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April 11, 2016

Commissioner Maria Audero
Commissioner Eric Casher
Commissioner Gavin Wasserman
Commissioner Patricia Wynne
Chairwoman Jodi Remke
Fair Political Practices Commission
428 J St., Sacramento, Calif., 95814

Dear Honorable Fair Political Practices Commission officials,

We are writing as citizens of San Juan Capistrano to express our concerns about the proposed fine against the chairman of our city Planning Commission, Rob Williams.

Your commission concluded Mr. Williams has for seven years been committing a very serious violation by failing to disclose the income he derives from his work as an architect. However, the proposed punishment is merely a fine of just \$400. Given the seriousness of Mr. Williams' offenses, the relationship between his architectural income and his government decisions and the years of misconduct that have been concealed because of his failure to disclose, a fine of that size simply does not suffice. Mr. Williams' removal from office is warranted.

Consider that your commission's work shows the proposed punishment for Mr. Williams is far less than that given to public officials who've engaged in similar misconduct.

In February, you approved a punishment for David Eastham, a helicopter maintenance chief for the Los Angeles County Fire Department who like Mr. Williams failed to disclose income on his annual statements of economic interest. Mr. Eastham's misconduct was not as long-lasting as Mr. Williams - he failed to report between 2010 and 2014; Williams failed to report between 2009 and 2016 - yet the fine levied against him was \$2,500, more than six times that imposed against Mr. Williams.

A \$400 fine is more in keeping with fines imposed for much less serious misconduct than that committed by Mr. Williams.

Consider these recent examples:

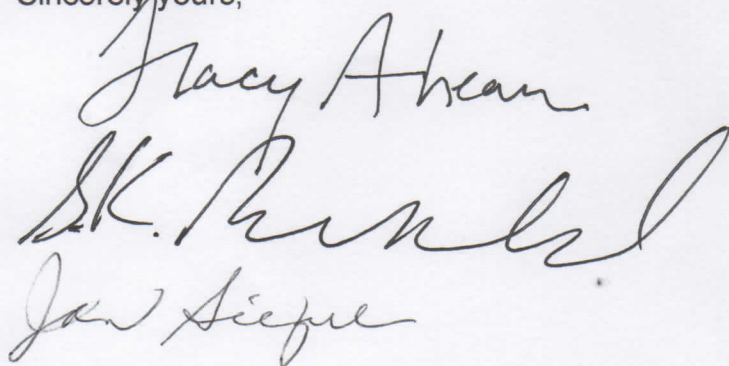
- When Gino Kwok, a member of the Hacienda La Puente Unified School Board, failed to include street addresses for contributors during a six-month reporting period, he was fined \$414.
- When Wing Tam, an alternate member of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, and John Dmytriw, a commissioner with the California Avocado Commission, failed to timely file their annual statements of economic interests, each were fined \$300.

Seven years of misconduct by a city planning commissioner who kept his architecture income secret is surely more detrimental to our political process and a bigger mockery of the state's Political Reform Act than a failure to file a single document by a public official whose duties relate to avocados or by an alternative member of a local commission dedicated to restoring a bay.

Why, then, is Mr. Williams facing punishment equivalent to theirs and much less than the punishment imposed for a fire department employee who committed similar misconduct yet for not nearly as long?

As citizens dedicated to good government, we urge you to reject the proposed fine for Mr. Williams and impose a punishment that better addresses his egregious misconduct.

Sincerely yours,

Three handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is 'Tracy Ahearn', the second is 'Steve Behmerwohld', and the third is 'Jan Siegel'. The signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tracy Ahearn
Steve Behmerwohld
Jan Siegel