To: Chair Germond, and Commissioners Cardenas, Hatch, and Hayward

From: Loressa Hon, Acting Executive Director

Galena West, Chief of Enforcement Ruth Yang, Commission Counsel

Date: September 10, 2018

RE: Assignment of Hearing to Administrative Law Judge

Case Name: In the Matter of Friends of Chris Stampolis (ID# 981175), Friends of Chris

Stampolis for Santa Clara School Board 2012 (ID# 1354244), and Chris

Stampolis; FPPC No. 15/1045

I. INTRODUCTION

Respondent Chris Stampolis ("Stampolis") was a member of the West Valley-Mission Community College District Board of Trustees (the "College District Board") from 2004 through 2012 and a member of the Santa Clara Unified School District Board of Trustees (the "School District Board") from 2012 through 2016. Stampolis did not seek re-election to the School District Board in 2016 and was an unsuccessful candidate for the College District Board in the November 8, 2016 General Election. Respondent Friends of Chris Stampolis (the "Friends Committee") and respondent Friends of Chris Stampolis for Santa Clara School Board 2012 (the "2012 Committee") are his candidate-controlled committees. Stampolis serves as the committees' treasurer.

Stampolis and his controlled committees failed to timely file numerous campaign statements as detailed in the Accusation attached to this memorandum. Stampolis filed a notice of defense in response to the Accusation and requested an administrative hearing.

II. COMMISISON ACTION ONLY REQUIRED IF THE COMMISSION DESIRES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

The Acting Executive Director and the Chief of Enforcement are recommending an administrative law judge ("ALJ") conduct the hearing pursuant to Government Code section 11512, subdivision (a). The ALJ will then make a recommendation to the Commission on the findings of fact, law and penalty, if applicable, in the matter. The Commission will then make the final determination on the case.

This memorandum is submitted to each member of the Commission pursuant to California Code of Regulation section 18361.5, subdivision (b), which provides:

If the Executive Director determines that a hearing on the merits should be conducted before an administrative law judge alone pursuant to Government Code section 11512(a), he or she shall provide a copy of the accusation as well as a memorandum describing the issues involved to each member of the Commission. If, at the next regularly scheduled meeting, two or more Commissioners indicate a desire to participate in the hearing, the matter will be scheduled for a hearing before the Commission when an administrative law judge is available.

Thus, no Commission action is required if the Commission approves the recommendation that the administrative hearing in this matter should be conducted before an ALJ. However, two or more Commissioners may vote to keep the matter with the Commission if so desired.

III. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Enforcement Division initiated this administrative action against Stampolis, and his committees by serving him with a Report in Support of a Finding of Probable Cause ("Report") by personal service on January 28, 2018. Because Stampolis and his committees failed to request a probable cause conference or submit a written response to the Report by the statutory deadline, the Enforcement Division submitted an Ex Parte Request for a Finding of Probable Cause and an Order that an Accusation Be Prepared and Served to a hearing officer of the Commission on February 20, 2018. Hearing Officer John M. Feser Jr., Attorney IV, issued an order dated February 26, 2018, finding probable cause and instructing the Enforcement Division to issue an accusation against Stampolis and his committees.

On April 25, 2018, the Commission's Chief of Enforcement Galena West, issued an Accusation against the Stampolis and his committees. The Accusation was delivered to Stampolis by substitute service on May 11, 2018. Stampolis submitted a signed notice of defense dated July 19, 2018 to request an administrative hearing on this matter.

IV. HEARING OPTIONS

Every hearing in a contested case must be presided over by an ALJ. The agency itself shall determine whether the ALJ is to hear the case alone or whether the agency itself is to hear the case with the ALJ.¹

When the agency itself hears the case, the ALJ shall preside at the hearing, rule on the admission and exclusion of evidence, and advise the agency on matters of law; the agency itself shall exercise all other powers relating to the conduct of the hearing but may delegate any or all of them to the ALJ. When the ALJ hears a case, he or she shall exercise all powers relating to the conduct of the hearing. A rule of the ALJ admitting or excluding evidence is subject to review in the same manner and to the same extent as the ALJ's proposed decision in the proceeding.²

V. SUMMARY OF THE ACCUSATION

¹ See Gov't Code § 11512, subd. (a).

² See Gov't Code § 11512, subd. (b).

The Accusation alleges Stampolis and the committees violated the Political Reform Act as follows:

Count 1: Failure to Timely File a Semi-Annual Campaign Statement

Stampolis and the Friends Committee had a duty to file a semi-annual campaign statement for the reporting period of July 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 on or before February 1, 2016. Stampolis and the Friends Committee filed the semi-annual statement for the July 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 period on March 20, 2016. By failing to timely file this semi-annual campaign statement, Stampolis and the Friends Committee violated Government Code sections 84200.

Count 2: Failure to Timely File a Pre-election Campaign Statement

Stampolis and the Friends Committee had a duty to file a pre-election campaign statement for the reporting period of July 1, 2016 through September 24, 2016 on or before September 29, 2016. Stampolis and the Friends Committee filed the pre-election statement for the July 1, 2016 through September 24, 2016 period on June 9, 2017. By failing to timely file this pre-election statement, Stampolis and the Friends Committee violated Government Code sections 84200.5, subdivision (a) and 84200.8, subdivision (a).

Count 3: Failure to Timely File a Pre-election Campaign Statement

Stampolis and the Friends Committee had a duty to file a pre-election campaign statement for the reporting period of September 25, 2016 through October 22, 2016 on or before October 27, 2016. Stampolis and the Friends Committee filed the pre-election statement for the September 25, 2016 through October 22, 2016 period on June 9, 2017. By failing to timely file this pre-election statement, Stampolis and the Friends Committee violated Government Code sections 84200.5, subdivision (a) and 84200.8, subdivision (b).

Count 4: Failure to Timely File a Semi-Annual Campaign Statement

Stampolis and the Friends Committee had a duty to file a semi-annual campaign statement for the reporting period of October 23, 2016 through December 31, 2016 on or before January 31, 2017. Stampolis and the Friends Committee filed the semi-annual statement for the October 23, 2016 through December 31, 2016 period on June 9, 2017. By failing to timely file this semi-annual campaign statement, Stampolis and the Friends Committee violated Government Code sections 84200.

Count 5: Failure to Timely File a Semi-Annual Campaign Statement

Stampolis and the 2012 Committee had a duty to file a semi-annual campaign statement for the reporting period of July 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 on or before February 2, 2015. Stampolis and the 2012 Committee filed the semi-annual statement for the July 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 period on July 31, 2015. By failing to timely file this semi-annual campaign statement, Stampolis and the 2012 Committee violated Government Code sections 84200.

Count 6: Failure to Timely File a Semi-Annual Campaign Statement

Stampolis and the 2012 Committee had a duty to file a semi-annual campaign statement for the reporting period of July 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 on or before February 1, 2016.

Stampolis and the 2012 Committee filed the semi-annual statement for the July 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 period on March 20, 2016. By failing to timely file this semi-annual campaign statement, Stampolis and the 2012 Committee violated Government Code sections 84200.

Count 7: Failure to Timely File a Pre-election Campaign Statement

Stampolis and the 2012 Committee had a duty to file a pre-election campaign statement for the reporting period of July 1, 2016 through September 24, 2016 on or before September 29, 2016. Stampolis and the 2012 Committee filed the pre-election statement for the July 1, 2016 through September 24, 2016 period on June 9, 2017. By failing to timely file this pre-election statement, Stampolis and the 2012 Committee violated Government Code sections 84200.5, subdivision (a) and 84200.8, subdivision (a).

Count 8: Failure to Timely File a Pre-election Campaign Statement

Stampolis and the 2012 Committee had a duty to file a pre-election campaign statement for the reporting period of September 25, 2016 through October 22, 2016 on or before October 27, 2016. Stampolis and the 2012 Committee filed the pre-election statement for the September 25, 2016 through October 22, 2016 period on June 9, 2017. By failing to timely file this pre-election statement, Stampolis and the 2012 Committee violated Government Code sections 84200.5, subdivision (a) and 84200.8, subdivision (b).

Count 9: Failure to Timely File a Semi-Annual Campaign Statement

Stampolis and the 2012 Committee had a duty to file a semi-annual campaign statement for the reporting period of October 23, 2016 through December 31, 2016 on or before January 31, 2017. Stampolis and the 2012 Committee filed the semi-annual statement for the October 23, 2016 through December 31, 2016 period on June 9, 2017. By failing to timely file this semi-annual campaign statement, Stampolis and the 2012 Committee violated Government Code sections 84200.

VI. CONCLUSION

If, at the next regularly scheduled meeting, two or more Commissioners indicate a desire to participate in the hearing, the matter will be scheduled for a hearing before the Commission when an ALJ is available.³ Otherwise, hearing of this matter will be conducted before an ALJ alone pursuant to Section 11512, subdivision (a).

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³ Reg. § 18361.5, subd. (b).

1 2 3 4	Commission Counsel FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION 1102 Q St., Suite 3000 Sacramento, CA 95811	
5	Telephone: (916) 322-5660 Facsimile: (916) 322-1932	
6 7	Attorneys for Complainant Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission	
8	BEFORE THE FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION	
9	STATE OF CALIFORNIA	
10		
11	In the Matter of) FPPC No. 15/1045
12		
13	FRIENDS OF CHRIS STAMPOLIS,)) ACCUSATION
14	FRIENDS OF CHRIS STAMPOLIS FOR SANTA CLARA SCHOOL BOARD)
15	2012, and CHRIS STAMPOLIS,) (Gov. Code §11503)
16	Respondents.	
17	Nespondents.	
18	Complainant, the Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission, after a finding	
19	of probable cause pursuant to Government Code section 83115.5, alleges the following:	
20	<u>JURISDICTION</u>	
21	1. Complainant is the Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission (the	
22	"Commission") and makes this Accusation in its official capacity and in the public interest.	
23	2. The authority to bring this action is derived from Title 2, California Code of Regulations,	
24	Sections 18361 and 18361.4, subdivision (e), and the statutory law of the State of California, specifically	
25	including, but not limited to, Government Code Sections 83111, 83116, and 91000.5, which assign to the	
26	Enforcement Division the duty to administer, implement, and enforce the provisions of the Political	
27	Reform Act, found at Government Code Sections 81000 through 91014.	
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- When enacting the Political Reform Act (the "Act"), 1 California voters specifically found and declared that previous laws regulating political practices had suffered from inadequate enforcement,
- To that end, Section 81003 requires that the Act be liberally construed to achieve its
- One of the stated purposes of the Act is to ensure voters are fully informed and improper practices are inhibited by requiring all political candidates, as well as the committees that support or oppose them, to disclose all contributions and expenditures made throughout a campaign.³
- Respondent Chris Stampolis ("Stampolis") was a member of the West Valley-Mission Community College District Board of Trustees from 2004 through 2012 and a member of the Santa Clara
- Stampolis did not seek re-election to the School District Board in 2016 and was an unsuccessful candidate for the College District Board in the November 8, 2016 election.
- Respondent Friends of Chris Stampolis (the "Friends Committee") and Respondent Friends of Chris Stampolis for Santa Clara School Board 2012 (the "2012 Committee") are his candidatecontrolled committees, which were opened prior to the November 8, 2016 election period. Stampolis

All applicable law in this Accusation is the law as it existed during the relevant time for

The Act requires a candidate-controlled committee to file semi-annual statements twice per

¹The Political Reform Act is contained in Government Code sections 81000 through 91014. The regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission are contained in Sections 18110 through 18997 of Title 2 of the California Code of

³ Section 81002, subd. (a).

⁴ Section 84200.

11. A committee must file a semi-annual statement by January 31 for the period ending December 31 and by July 31 for the period ending June 30, or the next business day if the deadline falls on a weekend or holiday.⁵

B. Duty to File Pre-Election Campaign Statements

- 12. In addition to semi-annual campaign statements, a candidate-controlled committee must file two pre-election campaign statements before the election in which the candidate is listed on the ballot.⁶
- 13. Candidate-controlled committees must file a pre-election campaign statement no later than 40 days before the election for the period ending 45 days before the election, and a second pre-election statement no later than 12 days before the election for the period ending 17 days before the election. If the deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or official state holiday, the deadline is extended to the next business day.
- 14. If a candidate controls more than one committee, the candidate must file pre-election campaign statements for each committee on the dates the candidate is required to file pre-election campaign statements in connection to his or her election to office.⁹

C. Duty to Pay the Annual Fee

- 15. Each committee required to file a statement of organization was required to pay an annual fee to the Secretary of State ("SOS) beginning in 2013. The annual fee for 2013 was due by February 15, 2013. In subsequent years, each committee has been required to pay the \$50 annual fee by January 15 each year until the termination of the committee.¹⁰
- 16. A committee that fails to timely pay the annual fee is subject to a penalty equal to three times the amount of the fee. The Commission is required to enforce this provision of the Act.¹¹

⁵ Section 84200, subd. (a) and Regulation 18116, subd. (a).

⁶ Section 84200.5.

⁷ Section 84200.8.

⁸ Regulation 18116.

⁹ Regulation 18405, subd. (a).

¹⁰ Section 84101.5, subd. (c).

¹¹ Section 84101.5, subd. (d).

D. Factors to be Considered by the Fair Political Practices Commission

17. In framing a proposed order following a finding of a violation pursuant to Section 83116, the Commission and the administrative law judge shall consider all the surrounding circumstances including but not limited to: (1) The seriousness of the violation; (2) The presence or absence of any intention to conceal, deceive or mislead; (3) Whether the violation was deliberate, negligent or inadvertent; (4) Whether the violator demonstrated good faith by consulting the Commission staff or any other government agency in a manner not constituting a complete defense under Section 83114(b); (5) Whether the violation was isolated or part of a pattern and whether the violator has a prior record of violations of the Act or similar laws; and (6) Whether the violator, upon learning of a reporting violation, voluntarily filed amendments to provide full disclosure. ¹²

GENERAL FACTS

Friends Committee

- 18. The Friends Committee qualified as a recipient committee on or about September 10, 2000.
- 19. The Friends Committee and Stampolis failed to timely file two semi-annual campaign statements for the reporting period covering July 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 by February 1, 2016; and October 23, 2016 through December 31, 2016 by January 31, 2017.
- 20. The Friends Committee and Stampolis failed to timely file two pre-election campaign statements for the reporting period covering July 1, 2016 through September 24, 2016 by September 29, 2016; and September 25, 2016 through October 22, 2016 by October 27, 2016.
- 21. The Friends Committee and Stampolis failed to timely pay the annual fee for 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017.
- 22. On June 9, 2017, the Friend Committee filed all delinquent statements after being contacted by the Enforcement Division. The Friend Committee reported no activity, outstanding loans totaling \$26,226.42 from Stampolis, and an ending cash balance of \$0.

2012 Committee

23. The 2012 Committee qualified as a recipient committee on or about August 15, 2012.

¹² Reg. 18361.5, subd. (d).

- 24. The 2012 Committee and Stampolis failed to timely file three semi-annual campaign statements for the reporting period covering July 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 by February 2, 2015; July 1, 2014 through December 31, 2015 by February 1, 2016; and October 23, 2016 through December 31, 2016 by January 31, 2017.
- 25. The 2012 Committee and Stampolis failed to timely file two pre-election campaign statement for the reporting period covering July 1, 2016 through September 24, 2016 by September 29, 2016; and September 25, 2016 through October 22, 2016 by October 27, 2016. The 2012 Committee and Stampolis were required to file these pre-election campaign statements because the 2012 Committee also was Stampolis' candidate-controlled committee.
- 26. The 2012 Committee and Stampolis failed to timely pay the annual fee for 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017.
- 27. On June 9, 2017, the 2012 Committee filed all delinquent statements after being contacted by the Enforcement Division. The 2012 Committee reported no activity, outstanding loans totaling \$4,662.70 from Stampolis, an outstanding loan of \$750 from Friends of Anna Song for County Board of Education 2012 (Committee ID #1241672), and an ending cash balance of \$0.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

- 28. On February 2, 2017, the Santa Clara Registrar of Voters (the "ROV") notified the Friends Committee and Stampolis, and the 2012 Committee and Stampolis separately, in writing that they had failed to timely file a semi-annual campaign statement for the reporting period that ended on December 31, 2016.
- 29. After the Friends Committee, 2012 Committee, and Stampolis did not file the required statement, the ROV referred the matter to the Enforcement Division.
- 30. SOS sent the Friends Committee and Stampolis, and the 2012 Committee and Stampolis separately, multiple notices that they had failed to pay annual fees and penalties for both committees.
- 31. After the Friends Committee, 2012 Committee, and Stampolis did not make the required payments, SOS referred the matter to the Enforcement Division.

- 32. The Enforcement Division contacted the Friends Committee, 2012 Committee, and Stampolis by mail three times, by email seven times, and by voicemail four times regarding the delinquent campaign statements and annual fees.
- 33. The Enforcement Division initiated an administrative action against the Friends Committee, 2012 Committee, and Stampolis in this matter by serving them with a packet containing a cover letter, a Report in Support of a Finding of Probable Cause ("PC Report"), a fact sheet regarding probable cause proceedings, selected sections of the Government Code regarding probable cause proceedings for the Commission, and selected regulations of the Commission regarding probable cause proceedings.
- 34. The Friends Committee, 2012 Committee, and Stampolis were served with the PC Report via personal service on January 28, 2018. The information contained in the PC Report packet advised the Friends Committee, 2012 Committee, and Stampolis that they had 21 days in which to request a probable cause conference, file a written response to the PC Report, or both.
- 35. As of the date of this Accusation, the Friends Committee, 2012 Committee, and Stampolis have not responded to the PC Report.
- 36. By means of an Ex Parte Request for a Finding of Probable Cause and an Order that an Accusation Be Prepared and Served ("Ex Parte Request"), dated February 20, 2018, the Enforcement Division submitted the matter to the Hearing Officer for a determination of probable cause.
- 37. On February 26, 2018, the Hearing Officer issued an order finding, based on the Ex Parte Request and the PC Report, that there was probable cause to believe the Friends Committee, 2012 Committee, and Stampolis violated the Act and directed the Enforcement Division to issue an Accusation against the Friends Committee, 2012 Committee, and Stampolis in accordance with the finding.

VIOLATIONS

38. The Friends Committee and Stampolis committed 9 violations of the Act, and the 2012 Committee and Stampolis committed 10 violations of the Act, for a total of 19 violations, as follows:

Count 1

Failure to Timely File a Semi-Annual Campaign Statement

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FPPC Case No. 15/1045

Count 6

As a recipient committee and its candidate, the 2012 Committee and Stampolis had a duty

to file a semi-annual campaign statement for the reporting period of July 1, 2014 through

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December 31, 2015 by February 1, 2016.

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Count 19

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in Count 11;

demonstrated good faith by consulting the Commission staff or any other government agency in a manner not constituting a complete defense under Section 83114, subdivision (b); (5) whether the violation was isolated or part of a pattern and whether the violator has a prior record of violations of the Act or similar laws; and (6) whether the violator, upon learning of a reporting violation, voluntarily filed amendments to provide full disclosure.

22. That the Commission grant such other and further relief as it deems just and proper.

Dated: <u>25April 8</u>

Galena West

Chief of Enforcement
Fair Political Practices Commission