

## CA FPPC

I read in a recent article in the Fresno Bee regarding issues with my recent campaign for Fresno City Council that may be being addressed in an upcoming meeting of the FPPC. I chose not to respond to the Fresno Bee's request for comment as the last time I responded to an FPPC issue to the Bee, FPPC staff responded back to the Bee addressing not what I said, but rather what the Bee reporter characterized as my statements. The Bee reporter, John Ellis, often misrepresents facts and I choose not to participate in that type of journalism.

When I recently filed and ran for the Fresno City Council I stood in line at the clerk's office, my opponent directly in line behind me. I requested the paperwork to qualify for and run for office and completed the paperwork on the spot and submitted it. The clerk's office acknowledged that all paperwork was completed and qualified me to run for office, the same as my opponent. The same paperwork, the same office, the same day and time.

I received a letter stating that a complaint had been filed that my paperwork was not in order, and that there would be an investigation. Our own investigation revealed that the name and address given by the complainant were both fictional, though the address was very similar to that of the Fresno Bee.

I assigned a campaign staff member to fully cooperate with the FPPC, to indicate that I accept full responsibility and make sure that all paperwork was filed in an appropriate manner and that we meet all rules and regulations of the City of Fresno and the State of California.

Prior to the start of the campaign, as we had paperwork problems in a previous CA State Assembly Campaign, I hired a professional campaign reporting firm to be sure that I filed all paperwork according to the rules. Subsequently, it was pointed out to me that we did not indicate the occupations of some of our donors, and we corrected that issue immediately. However, in the CA State Assembly Campaign, and in the City Council campaign, all of the missing employers were submitted in previous reports submitted to the FPPC and available to the public. There was never any intention to hide occupations. All funds received by all of my campaigns have been reported and all employers and occupations have been reported.

As for the Bee's contention that I filed a report over 150 days late, is an issue that I am not familiar with. As for the Bee's contention that I did not respond to the FPPC: I assigned a staff member who had many productive exchanges with the FPPC. I spoke several times with FPPC staff. As far as I understood, all missing paperwork had been completed. I submitted a letter stipulating that if the FPPC found that I was in error that I would take full responsibility, make any corrections and stand accountable.

I understand that there is and never was any issue of misappropriating any campaign funds, or of any illegal or excessive contributions. I understand that all outstanding issues are about properly filing forms. As I stated, we completed all forms as submitted by the county clerk. We hired a professional reporting firm, Direct File, to help facilitate the filling of those forms, and I assigned a campaign staff

member, who had recently graduated from law school to address all issues with the FPPC. Not only was there no intent to not complete all forms correctly and on time, we launched an extraordinary effort to make sure we complied. I only wonder what would be the outcome of any other candidates in my race having complaints filed against them by fictitious persons, if the same scrutiny would likely find similar errors. Regardless, if there are errors in my reporting, I take full responsibility and stand accountable.

As for the Bee's contention that I said I would not pay any fine, you need to take that up with the Bee. With the economy in the condition it is, I struggle like many others to meet my obligations. I intend to pay all of my necessary expenses to sustain myself and my family, and then I commit 100% of all other funds at my disposal to meet any other obligation I have, including to the FPPC. There is no more than I can do.

As for paying any fines to the FPPC as a result of my recent campaign for Fresno City Council, I request that all fines be taken from the remaining funds from that account, and that we settle for the total of those funds.

Respectfully submitted,

s/Mike Briggs

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1212 N Van Ness

Fresno CA 93728

449-579-1360