



FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

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

(916) 322-5660 • Fax (916) 322-0886

April 6, 2015

Dr. Rita Ramirez

Friends of Dr. Rita Ramirez for San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools 2014

[REDACTED]

RE: Warning Letter
FPPC No. 14/423, Rita Ramirez, Friends of Dr. Rita Ramirez for San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools 2014, William Collier, Treasurer

Dear Dr. Ramirez:

The Enforcement Division Fair Political Practices Commission ("Commission") enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the "Act") found in Government Code Section 81000, and following. Section 83123.5 was added to the Act to allow the Commission to have primary responsibility for the impartial administration, implementation, and enforcement of the County of San Bernardino Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance (the "Ordinance"). The Commission is authorized to be the civil prosecutor of the Ordinance. The Commission and the County of San Bernardino entered into a contract for these services effective for the term of January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2014. Under this contract, the Commission agreed to audit each candidate campaign committee for elected county offices to detect violations of the Act and the Ordinance. As you may be aware, the Enforcement Division conducted an audit of your candidate controlled committee ("Committee"). The Enforcement Division has decided to close this case with this warning letter.

The audit examined \$5,565 in financial activity for the Committee from January 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014. Specifically, we found that the Committee failed to file 24-Hour Contribution Reports for three contributions totaling \$3,145. Under Section 84203, subdivision (a), a late contribution report disclosing any contribution cumulating \$1,000 more during the late reporting period was required to be filed within 24 hours of the receipt of the contribution(s). The late reporting period for the June 3, 2014, Primary Election was March 5, 2014, through June 2, 2014. Also, we found that you made expenses totaling \$3,520 from a source other than the designated campaign bank account, in violation of Section 85201, subdivision (e). By failing to disclose the late contributions in properly filed late contribution reports, and by making expenditures from a source other than the single, designated campaign bank account, you violated the Act.

We determined that further enforcement action was not warranted since there was minimal public harm, the contributions and expenditures were properly reported on pre-election campaign statements, and you have no prior enforcement history.

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 Enforcement Division 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 Commission. 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 Enforcement Division 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 Commission's website ten (10) days from the date of this letter.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of Zachary W. Norton.

Zachary W. Norton
Commission Counsel
Enforcement Division