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

December 16, 2009

Adam Christianson, individually and
o/b/o Committee to Elect Adam Christianson Sheriff of Stanislaus

REDACTED

Linda A. Ridenour, Treasurer, individually and
o/b/o Committee to Elect Adam Christianson Sheriff of Stanislaus

REDACTED

Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 08/526, Adam Christianson; Committee to Elect Adam Christianson Sheriff of Stanislaus; Linda A. Ridenour, Treasurer

Dear Mr. Christianson, Committee to Elect Adam Christianson Sheriff of Stanislaus, and Ms. Ridenour:

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 report from the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) regarding an audit FTB performed of campaign statements for Committee to Elect Adam Christianson Sheriff of Stanislaus (the "Committee") covering the period of January 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006. The FTB audit included a finding that you accepted contributions of $100 or more in the form of cash, in violation of Section 84300, subdivision (a) and received a $1,000 contribution in the form of a cashier's check, in violation of Section 84300, subdivision (c).

The FPPC has completed its investigation of the facts in this case. Specifically, the FPPC found that you received 30 contributions of $100 or more totaling $3,630 in the form of cash during the audit period of January 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006, and received a $1,000 contribution in the form of a cashier's check. Each of these

[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.

contributions was reported in the appropriate campaign statements, and the disclosure included contributor information. Additionally, you retained in your records photocopies of the contributions and contributor information.

The Act prohibits cash contributions of $100 or more and contributions in the form of cashier's checks of $100 or more. (Section 84300, subd. (a) and (c).)

Your actions violated the Act because you accepted 30 contributions of $100 or more totaling $3,630 in the form of cash, in violation of Section 84300, subdivision (a), and received a $1,000 contribution in the form of a cashier's check, in violation of Section 84300, subdivision (c). However, it appears that these were inadvertent errors. According to evidence obtained during our investigation, you appeared to have used good faith in attempting to comply with the Act, but due to lack of knowledge and prior experience with the Act, accepted prohibited contributions. You fully disclosed these contributions on properly filed campaign statements, and retained the required information in your campaign records. Additionally, you have implemented a policy to not accept cash contributions to prevent future violations of this same type. You fully cooperated with the FTB audit and the FPPC investigation of this matter, and have no prior history of enforcement action by the FPPC.

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.

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

Sincerely,

REDACTED

Angela J. Brereton
Senior Commission Counsel
Enforcement Division