



REPORT TO COUNCIL

City of Sacramento

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STAFF REPORT
September 13, 2005

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

Subject: Report Back on Functionality of On-Line Campaign Filing System

Location/Council District: Citywide

Recommendation: Receive and file.

Contact: Stephanie Mizuno, Assistant City Clerk, 808-8093
Shirley Concolino, City Clerk, 808-5442

Presenters: Stephanie Mizuno

Department: City Clerk's Office

Division: N/A

Organization No: 0700

Summary:

In February of 2004 the City Council directed staff to provide a report back on the reliability of data extracted from the OLCF system, as well as adding a disclosure statement to the web page advising users of the potential for inaccurate results.

Committee/Commission Action:

None.

Background Information:

On November 21, 2000 the City Council adopted a resolution requiring an electronic online campaign finance disclosure program. From that approval, and upon entering into an agreement with the City and County of San Francisco, the OLCF system was developed and implemented. The purpose of this system is two fold. First, it provides

an electronic system to prepare and submit campaign statements. Secondly, it is a tool to perform searches of the information contained in the campaign statements. This program is available to anyone via the internet.

During the 2004 election, the City Clerk's Office received feedback from customers advising that results from the search component of the system were inconsistent and/or inaccurate. In follow up to customer concerns, the system programming was reviewed and found to be functioning properly. It was also recognized that mandatory system upgrades that were occurring at the time could have temporarily created glitches in the system. However, tests of the system during the upgrade did not reveal programming problems. This upgrade was dictated by San Francisco and was required in order to comply with our service agreement. Despite these findings, a disclosure statement was added to the web page to advise users that results could be inaccurate. In addition, the Clerk's Office discovered that the structure of how the program was presented to the user was not organized in a friendly manner, and could lead to inaccurate results.

Based on review of the system and customer feedback, the City Clerk's Office will be modifying the structure of the program to provide for a more user-friendly environment and interface. This enhancement would include, but not be limited to: an introductory page explaining what the program can and cannot do; layering pages that separate the components that "create" a campaign statement and the "data search" tool; and eliminate the "open ended" search parameters to more specific search options.

It is anticipated that changes to the search component of the program will be completed in October of 2005.

Financial Considerations:

Modifying the search interface of the on-line campaign filing system will cost the city approximately \$6,000. The Clerk's Office has sufficient funds in the operating budget to cover this cost.

Environmental Considerations:

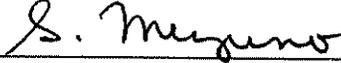
None.

Policy Considerations:

Modifying the on-line campaign filing system is consistent with Council direction to improve systems and procedures.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD):

None.

Respectfully Submitted by: 
Stephanie Mizuno
Assistant City Clerk

Recommendation Approved:

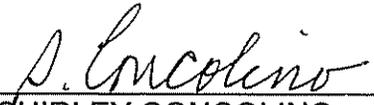

SHIRLEY CONCOLINO
City Clerk

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