


**From:** Espinoza, Edward - BC BC-Edward.Espinoza@austintexas.gov   
**Subject:** Re: Ethics Review Commission  
**Date:** August 24, 2023 at 12:08 PM  
**To:** Ken Martin ken@theaustinbulldog.org



Mr. Martin,

Thank you for your email. I could not respond sooner as I was advised not to discuss matters currently before the commission. Now that the matter is settled, I offer the following statement. This is the only statement I will offer.

*The question of recusal assumes that CM Velasquez expects favorability, whereas I assume that he - and anyone coming before the commission - expects fairness, and that's exactly what I intend to offer.*

*I believe it was appropriate to move forward with sanctions, which is why I seconded the motion to take action, though I also believe that corrective action taken by CM Velasquez was worth consideration.*

*My position is that a letter of notification would be appropriate given that this was a preliminary hearing in which the respondent was not required to attend, and that a fair consideration of a letter of admonition should be reserved for an actual hearing, where the respondent would be present to defend himself, and with additional evidence to review.*

*The matter is now settled.*

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**From:** Ken Martin <ken@theaustinbulldog.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 16, 2023 12:34 PM  
**To:** Espinoza, Edward - BC <BC-Edward.Espinoza@austintexas.gov>  
**Subject:** Ethics Review Commission

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Good Afternoon, Commissioner Espinoza,

On July 15th I published a story about the ethics complaint filed against City Council Member Jose Velasquez. See <https://theaustinbulldog.org/velasquez-hit-with-ethics-complaint/>

It's my understanding that the Ethics Review Commission will conduct a Preliminary Hearing concerning this complaint at its August 23rd meeting (although the agenda has not yet been posted).

I'm writing to ask if you plan to recuse yourself from participating in that hearing.

I ask because, as you probably know, some concerns have been expressed about your participation because you are married to Council Member Paige Ellis, and she needs to have a working relationship with Council Member Velasquez.

I do plan to cover the Preliminary Hearing and publish a story about the outcome, so I would appreciate a response at your earliest convenience about whether you plan to participate or to recuse yourself.

I look forward to getting your response,

Ken

Ken Martin  
Founder, Editor & Publisher  
The Austin Bulldog



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Edward Espinoza  
Boards and Commissions

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