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CITY GOVERNMENT

Ethics panel formation takes shape

Long Beach officials are starting to move forward with guidelines, with a deadline for interested applicants set for June 7

By Hayley Munguia
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In November, 60% of Long Beach voters opted to create a city ethics commission.

Six months later, that commission still does not exist.

But Long Beach is moving to change that as officials on Tuesday announced that the city will accept applications for those interested in joining the new city panel. The deadline is June 7.

Mayor Robert Garcia and City Auditor Laura Doud expect to announce the chosen members later that month; the nominees ultimately will need City Council approval and are expected to take the oath of office in August.

"We want the ethics commission to be comprised of experts in public policy and law, governmental ethics, and campaign finance," Doud said in a statement. "Those who apply must be fair-minded, diligent and committed to ensuring

that the city adheres to ethical standards and to enhancing the ethical climate in the city."

Members will serve a four-year term and can be confirmed for one consecutive four-year term after that. Garcia and Doud each will choose two people for the seven-member body, and those four members then will choose the remaining three from a pool of qualified applicants.

Some restrictions on members are:

- They cannot concurrently hold elective office in Long Beach.

- They cannot work as an officer for a campaign for or against any candidate for elective office in Long Beach.

- They cannot simultaneously be a city employee.

- They cannot employ or be employed by anyone required to register as a city lobbyist.

To apply, go to longbeach.gov/mayor/action/commissions.

"Those who apply must be fair-minded, diligent and committed to ensuring that the city adheres to ethical standards and to enhancing the ethical climate in the city."

— City Auditor Laura Doud