



City of Austin
Ethics Review Commission

LETTER OF NOTIFICATION

TO: Paige Ellis
FROM: City of Austin Ethics Review Commission
DATE: December 20, 2022
RE: Determination of Sanctions under City Code, Sections 2-7-48 and 2-7-49

In accordance with Chapter 2-7 of the Austin City Code, this letter of notification is to advise you that the City of Austin Ethics Review Commission (the "Commission") has completed its consideration of the complaint filed with the Commission against you on November 9, 2022.

The Complaint alleges that you violated Austin City Code, Chapter 2-2 (Campaign Finance) Section 2-2-21 (Additional Information Required on All Campaign Finance Reports Filed with the City) by failing to include occupation and/or employer information for certain contributors. The Complaint further alleges that you also violated City Charter Article III, Section 8 (Limits on Campaign Contributions and Expenditures), by accepting contributions over the contribution limit.

During the preliminary hearing on December 14, 2022, you agreed that contributions were accepted over the allowable limit and not refunded within the same reporting period. You further noted that you took corrective action by issuing refunds for most of the contributions in question. We understand that these refunds will be reflected in your January 15th campaign finance report.

Based on your admissions during the preliminary hearing, the Commission found that there were reasonable grounds that a violation of City Charter Article III, Section 8 did occur.

Regarding future steps to avoid additional violations, the Commission advises that any additional refunds should be based on the contribution limits that were in place contemporaneous with the date of receipt of the contribution. The Commission also advises that refunds, when possible, be issued within the same reporting period in which the contribution was received. The Commission further requests that any additional refunds be included in upcoming the January 15th report.

Regarding 2-2-21, the Commission found that there were no reasonable grounds to believe that a violation occurred. Comments by individual commissioners are contained in the video recording of the Commission meeting, which is available at: <https://austintx.new.swagit.com/videos/191292>.

Effective Date of the Commission's Approval of Issuance of a Letter of Notification: 14th day of December, 2022

CITY OF AUSTIN ETHICS REVIEW COMMISSION

Mary Kahle - Vice Chair, Ethics Review Commission