

## AB 1234 ETHICS TRAINING

In October 2005, the Governor signed Assembly Bill (AB) 1234, which requires that if a local agency provides any type of compensation, salary, or stipend to, or reimburses the expenses of a member of its 'legislative body' (as that term is defined in California Government Code Section 54952), that local agency's officials must receive training in ethics. The training must encompass both general ethics principles, as well as a summary of specific laws concerning conflicts of interests, rules and limitations on gifts, and government transparency. The initial training must be completed no later than one year after the first day of service; and then the training course must be completed once every two years thereafter. The official training sessions last a minimum of two hours.\*

In addition to the State mandate, the City of Santa Barbara requires that members of certain City Council Advisory Groups must also take City ethics training because their roles may involve making decisions that impact individuals' or businesses' financial or real property interests or they may be involved in approving leases, contracts or other City budgetary decisions. For the following City Council Advisory Groups, the initial training must be completed within six months of the adoption of the Guidelines; thereafter, the City ethics training course must be completed within one year after a member is appointed or reappointed to the following board or commission:

- Airport Commission
- Architectural Board of Review\*
- Community Development and Human Services Committee
- Creeks Advisory Committee
- Downtown Parking Committee
- Fire and Police Commission
- Harbor Commission
- Historic Landmarks Commission\*
- Neighborhood Advisory Council
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Planning Commission\*
- Street Tree Advisory Committee
- Single Family Design Board\*
- Water Commission

There are numerous AB 1234 training options, but the City recommends that advisory board and commission members complete the free on-line training program offered by the California FPPC at <http://localethics.fppc.ca.gov/login.aspx>. After completion, please print out the Online Proof of Participation Certificate and submit to City Clerk's Office.

Both the FPPC (<http://www.fppc.ca.gov/index.php?id=477>) and the California Institute of Local Government (<http://www.ca-ilg.org/ethics-education-ab-1234-training>) contain valuable information on their websites regarding the AB 1234 Ethics Training requirement.

**Although only certain City Council Advisory Groups are required to fulfill this requirement (including submitting a certificate of completion to the City Clerk's Office), it is recommended that all City Council Advisory Group Members complete the training at least once after appointment.**

\*This Commission must follow State mandate and meet the two hour training requirement.