
LOS ANGELES CITY ETHICS COMMISSION

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For Immediate Release:
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**CITY ETHICS COMMISSION DIRECTOR ISSUES PUBLIC ACCUSATION
FOR CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION AND REPORTING VIOLATIONS
AGAINST FORMER COUNCIL DISTRICT 14 CANDIDATE VILLARAIGOSA**

Following a finding of probable cause and disclosure procedures required by City law, Los Angeles City Ethics Commission Executive Director LeeAnn M. Pelham today issued a public announcement that there is probable cause to believe that Antonio Villaraigosa (“Villaraigosa”) and his 14th Council District campaign committee, “Villaraigosa for Council” violated campaign finance and disclosure provisions of City law in 31 instances in connection with his March 4, 2003 Council primary election campaign. The administrative enforcement matter, which began following the August 2005 conclusion of the Commission’s mandatory audit of the committee, goes next to the agency’s five-member Ethics Commission to determine whether the violations occurred, and if so, what penalty should apply.

City Charter §706(c) authorizes the Commission to levy fines of up to \$5,000 for each violation or three times the amount that was failed to be reported, or that was unlawfully contributed or expended, whichever is greater. As in all cases referred to the Commission for an administrative hearing, a Respondent is presumed innocent of any violation of City law, unless and until such time that the violation is determined by the Commission at a public hearing.

The written Accusation charges that Villaraigosa and his Council Committee accepted contributions in excess of the \$500 per person limit in four instances in violation of Charter §470(c)(3), accepted non-individual contributions in excess of the \$150,000 limit in violation of Charter §470(c)(7)(A), failed to file copies of campaign literature with the Commission in 23 instances in violation of Los Angeles Municipal Code §49.7.11(C), and failed to send a copy of the script or recording for two automated telephone calls and one radio advertisement in violation of Los Angeles City Ordinance 174881 §7(a). That ordinance requires committees that make or incur payments for 1,000 or more pre-recorded telephone calls to support or oppose a City candidate, or make or incur expenditures of \$1,000 or more for a radio or television advertisement for that purpose, to send a copy of the script or recording used for each communication to the Ethics Commission for the public file within one calendar day of the first time the calls or advertisements are made or aired.

The Commission and its staff may not comment on this matter until after a final determination has been made. For a copy of the Accusation, please contact the Commission at (213) 978-1960.

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