



## FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

428 J Street • Suite 620 • Sacramento, CA 95814-2329  
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August 12, 2013

Bob Ravasio  
Council Member; Town of Corte Madera

**REDACTED**

**RE: Warning Letter  
FPPC No. 13/546; Bob Ravasio**

Dear Mr. Ravasio:

The Fair Political Practices Commission (“Commission”) enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the “Act”) found in Government Code Section 81000, and following.<sup>1</sup> As you may be aware, the Commission received a sworn complaint alleging you were in violation of the conflict of interest provisions of the Act because you attempted to influence the Corte Madera’s planning council’s decision on a matter in which you had a disqualifying financial interest in the matter in violation of Section 87100.

The primary purpose for the conflict-of-interest provisions of the Act is to ensure that, “public officials, whether elected or appointed, perform their duties in an impartial manner, free from bias caused by their own financial interests or the financial interests of persons who have supported them.” (Section 81001, subdivision (b).)

In furtherance of this goal, Section 87100 prohibits a public official from making, participating in making, or in any way attempting to use his or her official position to influence a governmental decision in which the official knows, or has reason to know, that he or she has a financial interest. Under Section 87103, a public official has a financial interest in a decision if it is reasonably foreseeable that the decision will have a material financial effect on an economic interest of the official. For purposes of Sections 87100 and 87103, there are six analytical steps to consider when determining whether an individual has a conflict-of-interest in a governmental decision.

First, the individual must be a public official as defined by the Act. Section 82048 defines “public official” to include a member of a local governmental agency.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

Second, the official must make, participate in making, or attempt to use his or her official position to influence a governmental decision. Under Regulation 18702.3, an official is attempting to influence a governmental decision when he appears before or attempts to contact any member of the agency the official is attempting to influence.

You violated Section 87100 of the Act by participating in the discussion of the 150 Edison Avenue Design Review Application No. 13-003 at the March 26, 2013 meeting of the Corte Madera Planning Commission. You have a 20% ownership interest in property at 150 Edison Avenue, which was the subject of the discussion. However, because you sought advise from the town attorney, you have abstained from any further discussions and decisions regarding this property, and the fact that you do not have an enforcement history, we are closing this matter with a warning letter.

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.

The Commission publishes forms and manuals to facilitate compliance with the provisions of the Act and provides guidance regarding filing obligations over the telephone and through written advice. Please call the Commission's Technical Assistance Division at 1-866-275-3772 or visit our website at [www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

**REDACTED**

Gary Winuk, Chief  
Enforcement Division

GSW/tr

Cc: Niya Dodd-Waddington