



FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

428 J Street • Suite 620 • Sacramento, CA 95814-2329
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September 6, 2013

Riverside County Democratic Central Committee
Howard Katz, Chairman

REDACTED

**Re: Warning Letter
FPPC No. 13/527: Riverside County Democratic Central Committee, and
Howard Katz**

Dear Mr. Katz:

The Fair Political Practices Commission (the "FPPC") enforces provisions of the Political Reform Act (the "Act").¹ The Enforcement Division of the FPPC received a complaint against you and the Riverside County Democratic Central Committee (the "RCDCC") for violations of the Act's campaign disclosure provisions.

The Enforcement Division investigated these allegations, and has concluded that a violation of the Act's campaign disclosure provisions had occurred.

The complainant alleged that you violated the Act when RCDCC made expenditures when it did not have a treasurer. Section 84100 provides every committee shall have a treasurer. No expenditure shall be made by or on behalf of a committee without authorization of the treasurer or that of his or her designated agent. No contribution or expenditure shall be accepted or made by or on behalf of a committee at a time when there is a vacancy in the office of treasurer. Based upon a review of the documents received, RCDCC was without a treasurer from approximately January 31, 2013 through February 13, 2013. Any contributions received or expenditures made during this time frame were not permitted.

Additionally, Section 84103 mandates that whenever there is a change in any of the information contained in a statement of organization, an amendment shall be filed within 10 days to reflect the change. According to the RCDCC's records, Mr. Patrick Meagher was appointed as treasurer at the February 25, 2013 meeting. The statement of organization should have been amended within 10 days. The amendment was not filed until June 18, 2013.

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.

Furthermore, the campaign disclosure statement for the period covering January 1, 2013 through April 27, 2013, indicated Raj Singh as the treasurer. According to the Secretary of State's database, there is no record of an amended statement of organization reflecting this information.

Because you responded immediately to the allegations, and the fact that the errors were minor in nature, we have decided to close 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 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 you with the opportunity for a probable cause hearing or hearing before an Administrative Law Judge or the Fair Political Practices 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 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 you need forms or a manual, or guidance regarding your obligations, please call the FPPC's Technical Assistance Division at 1-866-275-3772. Please also visit our website at www.fppc.ca.gov.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Teri Rindahl at 916-327-2018.

Sincerely,

REDACTED

Gary S. Winuk, Chief
Enforcement Division

GSW/tr

Cc: Gregory Sanborn