in an aggregate amount of at least 5 percent of the expenditure ceiling for the office being sought from contributors whose principal residence or whose primary place of doing business is located within the City of Oakland and which residence sought. Matchable contributions shall consist of only the first \$100 or less of a contribution or contributions received and deposited by the candidate for the office sought from each individual contributor to the candidate or candidate's controlled committee and do not include any contributions received eighty eight or more days prior to closing of the nomination period for the office sought or business address appears on the written instrument used to make the contribution. Contributions from the candidate's own funds shall not be counted towards meeting this 5 percent requirement.
- D. The candidate is opposed by another candidate for the same office who has qualified for matching funds, or the candidate is opposed by another candidate for the same office who has received contributions or made expenditures or has cash on hand in an amount of at least 7 percent of the voluntary expenditure ceiling for that office.
- E. The candidate agrees to all conditions and requirements of the use of public funds set forth in the Act and submits to any reasonable audits or compliance reviews deemed appropriate by the Public Ethics Commission or other civil authorities.
- F. The candidate or his or her campaign treasurer or designee attends a training program conducted or sponsored by the Public Ethics Commission. The Public Ethics Commission shall conduct or sponsor at least three training programs before the nomination period closes in any general municipal election.
- G. The candidate has filed, and completely and accurately executed, all pre-election campaign statements that are due at the time matching funds are payable. All candidates receiving matching funds shall timely file, and completely and accurately execute, all post-election campaign statements for each election in which they received matching funds.

#### 3.13.090 Use of Personal Funds

Unless the voluntary expenditure ceilings are lifted in accordance with Oakland Municipal Code section Section 3.12.220, a candidate who accepts public matching funds shall not receive contribution or contributions or loans from the candidate's own funds that exceed which aggregate total exceeds 5 percent of the voluntary expenditure ceiling for the office being sought. If the voluntary expenditure ceilings for the office being sought are lifted, this provision shall not apply.

# Article V. Disbursement of Public Matching Funds.

## 3.13.100 Duties of the Public Ethics Commission

A. The Public Ethics Commission shall develop any and all forms necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act, including forms for statements of acceptance or rejection of expenditure ceilings and forms for candidate requests for public matching funds. The Public

Ethics Commission may, in its discretion, require any document or form to be filed in an electronic format that is provided by the Public Ethics Commission to the candidates free of charge.

- B. The Public Ethics Commission shall cause the review of the statements of acceptance or rejection, nomination papers, requests for public subsidies and other campaign financial reports in a timely fashion to certify a candidate's eligibility to receive public matching funds.
- C. The certification of a candidate's eligibility for public matching funds shall provide the reasons why a candidate is or is not eligible, the amount of the public matching funds disbursed, and what actions a candidate may take to correct any insufficiencies.
- D. The City Auditor shall conduct mandatory audits or compliance reviews of all candidates accepting public matching funds. Audits or compliance reviews shall be conducted of other candidates only when necessary to determine if compliance with the eligibility requirements of section 3.13.080(d) were met. The results of any audit(s) or compliance review(s) conducted shall be provided to the Public Ethics Commission. The City Auditor shall propose administrative standards for conducting audits and compliance reviews consistent with the requirements of this Act to be duly approved by resolution of the City Council.

# 3.13.110 Matching Fund Formula

tollowing <del>tormula:</del>
A. Oneformula: One dollar of public matching funds for each dollar received and
deposited of the first \$100 or less contributed by each <del>individual</del> contributor <del>per election.</del>
provided that the contribution is made by contributors whose principal residence or whose primary
place of doing business is located within the City of Oakland and which residence or business
address appears on the written instrument used to make the contribution. The address appearing
on the written instrument shall be presumed to be the contributor's principal residence or primary
place of doing business. No complaint shall be filed with the Public Ethics Commission unless
accompanied by evidence that demonstrates a high probability that the presumption is incorrect.

A certified candidate shall receive public matching funds according to the

- B. The total amount of public funds allocated to each candidate shall not exceed 45thirty (30) percent of the voluntary expenditure ceiling per election for the office being sought.
- C. In no event shall the Public Ethics Commission match a contribution which it has determined to be aggregated with a previously matched contribution from another person pursuant to Section 3.12.080.
- D. In the event matching funds are paid to a candidate based on a contribution that is returned to the donor for any reason, the candidate shall return to the Public Ethics Commission the amount received in matching funds based on the returned contribution no later than seven (7) business days after the contribution is returned to the donor.
- E. Upon certification of a candidate's eligibility, the candidate shall receive an initial lump-sum payment representing ten percent of the total amount of available matching funds for

which he or she is allocated to receive. An eligible candidate shall receive a second lump-sum payment in an amount equal to the initial lump-sum payment upon demonstration that he or she has received and deposited contributions totaling at least ten percent of the expenditure ceiling for the office being sought and which contributions originate from donors whose principal residence or primary place of doing business is located within the City of Oakland. Any lump-sum payment made pursuant to this section shall be inclusive of, and shall not cause a candidate to exceed, the total amount of available matching funds he or she is allocated to receive.

F. Each candidate who qualifies for a run-off election shall receive a lump-sum payment equal to the lump-sum payment he or she received pursuant to Section 3.13.110(E). No other matching funds shall be available to a run-off candidate.

#### 3.13.120 Disbursement of Public Funds

- A. A candidate or candidate's controlled committee, certified as eligible to receive public matching funds, shall submit a request for public matching funds to the Public Ethics Commission each time a threshold of \$3,000 or more in matchable funds is reached.
- B. A candidate or candidate's controlled committee, certified as eligible to receive public matching funds, may submit a request for public matching funds of \$1,000 or more 10 calendar days before the election.
- C. The Public Ethics Commission shall have 10 calendar days to cause the review and approval or denial of the request and disburse the public funds to the candidate or candidate's controlled committee.
- D. The request for public matching funds shall be made on a form determined by the Commission, and shall include copies of each check eligible to be matched by public funds.

## 3.13.130 Deposit of Public Funds

All public funds shall be deposited directly into the candidate's campaign checking account.

## 3.13.140 Use of Matching Funds

Public matching funds may only be used for lawful qualified campaign expenditures incurred by a candidate during the election for which the funds were allocated.

## 3.13.150 Return of Matching Funds

- A. Public matching funds provided by this Act remain the property of the City until disbursed or encumbered for lawful qualified campaign expenditures.
- B. Unencumbered matching funds must be returned to the Election Campaign Fund within thirty (30)no later than thirty-one (31) calendar days from the day following the defeat, withdrawal or election to office by the certified candidate earlier of the last day of the semi-annual reporting period following the election, or the candidate's withdrawal from the election. Any

unencumbered campaign funds remaining after the defeat, withdrawal or election to office by the certified candidate, as of the last day of the semi-annual reporting period following the up to the amount of matching funds received for that election by the candidate, election, or the candidate's withdrawal from the election, shall be considered unencumbered matching funds to be returned to the Election Campaign Fund pursuant to this section. Fund, up to the amount of matching funds received for that election by the candidate.

C. Public matching funds shall not be disbursed to the certified candidate from the Election Campaign Fund to match any contribution following the defeat, withdrawal, or election to office by the candidate except that public matching funds may be disbursed to a certified candidate after the date of the election for which matching funds are sought provided that the candidate submitted a properly documented claim form for public matching funds before the date of the election.

# 3.13.160 Proof of Payment

- A. Each certified candidate or candidate's controlled committee which received public matching funds shall provide to the Public Ethics Commission sufficient proof of all disbursements made from matching funds no later than the due date for the next campaign finance report.
- B. The Public Ethics Commission shall determine what constitutes sufficient proof of payment.

# 3.13.170 Public Debates

While not a condition for receiving matching funds, candidates receiving public matching funds are strongly encouraged to participate in one or more nonpartisan candidate debates for each election.

#### 3.13.180 Enforcement

The Public Ethics Commission is the sole body for civil enforcement of this Act. In the event criminal violations of the Act come to the attention of the Public Ethics Commission, the Commission shall promptly advise in writing the City Attorney and the appropriate prosecuting enforcement agency.

#### 3.13.190 Criminal Misdemeanor Actions

Any person who knowingly or willfully 1) misrepresents his or her eligibility for matching funds, 2) violates sections 3.13.090, 3.13.130, 3.13.140 or 3.13.150(b), or 3) causes, aids or abets any other person to violate the provisions set forth in this section, is guilty of a misdemeanor. Prosecution shall be commenced within four (4) years after the date on which the violation occurred.

#### 3.13.200. Enforcement Actions

A. Any person who intentionally or negligently 1) misrepresents his or her eligibility for matching funds, 2) violates sections 3.13.130, 3.13.140 or 3.13.150(b), or 3) causes, aids or abets

any other person to violate the provisions set forth in this section, is subject to enforcement proceedings before the Public Ethics Commission pursuant to the Public Ethics Commission General Rules of Procedure.

- B. If two or more persons are responsible for any violation, they shall be jointly and severally liable.
- C. Any person alleging a violation of this Act shall first file with the Public Ethics Commission a written complaint on a form approved for such purpose. The complaint shall contain a statement of the grounds for believing a violation has occurred. The Public Ethics Commission shall review, investigate and make determinations regarding any alleged violation consistent with the Public Ethics Commission's General Complaint Procedures.
- D. The Commission has full authority to settle any action involving public matching funds in the interest of justice.
- E. If the Commission determines a violation has occurred, the Commission is hereby authorized to administer appropriate penalties and fines not to exceed \$1,000 per violation and to order the repayment of matching funds received or expended in violation of law.
- F. The Public Ethics Commission may sue for injunctive relief to enjoin violations or to compel compliance with the provisions of this Act.
- G. No complaint alleging a violation of any provision of this Act shall be filed more than two (2) years after the date the violation occurred.

## 3.13.220 Construction

The Act shall be liberally construed to accomplish its purposes.

# 3.13.240 Applicability of Other Laws

Nothing in this Act shall exempt any person from applicable provisions of any other laws of the city, state or other appropriate jurisdiction.

#### 3.13.260 Severability

If any provision of this Act, or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance, shall be held invalid, the remainder of this Act to the extent it can be given effect, or the application of such provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is held invalid, shall not be affected thereby, and to this extent the provisions of this Act are severable.

#### 3.13.270 Effective Date

The effective date of this Act shall be January 1, 2001.

# 3.13.280 Effect On Run-off Municipal Elections

Chapter 3.13 of this code (Sections 3.13.010 - 3.13.260 inclusive) shall have no effect for the 2004 general and runoff municipal elections.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, (DATE), 2001

## PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES-

BROOKS, BRUNNER, CHANG, NADEL, QUAN, REID, WAN, AND

PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE

NOES-

ABSENT-

**ABSTENTION-**

ATTEST:

CEDA FLOYD
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California