



Ethics Review Commission

July 24, 2023

MAYOR

Oscar Leeser

CITY COUNCIL

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Cassandra Hernandez

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Joe Molinar

District 5

Isabel Salcido

District 6

Art Fierro

District 7

Henry Rivera

District 8

Chris Canales

INTERIM

CITY MANAGER

Cary Westin

Electronic Mail: Hernandez.Cassandra@elpasotexas.gov

Representative Cassandra Hernandez

El Paso City Hall

300 N. Campbell

El Paso, Texas 79901

Re: LETTER OF REPRIMAND

Dear Representative Hernandez:

On May 26, 2023, George Zavala filed a sworn Complaint against you alleging violations of Sections 2.92.030 (A) (1) and (7) of the Ethics Code. This Complaint alleged you misused the City issued fuel card based on the findings of the City's Internal Audit Office for calendar year 2022. Other allegations submitted in the complaint regarding Proposition J in the most recent Charter election were not accepted nor considered by the Ethics Review Commission ("Commission").

On July 19 and 20, 2023, the Ethics Commission convened in a formal hearing to consider these complaints. After considering all sworn testimony and evidence submitted by Mr. Zavala and yourself, the Ethics Commission unanimously found by clear and convincing evidence that you violated Sections 2.92.030 (A) (1) and (7) of the Ethics Code, as contained in the Complaint.


Section 2.92.030 (A) of the Ethics Code states:

(1) - Shall not use their official positions improperly to secure unwarranted privileges or exemptions for themselves, relatives, or others. This provision does not preclude officers or employees from acting in any manner consistent with their official duties or from zealously providing public services to anyone who is entitled to them;

(7) - Shall not utilize city resources or by omission allow city resources to be utilized for personal benefit or the personal benefit of any other person or entity, except to the extent that the benefit received is strictly incidental to the performance of official duties, or to the extent that the person is entitled by law to obtain public services from the city;

The evidence presented to the Ethics Commission showed by clear and convincing evidence that you did use your position as a City Representative to secure unwarranted privileges for yourself, relatives or others. Moreover, the evidence showed that you did use the fuel card for your personal benefit and the benefit of others and therefore there was an intentional misuse of the city issued fuel card. Attached please find a copy of the Determination of the Ethics Review Commission.

In accordance with 2.92.200 (D) (3) of the Ethics Code, a **Letter of Reprimand** may be issued when the Ethics Review Commission finds that a violation of the Ethics Code has occurred and also finds that the violation was intentional or through disregard of the Ethics Code. You are therefore Reprimanded concerning the violations that were found and we respectfully request you to be mindful of the provisions of the Ethics Code, especially Article 2 of the Ethics Code, the Standards of Conduct for City Officials.

By: 
Casey A. Williams, Chairman
City of El Paso Ethics Review Commission

Cc: Mayor and City Council
Cary Westin, Interim City Manager
Karla Nieman, City Attorney