

STATE OF CALIFORNIA FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION 1102 Q Street • Suite 3000 • Sacramento, CA 95811

March 16, 2021

Magdalena Carrasco

Friends of Magdalena G. Carrasco for East Side Union High School Board of Trustees 2012

Also sent via email at:

Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 2021-00207; Friends of Magdalena G. Carrasco for East Side Union High School Board of Trustees 2012, Magdalena Carrasco

Dear Ms. Carrasco and Committee:

The Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the "Act").¹ This letter is in response to a referral from your filing officer, the County of Santa Clara, that alleged you and Friends of Magdalena G. Carrasco for East Side Union High School Board of Trustees 2012 (the "Committee") failed to timely file a semi-annual campaign statement for the reporting period of July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

The Enforcement Division has completed its review of the facts in this case. Specifically, we found that you and the Committee failed to timely file a semi-annual campaign statement for the reporting period of July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 by the February 1, 2021 due date.

The Act requires committees to file semi-annual campaign statements each year no later than July 31 for the period ending June 30, and no later than January 31 for the period ending December $31.^2$ The obligation to file semi-annual campaign statements continues until the candidate or treasurer terminates the committee. Committee treasurers are jointly and severally liable for violations by the committee.³

Your actions violated the Act because you and the Committee failed to timely file a semi-annual campaign statement by the February 1, 2021 due date. However, mitigating factors exist such that

¹ The Political Reform Act is contained in Government Code sections 81000 through 91014, and all statutory references are to this code. The regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission are contained in Sections 18110 through 18997 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations, and all regulatory references are to this source.

² Section 84200.

³ Sections 83116.5 and 91006.

the Enforcement Division has decided to close your case with this warning letter rather than issue a fine. First of all, you and the Committee filed the outstanding statement prior to being contacted by the Enforcement Division and one day after the referral was made. Additionally, the campaign statement was only 18 days late and had no reportable activity disclosed. Moreover, this committee is regarding your candidacy in the 2012 election and is unrelated to your current officeholder position with the City of San Jose. For these reasons, we are closing your case with this 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 Enforcement Division case resolution without administrative prosecution or fine. The Commission has adopted Regulation 18360.1 to authorize the Enforcement Division to issue warning letters to conclude cases in specified circumstances. 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.

If you need forms or a manual, or guidance regarding your obligations, please call the Commission's Toll-Free Advice Line at 1-866-275-3772 or visit our website at <u>www.fppc.ca.gov</u>.

Please feel free to contact Chloe Hackert at (916) 322-8190 or <u>chackert@fppc.ca.gov</u> with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Angela J. Brereton

Angela J. Brereton, Chief Enforcement Division

AJB/ ch cc: County of Santa Clara