



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

December 13, 2022

Adrian D. Cleveland



Warning Letter Re: FPPC Case No. 2021-00660; Adrian D. Cleveland and Committee to Elect Adrian D. Cleveland to College Board 2020

Dear Adrian D. Cleveland,

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 the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk that alleged you failed to file a Candidate Intention Statement (Form 501) prior to establishing your committee: Committee to Elect Adrian D. Cleveland to College Board 2020.

The Enforcement Division has completed its review of the facts in this case. Specifically, we found that you began accepting contributions and making expenditures on behalf of your candidacy in September 2020.

The Act provides that a candidate for state or local office must file a Form 501 for each election prior to soliciting or receiving any contributions or making expenditures from personal funds on behalf of their candidacy.² An individual who intends to run for local office must file the Form 501 with the same filing officer as they would file original campaign statements.

Your actions violated the Act because you failed to file your Candidate Intention Statement prior to soliciting or receiving contributions or loans. However, mitigating evidence exists such that the Enforcement Division has elected to close this case with this warning letter rather than a fine: you were a first-time candidate with no prior experience with the Act; your election bid was

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 85200

unsuccessful; you ran a relatively small campaign; you filed the missing Form 501 after being contacted by the Enforcement Division; and you have no prior history of violating the Act.

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 www.fppc.ca.gov.

Please feel free to contact me at aberjikly@fppc.ca.gov with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Artin Berjikly

Artin Berjikly
Senior Commission Counsel
Enforcement Division

cc: Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk