



California
Fair Political
Practices Commission

October 5, 1987

Gregory G. Cowart, Chief of Police
City of Gilroy
7370 Rosanna Street
Gilroy, CA 95020

Re: Your Request for Assistance
Our File No. I-87-249

Dear Mr. Cowart:

You have requested information concerning conflicts of interest for appointed city employees who receive gratuities. We have no sample policies which specifically address that subject. However, the conflict-of-interest provisions of the Political Reform Act^{1/} require that all public officials with decision-making authority comply with disclosure and disqualification requirements regarding gratuities and other gifts.

Specifically, public officials at all levels of state and local government are required to (1) disclose gifts totaling \$50 or more from a single source in a calendar year and (2) disqualify from participating in any decision which will have a reasonably foreseeable material financial effect, distinguishable from the effect on the public generally, on the donor or intermediary of gifts totaling \$250 or more made or promised to them within the preceding 12 months. (Sections 87103, 87207 and 87302.) The conflict-of-interest provisions of the Political Reform Act are explained in greater detail in the enclosed pamphlet entitled "A Guide to the Political Reform Act of 1974 -- California's Conflict of Interest Law for Public Officials." Also enclosed is a copy of the Political Reform Act.

If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (916) 322-5901.

Sincerely,

Diane M. Griffiths
General Counsel

Kathryn E. Donovan

By: Kathryn E. Donovan
Counsel, Legal Division

KED:jaj
Enclosures

^{1/} Government Code Sections 81000-91015. All statutory references are to the Government Code unless otherwise indicated.