



California Fair Political Practices Commission

March 7, 1990

Stanley J. Cohen
21731 Saluda
Huntington Beach, CA 92646

Re: Your Request for Informal Assistance
Our File No. I-89-720

Dear Mr. Cohen:

You have written a letter to us commenting about our Advice Letter Nos. A-89-441 and A-89-452 which responded to questions posed by Teresa Craigie of Pillsbury, Madison and Sutro, and Gail Hutton, City Attorney for the City of Huntington Beach. You also expressed your opinion that certain public officials in Huntington Beach were not acting in accordance with the advice in that letter.

Ms. Craigie, representing the Huntington Beach Company, disagreed with the advice in that letter and requested that the Commission review that advice. The Commission directed that a memo be prepared explaining the issues involved in the valuation of gifts of memberships to country clubs or golf clubs. I sent you a copy of the memorandum which discussed the issues. The Commission has decided to take the matter under submission. The Commission granted Ms. Craigie's request that she be permitted to submit written comments. The Commission has not rendered its decision regarding the advice contained in the letter.

If you so desire, I will be glad to keep you informed of any further developments on this subject. If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (916) 322-5901.

Sincerely,

Kathryn E. Donovan
General Counsel

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeevan S. Ahuja".

By: Jeevan S. Ahuja
Counsel, Legal Division

KED:JSA:aa



California Fair Political Practices Commission

January 4, 1990

Stanley J. Cohen
21731 Saluda Circle
Huntington Beach, CA 92646

Dear Mr. Cohen:

You had written a letter to us about our response to the questions posed by Teresa Craigie of Pillsbury, Madison and Sutro, and Gail Hutton, City Attorney for the City of Huntington Beach. The issues discussed in our response and the general issue of valuation of gifts of passes to country clubs is being considered by the Commission on January 9, 1990.

Enclosed for your information is the memorandum which discusses the issue and requests direction from the Commission on some of the questions raised in the memorandum. The Commission welcomes comments from the public. If you have any questions, please call me at (916) 322-5901.

Sincerely,

Kathryn E. Donovan
General Counsel

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeevan Ahuja".

By: Jeevan Ahuja
Counsel, Legal Division

JA/jt
Enclosure

ASSET LOCATORS, INC.

AA 007764

November 10, 1989

Kathryn E. Donovan
General Counsel
Fair Political Practices Commission
428 J Street, Suite 800
P.O. Box 807
Sacramento, CA 95804-0807

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FPPC

Re: Your File Nos. A-89-441 and A-89-452

Dear Ms. Donovan:

Your "Requests for Advice" letter dated October 4, 1989, addressed to Teresa Craige of Pillsbury, Madison and Sutro and Gail Hutton, City Attorney for the City of Huntington Beach, is being totally ignored.

On page 6, paragraph "2. Valuation of the VIP Membership for purposes of Disqualification." you advised that the value of a VIP membership in the Seacliff Country Club owned and operated by the Huntington Beach Company "for purposes of disqualification" from participating in and voting on matters concerning the Company "...is the value based on the actual use during the past 12 months, ..., plus \$30 per month ...".

Therefore, if a public official does NOT return or transfer his or her VIP membership card 12 months prior to the decision, the value of that membership card exceeds \$250, thereby excluding that official from voting on matters concerning that "donor" (the Huntington Beach Company) per Section 87103(e) of the Government Code.

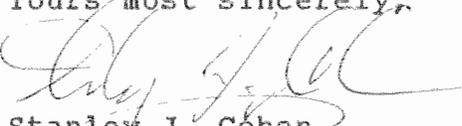
There are other public officials of the Huntington Beach Planning Commission that are willing to testify that certain Planning Commissioners as well as other city government members in Huntington Beach:

1. have received their VIP membership cards at least 12 months prior to the decision
2. have retained and USED these cards
3. have read and continue to disregard your "advice letter"
4. have participated in discussions leading to votes on matters concerning this donor.

Also, when these officials or other concerned recipients of these cards have sought the advice of the City Attorney and/or her staff, they have been told that your "advice" is not correct and is not relevant to the daily operation of the City.

Can the California Fair Political Practices Commission, through your good offices, notify the City of Huntington Beach and the City Attorney that your advice is NOT to be taken lightly and without any consequences? The concerned citizens of Huntington Beach deserve no less!

Yours most sincerely,



Stanley J. Cohen
21731 Saluda Circle
Huntington Beach, CA 92646

SJC/xc