



SACRAMENTO SERVICES **NOT** SWEEPS COALITION



DECARCERATE SACRAMENTO



September 6, 2023

TO: Mayor Steinberg and City Councilmembers
FROM: Sign-on organizations [see logos above]
RE: Conflict of Interest: Amending the City Charter

Preface: The organizations [see logo's above] call on the City Council's Law & Legislation Committee to consider recommending to the City Council amending the Sacramento City Charter to address the apparent conflict of interest by some City Council members who take thousands of dollars in campaign contributions from real estate interests [developers; associations and PAC's] and in turn block the discussion of affordable housing proposals to address our twin crises of homelessness and lack of affordable housing.

Background:

On August 15, 2023, the Law and Legislation Committee heard Agenda Item #7, the proposal, *Sacramento Forward: A Comprehensive Approach to Addressing Housing & Homelessness*, to consider 7 potential options.

However, both CM Kaplan and CM Guerra proposed an alternative motion, asking staff to convene a stakeholder meeting charged with bringing back proposals to address the affordable housing crisis which passed 3-0, which we saw as a stalling tactic in deference to the CA Apartment Association and CA Association of Realtors.

As the 8/18/2023 Sacramento Bee Opinion piece on the Law and Legislation Committee meeting summarized the outcome: *Homelessness Starts with Housing, but This Proposal Can't Even Get a Vote*, calling out Councilmembers “highly suspect votes:”

“The city of Sacramento — and, specifically, Councilmembers Guerra and Kaplan — cannot allow themselves to be swayed by the foot-stamping, petulant demands of wealthy developers. Yet both Guerra and Kaplan have accepted tens of thousands of dollars in campaign donations from both the California Apartment Association and California Association of Realtors, making their votes on this topic highly suspect.”

Campaign Contributions from Real Estate Interests:

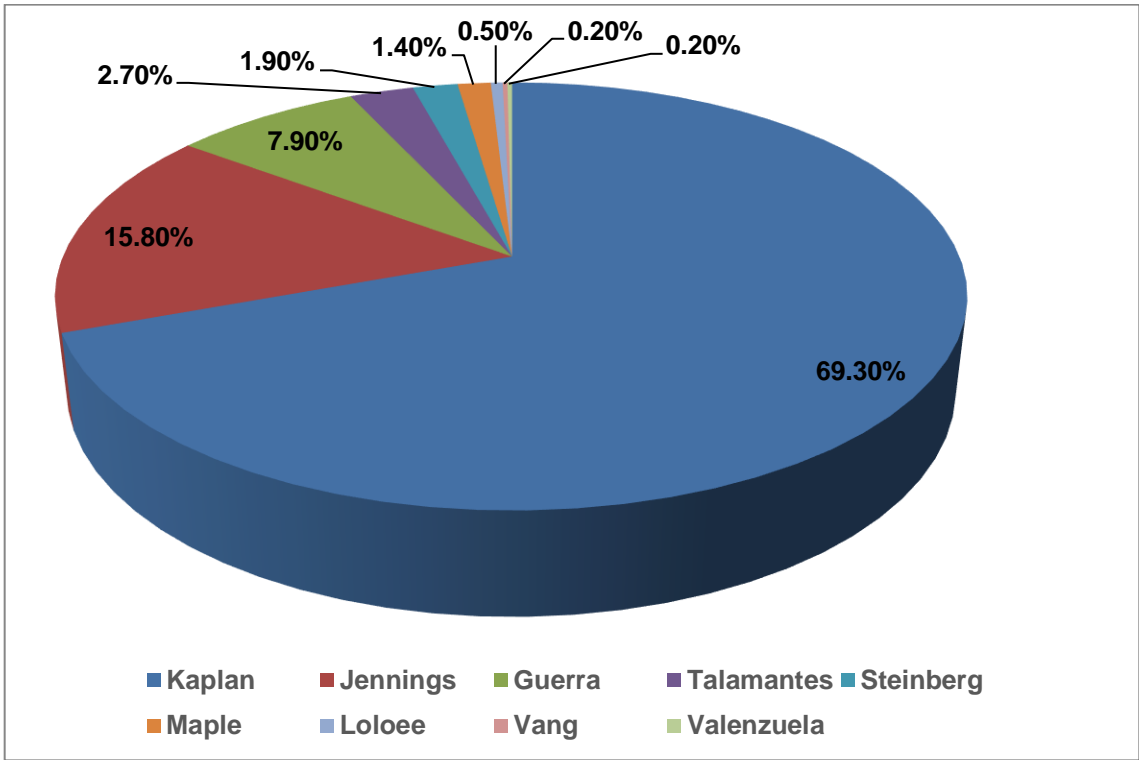
Below is summary of our research into how much the Mayor and each city Council member received in 2022 – 23 campaign contributions from real estate interest, including wealthy developers, real estate companies, associations and political action committees [PACs].

2022 – 2023 Campaign Contributions from Real Estate Individuals, Companies, Associations or PAC’s

Mayor/Councilmember	Total	% Total
Kaplan	\$66,250	69.3%
Jennings	\$15,100	15.8%
Guerra	\$7,550	7.9%
Talamantes	\$2,600	2.7%
Steinberg	\$1,850	1.9%
Maple	\$1,350	1.4%
Loloee	\$500	.5%
Vang	\$200	.2%
Valenzuela	\$200	.2%
TOTAL	\$95,600	

Source: CA Secretary of State

2022 – 2023 Campaign Contributions from Real Estate Individuals, Companies, Associations or PACs



**3 Councilmembers – Kaplan [69.3%]; Jennings [15.8%] and Guerra [7.9%]
Account for 93% of 2022 – 2023 campaign contributions from
Real estate individuals or companies**

Unethical Conflict of Interest:

The organizations signed onto this letter feel that proposals to address our affordable housing and homelessness crisis being literally held hostage by only 3 councilmembers who in 2022 – 23 received 93% of the campaign contributions from wealthy developers, companies, associations and PACs is unethical and a clear conflict of interest that the City Council can, and must rectify.

The City Charter and Conflicts of Interest:

According to the Sacramento City Charter, Article XVI. Section 251:

The city council by ordinance shall adopt regulations as the council, in its sole discretion determines to be appropriate, governing conflicts of interest applicable to city officers and employees, members of boards and commissions, and elected officials and candidates for elective office of the city. The council shall not be required to negotiate or meet and confer with officers, employees or employee organizations regarding the adoption of such regulations.

Recommendation: We call on the City Council’s Law & Legislation Committee to consider recommending to the City Council amending the Sacramento City Charter to address the apparent conflict of interest by some City Council members who take thousands of dollars in campaign contributions from real estate interests [developers; associations and PAC’s] and in turn block the discussion of affordable housing proposals to address our twin crises of homelessness and lack of affordable housing.