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Fair Political Practices Commission

January 10, 2017

Commissioners: Audero, Casher, Remke, Wasserman & Wynne

Statement of Defense

Re-Elect Gary Mendez for Rio Hondo College Board 2011; FPPC Case No. 15/218

I deeply apologize for the prolonged existence of this issue. It is my intent to resolve this matter.

The Committee to Re-Elect Gary Mendez for Rio Hondo College Board 2011 has been non-existent since November 2011. The bank account linked to this committee has been closed. My last re-election campaign for this position was in 2011. Subsequently, I have been re-appointed to this position due to no opposition filing. There was No campaign in 2015. There has not been any activity since November 2011. It was my belief that the committee was closed at the end of November 2011 and no longer existent.

I have communicate this to various representatives from the Los Angeles County Recorder's Office and the Fair Political Practices Commission.

I am a modest and humble public servant. I do not raise large amounts of funds during election cycles nor do I raise funds between cycles. The most I've raised for this position for campaign is about \$5,000. Hence, when this committee did exist and operate the funds were minimal.

The proposed fine is unreasonable, malicious prosecution and is not equal to the violation.

My personal income is modest and lifestyle humble. This unjust substantial fine would be financially devastating and fatal. I have read that the FPPC wishes to make me an example for the many "Latino elected officials in the southeast Los Angeles County communities" that are out of compliance. This is not the solution to resolving compliance issues of elected ethnic groups. Making me an example by fire, tar and feather sounds of the cruelty of Hernan Cortez.

I do not raise large sums of campaign funds. I am not representative of "Latino elected officials" in the southeast county. The People of California see my campaign funds through filings during my active campaign cycles. My committee ceases to exist after cycles. I absolutely have no reason to deceive the people.

I humbly request that an equitable, fair and just fine be imposed that is fitting of a violation.

It is a pleasure and privilege to serve.

Gary Mendez

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