



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

September 16, 2022

Richard R. Rios

Olson Remcho LLP

o/b/o Berkeley Council of Classified Employees AFT Local 6192 COPE and Estellas Sisneros

Via email: rrios@olsonremcho.com

Warning Letter re: FPPC Case No. 2022-00417; Berkeley Council of Classified Employees AFT Local 6192 COPE and Estellas Sisneros

Dear Mr. Rios:

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 the sworn complaint you filed with the Enforcement Division on behalf of your clients to self-report violations of the campaign disclosure provisions of the Act. The Enforcement Division has completed its review and found that Berkeley Council of Classified Employees AFT Local 6192 CPOP (the “Committee”) and Ms. Sisneros failed to timely file seven semi-annual campaign statements.

The Act requires recipient committees, including general purpose 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 treasurer terminates the committee. In addition, if the committee makes contributions or independent expenditures totaling \$500 or more to support or oppose a candidate or measure appearing on the ballot during the pre-election reporting period, it must file pre-election statements.³

The Committee and Ms. Sisneros violated the Act by failing to timely file seven semi-annual campaign statements by the applicable deadlines. A streamline stipulation was approved for two of the violations. The violations for failing to timely file the semi-annual campaign statements for the periods ending June 30, 2018, December 31, 2018, June 30, 2019, December 31, 2019, and June 30, 2020 are being resolved with this warning letter rather than a fine because there was minimal activity disclosed on the statements and the Committee did not make contributions during the reporting periods. Additionally, the Committee and Ms. Sisneros have no prior Enforcement history.

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.

¹ The Political Reform Act is contained in Government Code Sections 81000 through 91014.

² Section 84200.

³ Section 84200.5(a)(3).

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 have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact Tara Stock at (916) 322-8241 or tstock@fppc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Angela J. Brereton

Angela J. Brereton, Chief
Enforcement Division

AJB: ts