



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

December 19, 2024

Manuel Lozano
Mayor Manuel Lozano 2020
mlozano@baldwinpark.com

Warning Letter re: FPPC Case No. 2020-00999; Manuel Lozano; Mayor Manuel Lozano 2020

Dear Mr. Lozano:

The Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act.¹ This case arises from a sworn complaint, which included an alleged campaign reporting issue regarding campaign spending by your 2020 Baldwin Park mayoral committee to support Robert Varela, who was running for re-election to the Baldwin Park Unified School District in November 2020.

In particular, the allegations of the complaint raised concerns about possible unreported coordination. However, Mr. Varela did not win the election, and investigation to date revealed insufficient evidence of a violation of the Act along the lines of what is described above.

However, it does appear that you and your 2020 mayoral committee failed to report street addresses, as well as occupation/employer information, for some of the contributors that you identified on Schedules A and C—in violation of Section 84211, subdivision (f).

In mitigation, you do not have a history of prior, similar violations of the Act, and you were unsuccessful in the election that year.

Based on the foregoing, and in accordance with the Enforcement Division Policy Directives formally adopted by the Commission on January 26, 2023, which require the Enforcement Division to take all appropriate actions within its discretion to decrease the Division's annual carryover caseload, the Enforcement Division is closing this case with this warning letter.² Discretion was used based upon mitigating or aggravating circumstances and the totality of the circumstances.³ This resolution may not be used as a comparable case for other enforcement matters.⁴

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. This warning letter may be considered in any future enforcement actions.

¹ The Political Reform Act—sometimes simply referred to as the Act—is contained in Government Code sections 81000 through 91014. The regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission are contained in California Code of Regulations, title 2, sections 18104 through 18998. Unless otherwise noted, all statutory and regulatory references are to these sources—as they were in effect during the time of the violations in this case (2020).

² See: <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/content/dam/fppc/NS-Documents/AgendaDocuments/General%20Items/2023/january/15.0-Enforcement-directives.pdf>.

³ Regulations 18360.1 and 18360.3.

⁴ See Regulation 18361.5, subdivision (e)(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 need guidance regarding your obligations in the future, please visit our website at www.fppc.ca.gov/advice.html or call the Commission's Toll-Free Advice Line at 1-866-ASK-FPPC (1-866-275-3772).

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

Neal P. Bucknell

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cc: Christina Lucero (sworn complainant)