

December 9, 2024

Fair Political Practices Commission
1102 Q Street, Suite 3050
Sacramento, CA 95811

Attention: Commission Assistant and Marissa Corona

Subject: MOTION TO VACATE

In the Matter of Sandy Genis for Costa Mesa City Council 2016, Sandy Genis for Costa Mesa City Mayor 2018, and Sandy Genis for Costa Mesa City Mayor 2020; FPPC No. 18/1359

Sent via Federal Express and e-mail to CommAsst@fppc.ca.gov and mcorona@fppc.ca.gov.

On December 4, 2024 at approximately 4:30 pm, I was served notice that the Fair Political Practices Commission had rendered an administrative penalty in the amount of \$68,000 in the matter of Sandy Genis for Costa Mesa City Council 2016, Sandy Genis for Costa Mesa City Mayor 2018, and Sandy Genis for Costa Mesa City Mayor 2020; FPPC No. 18/1359. The cover letter, dated November 21, 2024 indicated that I could request a motion to vacate with the Commission within 7 days, which is the purpose of this letter.

The request is made based on mistakes, inadvertence, surprise and excusable neglect. This matter has arisen due to my failure to submit any FPPC filings since the 2020 elections. My failure in this regard was not due to any intent to hide anything but was neglect on my part. Any violation was inadvertent.

I was not using these committees for any political activity and had been considering everything finished. However, it appears that I neglected to file final statements to close the accounts, and am surprised to find, in going over old records, that there may actually be some money there, about which I have some questions.

At the time of the 2020 election, we were in the midst of the COVID shutdown, and the period from mid- 2020 through late 2022 was a difficult time for me. Like many others, I felt isolated and had chronic sinus headaches from my masks. In addition, several other events occurred.

First, I sustained a concussion and other injuries from a fall. While I was still on crutches, my younger dog was diagnosed with cancer. A few months later, he was gone. Then the other, older dog started going downhill, and eventually she was gone, too.

For a couple of years, most of my time was spent cooking for dogs, cleaning up after dogs, trying to reassure dogs, crying over dogs, etc. Most of everything else was neglected. Mail got thrown in a box, and when that was full, I started another box.

Of my group of friends, I had typically been the one to cheer people up when they were down. Unfortunately, they kept expecting more of the same, wanting to unload about their problems and annoyances, I think not even grasping that I might need some encouragement in return. Thus, except for family, one friend, and the veterinarian, I just quit answering the phone or doing electronic media, becoming further isolated.

In late 2022 I determined to return to normal life. I took a stab at checking the thousands of unread e-mails, but the numbers were too overwhelming and they brought back all the sad things I'd been through. I decided to hit "delete" and move forward.

Union Bank stopped sending statements for campaign accounts. The Union Bank branch with my accounts became a US Bank. I rarely saw anyone from City Hall, but the few times I happened to speak with the City Clerk, including earlier this year, no one said anything about unfiled committee statements. This was different than in the past, pre-COVID, when we'd always get plenty of reminders. It became a case of "out of sight, out of mind" for any political committees.

I was thus surprised when earlier this year, I got a notice from the FPPC regarding unpaid annual fees for committees I no longer used or wanted. I mistakenly viewed them as long gone. I should have immediately contacted the FPPC, but I set it aside to check out "later". In October, when I received another thin envelope from FPPC, I thought it was about the fees so I set it aside without even opening it. It was not until the day before Thanksgiving that I became aware of the mess I'd made when a reporter called. Needless to say, I am beyond surprised. I am aghast and ashamed of myself.

Since then I have gone through the boxes and have torn the house apart. I am further aghast to find a packet of materials from October under a box of craft supplies nowhere near where I would put any mail. I also went through a pile of papers with which I was served that appear unrelated to this matter, involving a bankruptcy of some company I'd never heard of. Am hoping DHL Technologies has nothing to do with this or with me in any way at all.

I have no bank statement for the 2016 account. Statements for the 2018 and 2020 accounts are attached. The only activity shown is for bank fees and a social media subscription which took some time to get rid of. It had been billed to a now-closed Paypal account. For some reason Paypal then billed the 2018 account when it should have been the 2020 account—something I would have realized had I not neglected all of this. Union Bank declared one account dormant. They subsequently closed both accounts due to a lack of a "certificate of ownership".

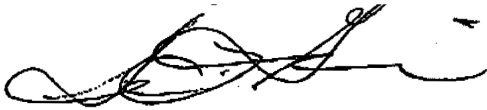
There was another surprise in the boxes of papers. Union Bank sent a cashier's check for the account balance. Should it be deposited in a new bank account and then disbursed, endorsed over to the FPPC, given to a local nonprofit? Will more paperwork be involved?

I plea that you will look favorably upon this motion to vacate. I have no desire to be involved in any political activity and realize I should have taken care of all this long ago. I am in my seventies, retired, and on a fixed income. The \$68,000 judgment would be a severe blow with significant effects on my future.

I also request permission to add additional materials to those enclosed. I do not want to miss the deadline but have not been able to complete all I had intended. Yesterday I was ill, and a friend called the paramedics who took me to the emergency room. Though back home, I am still not fully recovered.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am sorry I did not take care of this sooner and for any trouble I have caused. Please look favorably on this request.

Yours truly,



Sandra Genis

