



FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

428 J Street • Suite 620 • Sacramento, CA 95814-2329

(916) 322-5660 • Fax (916) 322-0886

February 27, 2012

Ms. Betty Presley
Betty Presley & Associates, Inc.
o/b/o Shawn Steel

REDACTED

Re: Warning Letter ✓
FPPC No. 12/064; Shawn Steel

Dear Ms. Presley:

The Fair Political Practices Commission (“FPPC”) enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (“Act”),¹ found in Government Code section 81000, et seq. This letter is in response to your client’s self-reported violation of the Act. After review of the specific set of facts of this case, we are returning your client’s \$400 administrative penalty, and closing this matter with a warning letter.

From January 2011 through June 2011, your client made contributions to various committees that totaled \$12,330, but failed to file a major donor statement in connection with those contributions by the August 1, 2011 deadline.

Specifically the Act defines a committee to include any person that makes contributions totaling \$10,000 or more in a calendar year to or at the behest of candidates or committees. (Section 82013.) Persons who qualify as a major donor must file campaign statements on a semi-annual basis disclosing the contributions made during a six-month period. (Section 84200.)

Your client’s actions violated the Act because he qualified as a major donor and failed to file a semi-annual campaign statement. However, since your client contacted the Enforcement Division regarding his error and immediately filed the statement, the contributions made were not a significant amount, and the fact that he does not have a past enforcement history, we are closing our file on this matter.

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 18109 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.

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 newly discovered information or future conduct. 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.

A warning letter is an FPPC case resolution without administrative prosecution or fine. However, the warning letter resolution does not provide your client with the opportunity for a probable cause hearing or hearing before an Administrative Law Judge or the Fair Political Practices Commission. If your client wishes to avail himself of these proceedings by requesting that his 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.

The FPPC publishes forms and manuals to facilitate compliance with the provisions of the Act. If your client needs forms or a manual, or guidance regarding his obligations, please call the FPPC's Technical Assistance Division at 1-866-275-3772. Please also visit our website at www.fppc.ca.gov.

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
Enclosure