

MINUTES
Citizens' General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee
January 22, 2009
Hearing Room 416 - City Hall
San Francisco, CA 94102

1) Call to Order, Roll Call

Ms. Maura Lane, Committee Assistant, called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. at which time a quorum was present. The inclement weather delayed several committee members. Mr. Garfinkel was absent. Informal reports on the Capital Plan and the Department of Public Works City Contracting Task Force were presented.

2) Welcome and introduction of new members

The new members of the Committee were introduced by Hunter Stern, Committee Chairman. The new members are: Robert Muscat, Abraham Simmons, Michelle Sexton and Egon Terplan. The Oath of Office was administered by Ms. Madeleine Licavoli, of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Office, to Mr. Simmons, Ms. Sexton and Mr. Terplan. Mr. Muscat will take the oath in February, pending approval by the Board of Supervisors.

The Committee elected new officers. Mr. Stern will continue as Committee Chair; Kristen Chu was elected Vice-Chair.

3) Status Report from the Controller's City Services Audits Division

Peg Stevenson provided a status report on current City audits and projects.

No public comment

4) Annual Whistleblower Report

Donna Crume presented the 2008 – 2009 Mid-Year Whistleblower Program Report and reviewed the contents of the 2-page report. She provided the Committee with background information regarding how the program works. The Whistleblower Program received 210 complaints from July 1st, 2008 – December 31, 2008, and closed 178 complaints during the same period. The 210 complaints received through the first half of the fiscal year represent a 36% increase over the same period last year. During the current period, 43% of complaints received were anonymous, while 57% included contact information. Of the complaints that did not include contact information, 69% were investigated while 31% of the anonymous complaints had insufficient detail to do meaningful follow-up work.

There were a number of questions from Committee members in regard to the types of examples provided in the report and whether they were representative of complaints received. Ms. Crume reiterated that, in general, the lack of contact information makes a difference in the ability to investigate and went on to remind the Committee that contact information is protected from disclosure and is used by the investigators to ask follow-up questions and/or relay results of the investigation.

Mr. Muscat followed up by expressing his opinion that – given all the kinds of activities in the City worthy of reporting and investigating – those in the newsletter seemed mild. He provided several examples of items that had been in local newsletters. Mr. Stern asked that a more comprehensive and substantive list of complaints received and the actions taken be provided in the next mid-year report.

No public comment

7) Report from the Chairman of the Committee

Mr. Stern welcomed the new and returning Committee members. He provided a brief overview of the circumstances that led to the formation of the Committee, its' scope of work and the challenges and opportunities offered in the coming year. In addition to the four regularly scheduled meetings, there will also be a special meeting in September.

8) Opportunity for the Committee to Discuss Other Business

The Committee discussed the draft 2009 Work Plan.

No public comment

9) Adjournment.

Mr. Stern adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.