



FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

428 J Street • Suite 620 • Sacramento, CA 95814-2329
(916) 322-5660 • Fax (916) 322-0886

February 13, 2012

✓ Mr. Stephen Pougnet
City of Palm Springs

REDACTED

**Re: Warning Letter
FPPC No. 11/1116; Steve Pougnet**

Dear Mr. Pougnet:

The Fair Political Practices Commission (the "FPPC") enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the "Act")¹ found in Government Code section 81000, et seq. This letter is in response to a referral from your filing officer that you accepted a gift in excess of the gift limits imposed by the Act.

The FPPC has completed its investigation of the facts in this case. Specifically, you reported on your Candidate Statement of Economic Interests receiving two tickets to the Coachella Music Festival from the City of Indio valued at \$500 each. For calendar year 2010, the applicable gift limit was \$420 from a single source in a calendar year.

Your acceptance of a gift over the limit is a violation of the Act. (Section 89503.) By accepting the gift of tickets from the City of Indio, you were in excess of the \$420 gift limit by \$580. However, based on the specific facts of this case we are closing this matter with a warning letter. These include the fact that you timely reported the gift, ultimately paid down the difference between the value of the gift and the Act's \$420 gift limit, and you do not have a past history of violating the Act.

This letter serves as a written warning. The information in this matter will be retained and may be considered should an enforcement action become necessary based on future conduct or newly discovered information. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act in the future will result in monetary penalties of up to \$5,000 for each violation.

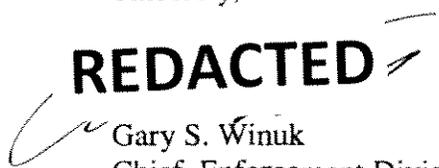
¹ The Political Reform Act is contained in Government Code sections 81000 through 91014. All statutory references are to the Government Code, unless otherwise indicated. The regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission are contained in sections 18110 through 18997 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations. All regulatory references are to Title 2, Division 6 of the California Code of Regulations, unless otherwise indicated.

A warning letter is an FPPC case resolution without administrative prosecution or fine. However, the warning letter resolution does not provide you with the opportunity for a probable cause hearing or hearing before an Administrative Law Judge or the FPPC. If you wish to avail yourself of these proceedings by requesting that your case proceed with prosecution rather than a warning, please notify us within ten (10) days from the date of this letter. Upon this notification, the FPPC will rescind this warning letter and proceed with administrative prosecution of this case. If we do not receive such notification, this warning letter will be posted on the FPPC's website ten (10) days from the date of this letter.

Please feel free to contact Teri Rindahl at 916.327.2018 with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

REDACTED

 Gary S. Winuk
Chief, Enforcement Division

GSW/tr

cc: Trish Mayer, FPPC Technical Assistance Division