



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION
1102 Q Street • Suite 3050 • Sacramento, CA 95811

August 29, 2023

Maria Teresa Santillan-Beas
[REDACTED]

Re: No Action Closure Letter: FPPC Case No. 2020-00005, In the Matter of Maria Teresa Santillan-Beas

Maria Teresa Santillan-Beas,

The Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the “Act”).¹ The Enforcement Division received two complaints against you alleging that you violated the Act when you, in your capacity as a Lynwood City Councilmember, created or were involved with the creation of a new government position and then applied for and accepted that position.

No public official at any level of state or local government may make, participate in making, or in any way attempt to use their official position to influence a governmental decision in which the official knows or has reason to know they have a financial interest.² A public official has a financial interest in a decision if it is reasonably foreseeable that the decision will have a material financial effect on the official, the official’s immediate family, or on the official’s financial interest or interests.³

The complaints alleged that you, in your capacity as a Lynwood City Councilmember, were involved in creating a new position, specifically the Public Works Operations Manager. Later, you applied for and were offered the position while you were finishing your last term as a City Councilmember. The investigation determined that the job was not a newly created position. Instead, the city reclassified an existing position in March 2017 in order to better serve the needs of the department. A resolution was adopted by the City Council, including you, on March 7, 2017. It was not reasonably foreseeable that the reclassification of this position would have any financial effect on you, your immediate family, or your financial interests. The actual hiring process for this position in 2018 was conducted by the Personnel Board. However, related documentation was destroyed as part of a record retention policy prior to the complaint coming to the Enforcement Division. The Enforcement Division’s investigation has not found evidence that you used your official position to influence the decision to hire you for the Public Works Operations Manager. The job offer was rescinded, and you are no longer in office.

¹ The Political Reform Act is contained in Government Code §§ 81000 through 91014, and all statutory references are to this code. The regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission are contained in §§ 18104 through 18998 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations, and all regulatory references are to this source.

² Section 87100.

³ Section 87103.

There is insufficient evidence to show a violation of the Act. Therefore, we have closed our investigation into this matter. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me at 916-323-6421 (voicemail).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Theresa Gilbertson', with a stylized, flowing script.

Theresa Gilbertson
Senior Commission Counsel
Enforcement Division

CC: Sworn Complainants: Salvadore Alatorre and Lynwood Residents