



MEMORANDUM

TO: Anne Morgan, City Attorney
Luis Soberon, Chair of Ethics Review Commission
Teri Adams
Hanna Cofer

FROM: Stephanie Hall, Assistant City Clerk *SH*

DATE: April 19, 2023

SUBJECT: Sworn Complaint

The attached sworn complaint was received on April 19, 2023, in the Office of the City Clerk. It was filed by Teri Adams against Hanna Cofer. You are receiving a copy of the complaint because you were identified by the complainant as a person as someone who may have been involved or aware of the alleged inappropriate conduct.

Per City Code, Chapter 2-7-41(D), this letter serves as the Office of the City Clerk's acknowledgement that the complaint was received and as notice to all those named above, as required in the code.

Attachment

ETHICS REVIEW COMMISSION
CHAPTER 2-7 CITY CODE
COMPLAINT

OCC RECEIVED AT
APR 19 '23 PM1:14

NAME OF PERSON(S) FILING COMPLAINT: Teri Adams

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

PLEASE FILE A SEPARATE COMPLAINT FORM FOR EACH PERSON
COMPLAINED AGAINST.

NAME OF PERSON COMPLAINED AGAINST: Hanna Cofer

CITY OFFICE, DEPARTMENT, COMMISSION: Environmental Commission

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER [IF KNOWN]: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS [IF KNOWN]: _____

The Ethics Review Commission has jurisdiction to hear complaints alleging violation(s) of
the following provisions:

- City Code, Chapter 2-1, Section 2-1-24 (City Boards, Conflict of Interest and Recusal)
- City Code, Chapter 2-2 (Campaign Finance)
- City Code, Chapter 2-7 (Ethics and Financial Disclosure), except for Article 6 (Anti-lobbying and Procurement)
- City Code, Chapter 4-8 (Regulation of Lobbyists)
- City Charter, Article III, Section 8 (Limits on Campaign Contributions and Expenditures)

PLEASE LIST EACH ALLEGED VIOLATION OF THE ABOVE CITY CODE AND
CHARTER PROVISIONS SEPARATELY ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES.

I.

SECTION OF CHARTER OR ORDINANCE VIOLATED: _____

DATE OF ALLEGED VIOLATION: _____

ACTIONS ALLEGED TO BE A VIOLATION:

WITNESSES OR EVIDENCE THAT WOULD BE PRESENTED: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION OF ANY PERSON(S), OTHER THAN THE PERSON COMPLAINED AGAINST, WHO IS IDENTIFIED BY NAME ABOVE OR IN ANY ATTACHMENTS AS INVOLVED IN THE ALLEGED INAPPROPRIATE CONDUCT: (Leave blank if inapplicable.)

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS [IF KNOWN]: _____

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS [IF KNOWN]: _____

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS [IF KNOWN]: _____

II.

City Code, Chapter 2-1,
Section 2-1-24

SECTION OF CHARTER OR ORDINANCE VIOLATED:

DATE OF ALLEGED VIOLATION: April 5, 2023

ACTIONS ALLEGED TO BE A VIOLATION:

see attached document

WITNESSES OR EVIDENCE THAT WOULD BE PRESENTED:

This meeting was recorded and notes are public record.

CONTACT INFORMATION OF ANY PERSON(S), OTHER THAN THE PERSON COMPLAINED AGAINST, WHO IS IDENTIFIED BY NAME ABOVE OR IN ANY ATTACHMENTS AS INVOLVED IN THE ALLEGED INAPPROPRIATE CONDUCT: (Leave blank if inapplicable.)

NAME:

MAILING ADDRESS:

EMAIL ADDRESS [IF KNOWN]:

NAME:

MAILING ADDRESS:

EMAIL ADDRESS [IF KNOWN]:

NAME:

MAILING ADDRESS:

EMAIL ADDRESS [IF KNOWN]:

III.

SECTION OF CHARTER OR ORDINANCE VIOLATED: _____

DATE OF ALLEGED VIOLATION: _____

ACTIONS ALLEGED TO BE A VIOLATION:

WITNESSES OR EVIDENCE THAT WOULD BE PRESENTED: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION OF ANY PERSON(S), OTHER THAN THE PERSON COMPLAINED AGAINST, WHO IS IDENTIFIED BY NAME ABOVE OR IN ANY ATTACHMENTS AS INVOLVED IN THE ALLEGED INAPPROPRIATE CONDUCT: (Leave blank if inapplicable.)

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS [IF KNOWN]: _____

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS [IF KNOWN]: _____

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS [IF KNOWN]: _____

IV.

SECTION OF CHARTER OR ORDINANCE VIOLATED: _____

DATE OF ALLEGED VIOLATION: _____

ACTIONS ALLEGED TO BE A VIOLATION:

WITNESSES OR EVIDENCE THAT WOULD BE PRESENTED: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION OF ANY PERSON(S), OTHER THAN THE PERSON COMPLAINED AGAINST, WHO IS IDENTIFIED BY NAME ABOVE OR IN ANY ATTACHMENTS AS INVOLVED IN THE ALLEGED INAPPROPRIATE CONDUCT: (Leave blank if inapplicable.)

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS [IF KNOWN]: _____

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS [IF KNOWN]: _____

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS [IF KNOWN]: _____

[IF MORE ROOM IS NECESSARY, PLEASE CONTINUE ON A BLANK PAGE USING THE SAME FORMAT]

ALL THE STATEMENTS AND INFORMATION IN THIS COMPLAINT ARE TRUE AND FACTUAL TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

DATE: 4/19/2023

Teri Adams

COMPLAINANT'S SIGNATURE

Teri Adams

PRINT NAME

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

This instrument was acknowledged, sworn to and subscribed before me by

Teri Adams

On the 19 day of April, 2023, to certify which witness my hand and official seal.

Stephanie Hall
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

Stephanie Hall
Typed or Printed Name of Notary



THIS FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK.

Hall, Stephanie

From: Teri Adams <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 3:02 PM
To: Ethics & Compliance
Cc: Hall, Stephanie
Subject: Ethics complaint—Environmental Commission meeting April 5, 2023

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

***** External Email - Exercise Caution *****

To whom it may concern:

My name is Teri Adams, and I am writing to you because many people attending and watching online recordings of public hearings for the draft Zilker Vision Plan have been expressing concerns about perceived conflicts of interest (please see the attached infographic). I am calling this matter to your attention because the already controversial and unpopular draft vision plan is only being made worse by these concerns about these conflicts of interest.

I am requesting a formal review and a possible ethics review of the Zilker Park Vision Plan process and, particularly concerning, the new role and recent votes of Hanna Cofer on the Environmental Commission.

Ms. Cofer's interests in the Zilker Vision Plan are numerous, I will attempt to list them out here:

1. She is the COO for the Trail Conservancy which is a member of the Zilker Collective Impact Group.
2. The Trail Conservancy is a founding member of the prospective unified non-profit, Zilker351.
3. Her boss, CEO of the Trail Conservancy, Heidi Anderson, is the representative for the Zilker Collective Impact group for the Trail Conservancy.
4. Her boss, CEO of the Trail Conservancy, Heidi Anderson, is a board member for the umbrella non-profit Zilker351.
5. Her husband, James Russel is a representative in the Zilker Collective Impact Group for three organizations: Trail of Lights, ABC Kite Festival, and Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum.
6. Her father, George Cofer, is a representative in the Zilker Collective Impact Group for Hill Country Conservancy.

7. Since The Trail Conservancy is out of date with the financial statements and disclosures required of nonprofit organizations publicly available on their website, further conflicts cannot be ruled out.

Here is the definition of the Zilker Park Collective Impact working group from the plan:

What is the Zilker Collective Impact Working Group (ZCIWG)? Many organizations operate in Zilker Park today. The 16 organizations of the ZCIWG include ABC Kite Festival, Austin Parks Foundation, Sunshine Camps, Barton Springs Conservancy, Friends of the Austin Nature and Science Center, Friends of Barton Springs Pool, Girl Scouts Zilker Cabin, Hill Country Conservancy, Rowing Dock, The Trail Conservancy, Trail of Lights Foundation, UMLAUF Sculpture Garden + Museum, Waterloo Disc Golf Club, Zilker Botanical Gardens Conservancy, Zilker Park Boat Rentals and Zilker Theatre Productions. The working group has been meeting regularly amongst themselves to review and discuss the draft vision plan concepts and drafts and provide input to the planning team through the public process: writing letters, taking community surveys, and attending small stakeholder meetings. The ZCIWG has followed the same public process as every other stakeholder group when providing feedback on the ZPVP. Meetings with this group have been recorded and posted to the website along with dozens of other small group discussions throughout the process.

Further, during the Environmental Commission meeting, you may listen to it here, when asked about her day job, Ms. Cofer misrepresented the role of the Trail Conservancy by saying, "ZILKER PARK IS NOT IN OUR DOMAIN". Please see above for all the ways the Trail Conservancy is involved with the creation and management of the Zilker Vision Plan.

Of course, in addition to her professional ties to the plan, she also has personal and financial ties through her husband and father. Commissioner Evan Taniguchi from the Design Commission had very similar conflicts to Ms. Cofer and recused himself from the vote.

Here is the especially concerning vote: An amendment from Commissioner Schiera, seconded by Commissioner Scott, to remove the 5,000 person music venue from the Draft Zilker Vision Plan failed on a 4-4 vote. Commissioners Thompson, Scott, Schiera, and Brimer voted in favor. Commissioners Nickells, Ramberg, Cofer, and Sullivan were opposed. Commissioners Qureshi and Bedford abstained. Commissioner Bristol was absent.

Sincerely,
Teri Adams

[REDACTED]

Here is an infographic containing the currently known conflicts of interest:

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Overview of the Zilker Vision Plan Process

