

FPPC

Aug 15, 2018

Dear Commissioners

I want to make a comment regarding the FPPC investigation on agenda item #13, Francisco Ramirez.

(X) Found no evidence of intent to conceal. This box was checked on the proposed settlement with Ramirez and I speculate he will boast about this. I must disagree with this part of the investigation and settlement and here is why.

He continually lied about his activity to the citizens of Hanford. The following statements were made by Ramirez during this investigation:

- I did nothing wrong
- Told the grand jury that he only collected \$975.00 in contributions. After reviewing his paperwork, he found out he made a mistake and collected just over \$1,000. (the grand jury investigation revealed he collected over \$3,000 in contributions and in-kind gifts)
- He said on his now self-promoted video to avoid a recall, he had knowledge of those in-kind gifts and if you have knowledge, YOU must report them
- Blame his so-called campaign managers of stealing his contributions
- Ramirez blames his campaign managers of setting him up. According to Ramirez, they prepared the fraudulent paperwork not reporting the \$3000 and had Ramirez sign it.
- There are certain individuals that are throwing these allegations at me just because I'm not allowing them to pull my strings and be their puppet
- I am being BLACKMAILED
- I have tried not to make this a race issue, a rich or poor issue or a religious issue, but the people that are doing this are simply racist!
- Accuses his inability to follow the elections code on people being corrupt.

Now take all these statements by Ramirez in my opinion IT SHOWS EVIDENCE OF INTENT TO CONCEAL. (he got caught with his hand in the cookie jar)

The new 460 formed filed March 6, 2018 (according to the FPPC) finally shows Ramirez collected \$3,070 reportable contributions in his 2014 campaign for city council and violated at least 5 violations of government codes. (I suspect there were more violations, but I believe there was a plea agreement between the FPPC and Ramirez to pay a \$1,075 fine.)

As you can see he continually lied about his activity to the citizens of Hanford. Ramirez violated the election law repeatedly, continually lied about it to the public and did nothing but promote himself while on the Hanford City Council. He has proven himself to be completely dishonest. It is my understanding each violation has a maximum fine of \$5,000. I urge the commission to seriously consider the maximum fine for each violation committed by Ramirez.

Russ Curry