1	Simon Russell		
2	Enforcement Chief		
3	CITY OF OAKLAND PUBLIC ETHICS COMMISSION		
4	1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Rm. 104		
5	Oakland, CA 94612		
6	Telephone: (510) 238-4976		
7			
8	Petitioner		
9			
10	BEFORE THE CITY OF C	OAKLAND	
11	PUBLIC ETHICS COM	MISSION	
12			
13	In the Matter of	) Case No.: 22-09	
14	OAKLANDERS FOR RESPONSIBLE	) STIPULATION, DECISION AND	
15	LEADERSHIP; LIBBY SCHAAF;	ORDER	
16	BARBARA LESLIE; ROBERT ZACHARY WASSERMAN; DOUG LINNEY;	) )	
17	OAKPAC, OAKLAND METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,	)	
18		) )	
19	Respondents.	)	
20		) )	
21		) )	
22			
23	STIPULATION		
24			
25	Petitioner, the Enforcement Unit of the City of Oakland Public Ethics Commission, and		
26	respondents OAKLANDERS FOR RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP, LIBBY SCHAAF,		
27	BARBARA LESLIE, ROBERT ZACHARY WASSERMAN, DOUG LINNEY, and		
28	OAKPAC, OAKLAND METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, agree as follows:		
	1		

1. This Stipulation will be submitted for consideration by the City of Oakland Public Ethics Commission (Commission) at its next regularly scheduled meeting;

- 2. This Stipulation resolves all factual and legal issues raised in this matter and represents the final resolution to this matter without the necessity of holding an administrative hearing to determine the liability of, or penalties and/or other remedies to be imposed upon, Respondents;
- 3. Respondents knowingly and voluntarily waive all procedural rights under the Oakland City Charter, Oakland Municipal Code, the Public Ethics Commission Complaint Procedures, and all other sources of procedural rights applicable to this PEC enforcement action. These procedural rights include, but are not limited to, the right to personally appear at an administrative hearing held in this matter, to be represented by an attorney at their own expense, to confront all witnesses testifying at the hearing, to subpoena witnesses to testify at the hearing, and to have the matter judicially reviewed;
- 4. Respondents represent that they have accurately furnished to the Commission all discoverable information and documents that are relevant to the Commission's determination of a fair and comprehensive resolution to this matter;
- 5. Upon approval of this Stipulation and full performance of the terms outlined in this Stipulation, the Commission will take no future action against Respondents, including any officer, director, employee, or agent of Respondents, regarding the activities described in Exhibit #1 to this Stipulation, and this Stipulation shall constitute the complete resolution of all claims by the Commission against Respondents, including any officer, director, employee, or agent of Respondents, related to such activities and any associated alleged violations;
- 6. If Respondents fail to comply with the terms of this Stipulation, then the Commission may reopen this matter and prosecute Respondents to the full extent permitted by law, except that the Statute of Limitations shall be waived for any violations that were not

- discoverable or actionable by the Commission due to non-compliance with any provision of this Stipulation;
- 7. This Stipulation is not binding on any other law enforcement or regulatory agency, and does not preclude the Commission or its staff from cooperating with, or assisting any other government agency with regard to this matter, or any other matter related to it; except that neither the Commission nor its staff shall refer this matter, or any other matter related to it, as pertains to any alleged violation by Respondents, to any other government agency;
- 8. Respondents admit that they committed the violation(s) of the Oakland Municipal Code with which they are specifically identified in Exhibit #1 to this Stipulation, and in the manner set forth in that Exhibit, which is expressly incorporated by reference in its entirety to this Stipulation and represents a true and accurate summary of the facts in this matter;
- 9. The Commission will impose upon Respondents the penalties and/or other remedies specified in Exhibit #1, as they pertain to each of the named Respondents;
- 10. Respondents will pay the amount specified in Exhibit #1 to this Stipulation to the City of Oakland general fund within sixty (60) calendar days of the date on which the Commission votes to accept this Stipulation. Commission staff may extend the payment deadline at its discretion;
- 11. In the event the Commission refuses to accept this Stipulation, it shall become null and void, and within fifteen business days after the Commission meeting at which the Stipulation is rejected, any payments already tendered by Respondents in connection with this Stipulation will be reimbursed to them;
- 12. In the event the Commission rejects this Stipulation and a full evidentiary hearing becomes necessary, this Stipulation and all references to it are inadmissible as evidence, and neither any member of the Commission, nor the Executive Director or any member of PEC staff, shall be disqualified from that hearing because of prior consideration of this Stipulation;

1	13. This Stipulation may not be amended orally. An	y amendment or modification to this
2	Stipulation must be in writing duly executed	by all parties and approved by the
3	Commission at a regular or special meeting, exc	ept for any extension to the payment
4	deadline described in paragraph 10, which Cor	nmission staff may grant at its sole
5	discretion and which need only be in writing not re	equiring execution;
6	14. This Stipulation shall be construed under, and int	erpreted in accordance with, the laws
7	of the State of California and the City of Oakland	. If any provision of the Stipulation is
8	found to be unenforceable, the remaining provisio	ns shall remain valid and enforceable;
9	and	
10	15. The parties hereto may sign different copies of thi	s Stipulation, which will be deemed to
11	have the same effect as though all parties had	signed the same document. Verified
12	electronic signatures shall have the same effect as	s wet signatures. The parties need not
13	sign this agreement until after the Commission has	s voted to accept it.
14		
15	So agreed:	
16		
17		
18	Simon Russell, Chief of Enforcement	Dated
19	City of Oakland Public Ethics Commission, Petitioner	
20		
21		
22	Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Respondent	Dated
23	outkinders for responsible Leadership, respondent	Buted
24		
25		
26	Libby Schaaf, Respondent	Dated
27		
28		
	Stipulation, Decision and C	Order
	Suburation, Decision and C	JIUCI

# Barbara Leslie, Respondent Dated Robert Zachary Wasserman, Respondent Dated Doug Linney, Respondent Dated OAKPAC, Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Dated Commerce, Respondent Stipulation, Decision and Order

Item 10 - 22-09 Proposed Settlement Agreement

PEC Case No. 22-09

# **DECISION AND ORDER**

1	
2	The foregoing Stipulation of the parties to "In the Matter of OAKLANDERS FOR
3	RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP; LIBBY SCHAAF; BARBARA LESLIE; ROBERT
4	ZACHARY WASSERMAN; DOUG LINNEY; JAMES SUTTON; OAKPAC, OAKLAND
5	METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE," PEC Case No. 22-09, including all
6	attached Exhibits, is hereby accepted as the final Decision and Order of the City of Oakland
7	Public Ethics Commission, effective upon execution below by the Chair.
8	
9	So ordered:
10	
11	
12	Ryan Micik, Chair Dated
13	City of Oakland Public Ethics Commission
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	
	6

# EXHIBIT

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

INTRODUCTION1
FACTUAL SUMMARY 2
SUMMARY OF LAW & LEGAL ANALYSIS23
VIOLATIONS: OAKLANDERS FOR RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP; MAYOR SCHAAF; DOUG
LINNEY38
VIOLATIONS: OAKLANDERS FOR RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP; MAYOR SCHAAF 45
VIOLATIONS: OAKLANDERS FOR RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP47
VIOLATIONS: LIBBY SCHAAF; DOUG LINNEY49
VIOLATIONS: OAKPAC, OAKLAND METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE; BARBARA
LESLIE, ROBERT ZACHARY WASSERMAN 50
PENALTY ANALYSIS52
RECOMMENDED PENALTIES57
INTRODUCTION
This case concerns an independent expenditure committee active in the Oakland
election in 2018 that was called "Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership" (ORL) with a
primary purpose to oppose the re-election of incumbent Councilmember Desley Brooks to the
District 6 City Council seat.
Any campaign committee over which an elected official exercises "significant
influence" must be registered as a candidate-controlled committee. It is also subject to
stricter rules than other types of campaign committees, including the contribution limit. In
this case, Oakland voters were not informed on any of ORL's ads or campaign forms that it
was a candidate controlled committee, significantly influenced by Mayor Schaaf.
,
EXHIBIT PEC Case No. 22-09

### **EXHIBIT**

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

In addition, leaders of the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce's political committee, called OAKPAC, acted as a pass-through vehicle for certain donors to give money to the ORL campaign committee which had the effect of those donors' names not appearing on its campaign finance forms or on the face of its ads (as committees of the type opposing Brooks were legally required to do – but not OAKPAC, since it was not officially engaged in active campaign activity that year).

PEC staff and Respondents have agreed to settle this matter without an administrative hearing. They are now presenting their stipulated agreement, summary of the facts, and legal analysis to the City of Oakland Public Ethics Commission for its approval. Together, PEC staff and Respondents recommend approval of their agreement and imposition of administrative penalties as described in more detail below.

### **FACTUAL SUMMARY**

Organization of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership (ORL)

In 2018, Desley Brooks was sitting on the City Council District 6 seat and was running for re-election. Sometime around the summer of that year, Mayor Schaaf contacted a political consultant she had used on her successful 2014 mayoral run, Ace Smith, seeking advice about a possible independent expenditure campaign against Brooks' re-election. ("Independent expenditure," also called an "IE," refers to a political campaign that is not directly connected to any of the candidates that it supports or opposes. The legal rules surrounding IEs are discussed in detail later in this Exhibit).

Given that his own professional background was focused on different types of races, Smith did not believe he would be a good fit to run an IE against a local candidate, so he and Mayor Schaaf approached campaign consultant Doug Linney to see if he would be interested. Linney later told the PEC that during his initial meeting with Mayor Schaaf and Smith, Schaaf

### **EXHIBIT**

# In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

told him, "Let's do an IE campaign against Desley, and let me see if I can get some other folks involved to make it happen" (the quote is from Linney, paraphrasing what Mayor Schaaf had said to him).

Following that meeting with Mayor Schaaf, Linney agreed to work on the effort. Mayor Schaaf then asked Linney to produce a formal campaign plan. Although Linney typically ran campaigns on a tight budget, he told the PEC that Mayor Schaaf encouraged him to approach this campaign with a larger budget in mind.

At Mayor Schaaf's request, Linney produced a document on July 10, 2018, called "District 6 IE Proposal." It envisioned a two-pronged campaign, consisting of anti-Brooks messaging focused on allegations of corruption and bullying behavior, as well as a voter turnout drive focused on newly registered voters and midterm skippers. The centerpiece of the strategy, in the words of Linney's proposal, was the use of an "aggressive and highly targeted field campaign to 'create' 3,500 votes." Linney conceived a campaign timeline that included August polling and canvassing, September "voter ID, persuasion" and advertising, and October pursuit of identified supporters as well as additional advertising. The campaign team would consist of Linney (overall management, mail), Nathan Stalnaker (field canvassing) and Andrew Truman Kim (phone banking), as well as an initial itemized budget of \$181,400. The subsequent campaign largely followed this plan, including in its selection of the key campaign personnel (Linney, Stalnaker and Truman Kim). Linney later described this document to the PEC as "our working plan."

Linney shared the plan with Mayor Schaaf, as well as with Smith's campaign firm. He did not share it with any other people at this time. Mayor Schaaf took part in subsequent group discussion of the plan with Linney and Smith's firm. At one point, she suggested raising the budget to more than \$200,000 because (as she stated in an email to Linney and Smith) "I think raising \$200k shouldn't be hard and could shoot for more." Linney corresponded with Mayor Schaaf about formally registering the committee, but held off as she worked to involve others.

### **EXHIBIT**

# In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

After receiving Linney's proposal, Mayor Schaaf met with Barbara Leslie and Zachary Wasserman of the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and its campaign committee, called OAKPAC, who Schaaf knew were also contemplating campaign activities. Mayor Schaaf provided them with Linney's campaign plan, as well as feedback on the plan that she had received from Smith. She invited Leslie, Wasserman and others to join a series of weekly phone conferences with Linney "to discuss strategy and stay in touch on the campaign" (Schaaf's words in an email to Leslie and Wasserman at that time).

Around this same time, Linney enlisted the services of polling firm EMC Research and its President/CEO, Ruth Bernstein. EMC produced a draft poll for the IE campaign, which was shared with Mayor Schaaf for her feedback. Mayor Schaaf also provided the draft to Leslie and Wasserman for purposes of discussion at the group's upcoming weekly phone conferences (despite Linney's reluctance to share the draft too widely). The poll had been scheduled to begin in early August, but was halted at the last minute at Mayor Schaaf's request, in order to incorporate feedback from OAKPAC. Following several rounds of discussion (including direct conversations between Mayor Schaaf and Bernstein, as well as between Mayor Schaaf and Linney) and revision, polling finally began in mid-August.

On August 8, 2018, the first phone conference of the IE team (which still had not yet been officially registered or given a name) was held between Mayor Schaaf, Leslie, Wasserman, Linney, Stalnaker (the consultant who would be overseeing the field program, as described earlier in Linney's campaign plan), and Andreas Cluver of the Alameda County Building Trades Council. This was the first of what became a weekly series of phone conferences to discuss the progress of the IE campaign. Topics of discussion at these meetings included fundraising, polling, messaging, endorsements, and the recruitment of "public-facing members" (described below). Linney and Stalnaker would also provide updates on the progress of the campaign, particularly the field program. Attendance at these meetings fluctuated over the course of the campaign; Mayor Schaaf did not attend every meeting, but she made an effort to call in for at least a portion of the meeting if she were able.

### **EXHIBIT**

# In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

She also remained in direct communication with Linney through email and text message, outside of the weekly meetings.

An early topic of discussion among the group was the need to find "public facing members" (in the words of an email from Leslie to Linney on the subject) whose names could appear on the group's campaign forms and represent the campaign to the public. In the words of an email that Linney sent to Mayor Schaaf at the time, they needed someone who would be "believable as a decision-maker on this." Around this time, the group had also received advice from Linney to the effect that Mayor Schaaf could assist the IE as long as she did not hold decision-making authority for the campaign. As discussed later in this Exhibit, this is not an accurate statement of the law concerning candidate-controlled committees (the correct rule is that Mayor Schaaf could not have "significant participation" in the campaign, which is not the same thing as being a "decision-maker"). The group was particularly concerned with finding people to fill that role who lived in District 6, because no one involved with the group to this point lived in the district where the campaign was occurring. Mayor Schaaf suggested names, and other members of the group tried to recruit those people, but they were unsuccessful.

Finally, Linney suggested that Police Commissioner Jose Dorado could fill this role. Linney ran this idea by the group, including Mayor Schaaf, and did not receive any objection. Dorado then joined the group and began attending the weekly phone conferences as of August 29, 2018 (about a month after the weekly meetings had started, and more than two months after Linney had produced ORL's campaign plan). In interviews with the PEC, Linney and Dorado both confirmed that this was largely a ministerial role. Neither Mayor Schaaf, nor any other member of ORL appeared on any of the committee's campaign forms as a principal officer, despite being more closely involved in the committee's strategy and fundraising than Dorado.

Once Dorado was brought on board, the group formally registered as a campaign committee on August 24, 2018, with Dorado as its principal officer. The name given for the

### In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

committee on its registration form (Form 410) was "Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018" (referred to hereafter in this Exhibit as "ORL"). ORL did not identify itself as a candidate-controlled committee on its registration form, nor did it list Mayor Schaaf as a controlling candidate. Mayor Schaaf did not sign the form.

In September, ORL began its field program, in which it visited prospective voters doorto-door in District 6. Neither the committee's field script, nor its talking points for the field staff, mentioned Mayor Schaaf's role with the committee. According to ORL's internal (nonpublic) talking points, field staff were instructed to identify ORL by its committee name (which did not mention Mayor Schaaf). If asked who was behind the committee, campaign workers were to name Jose Dorado and "city leaders who believe there is a need for better, more responsible leadership in District 6" (according to the script ORL gave its canvassers). If asked directly whether Mayor Schaaf was involved with the campaign, field staff were instructed to respond that the "Mayor supports the effort. We expect the Mayor to help with the fundraising, but [she] isn't a part of the decision making process..."

Similarly, phone bankers for ORL were given a script that instructed them to say that they were calling from "Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership." The call script made no reference to Mayor Schaaf's involvement with the group, instead telling phone bankers to state that ORL "was formed in response to many residents deeply concerned with Desley Brooks' unacceptable pattern of behavior on our City Council."

On September 9, 2018, Linney shared a draft of an ORL "doorhanger" (an ad that can be physically left on a door handle) with Mayor Schaaf, Leslie, Wasserman, Cluver, and Dorado. The draft doorhanger told voters that Brooks was facing four opponents in the election, and encouraged voters to select any of the other candidates besides Brooks, without indicating any preference among them. The District 6 election was a ranked-choice contest in which voters could select only up to three candidates for the seat.

27

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

Mayor Schaaf responded privately to Linney about her concerns over not encouraging voters to select three specific candidates. Linney said that he had not considered such a possibility. ORL then discussed the matter at its weekly meeting of September 12, 2018, and 4 Linney produced a memo for the group that described each of Brooks' four opponents, for purposes of choosing which three to promote in ORL's campaign messaging. By the end of September, ORL began promoting Loren Taylor, Natasha Middleton, and Maria "Marlo" Rodriguez as its preferred candidates. 8 On September 30, 2018, Mayor Schaaf took a photo of those three candidates at an 9 endorsement event and emailed it to Linney under the subject line "Photo of our 3." The photo subsequently appeared in one of ORL's mailers.

As the campaign continued, ORL had difficulty raising enough money to pay Linney in addition to its other campaign expenses. Nevertheless, Linney continued to work with ORL despite the uncertainty over whether he would be fully paid. Linney indicated to the PEC that he believed that fundraising by the Mayor, labor and OAKPAC would be sufficient to cover his fees. Following the election, Mayor Schaaf helped ORL raise enough money to pay Linney's outstanding fee.

Ultimately, Desley Brooks lost the election. She received 5,483 first-round votes versus 9,858 for the winning candidate in this ranked-choice contest.

Following payment of an outstanding debt to Linney (including a win bonus), ORL filed a Form 410 with the PEC on June 15, 2020, terminating itself as a committee. At no time during its existence did ORL ever report Mayor Schaaf as its controlling candidate, or change its name to reflect her controlling candidate status.1

23

1

2

3

5

6

7

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

24

25

26

27 28

The evidence does not indicate that the treasurers for ORL or OAKPAC were aware of the Mayor's influence over ORL.

### **EXHIBIT**

# In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

ORL Files Campaign Forms that Fail to Disclose It Was Candidate-Controlled

Throughout the campaign, ORL filed numerous campaign forms with the PEC in compliance with rules governing independent expenditure campaign committees rather than in compliance with rules governing candidate controlled campaign committees.

Form 410

The first type of form that ORL filed with the PEC is called a Form 410 ("Statement of Organization"). These are forms that a committee must file when it first registers, and whenever it changes its name, purpose, or main personnel. It must also disclose on this form whether it is a controlled committee of a candidate or officeholder. A Form 410 must be signed by the controlling candidate, under penalty of perjury. Finally, it is the form on which a committee declares what its name will be. As explained in more detail later in this Exhibit, candidate-controlled committees are required to put the last name of their controlling candidate in the committee's name (e.g. "Committee X, a Controlled Committee of Oakland Mayor Smith"). The purpose of the form is to inform voters of who is running a particular campaign committee.

The table below shows all of the dates that ORL filed a Form 410. On none of these forms did it disclose that it was a controlled committee, nor did it identify Mayor Schaaf as its controlling candidate. It also failed to include Mayor Schaaf's last name in its committee name on any of these forms. Mayor Schaaf did not sign any of these forms.

Form 410s Filed By ORL			
Date Filed Committee Name Given on Form			
August 24, 2018 "Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Broo For Oakland City Council 2018"			

# 

# Item 10 - 22-09 Proposed Settlement Agreement

# In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

August 31, 2018	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	
August 31, 2010	For Oakland City Council 2018"	
September 20, "Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Br		
2018	For Oakland City Council 2018"	
lune 45, 2020	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	
June 15, 2020	For Oakland City Council 2018"	

Form 460

ORL also filed multiple forms known as a Form 460 ("Recipient Committee Campaign Statement"). These are periodic reports that a committee must file in order to report all of the money that it has raised and spent throughout the campaign. It must use its full committee name on the form, and report whether it is a controlled committee of a candidate or officeholder. The forms must be signed by the controlling candidate or officeholder, under penalty of perjury. The purpose of the form is to inform voters where committees are getting their money from, and what they are spending it on.

The table below shows all of the dates that ORL filed a Form 460 with the PEC, reporting the money it had raised and spent. On each of these forms, it gave its name as "Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018." Mayor Schaaf's last name did not appear in its committee name, did not state that it was a controlled committee, and did not identify Mayor Schaaf as its controlling candidate on any of these forms. Mayor Schaaf did not sign any of the forms as its controlling candidate:

Form 460s Filed By ORL		
Date Filed Dates Covered		Committee Name Given on Form
September 27,	January 1 –	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership,
2018	September 22,	Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council
2010	2018	2018"

# 

# 

# 

# 

# 

# 

# 

# 

# 

# 

# 

# 

# 

# Item 10 - 22-09 Proposed Settlement Agreement

### **EXHIBIT**

# In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

October 10, 2018	January 1 – September 22, 2018 (amendment)	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	
October 25, 2018	September 23 – October 20, 2018	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	
January 31, 2019	October 21 – December 31, 2018	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	
July 30,2019	January 1, 2019 – June 30, 2019	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	
January 29, 2020	July 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	
June 10, 2020	January 1, 2020 – June 10, 2020	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	

### Form 497

ORL also filed what are known as Form 497s ("Contribution Reports", sometimes informally referred to as "24-hour contribution reports" or "late contribution reports"). These forms must be submitted within 24 hours, whenever a primarily-formed committee (such as ORL) receives \$1,000 or more from a single donor in the 90 days before the election concerning the candidate that the committee is supporting or opposing. The purpose of the form is to the inform voters — before the election — of which donors are making large contributions benefitting or opposing certain candidates.

The table below shows all of the dates that ORL filed a Form 497 with the PEC, reporting the contributions over \$1,000 it had raised in the ninety days before the 2018

### **EXHIBIT**

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

election. On each of these forms, it gave its name as "Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018." to the forms did not include Mayor Schaaf's last name in its committee name on all of these forms:

	Form 497s Filed By ORI	L
Date Filed Committee Name Given on Form		Activity Reported
August 31, 2018	"Oaklanders For Responsible	\$2,500 in contributions
	Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	received
2018	For Oakland City Council 2018"	
September	"Oaklanders For Responsible	\$4,999 in contributions
14, 2018	Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	received
14, 2016	For Oakland City Council 2018"	
September	"Oaklanders For Responsible	\$4,000 in contributions
20, 2018	Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	received
20, 2010	For Oakland City Council 2018"	
September	"Oaklanders For Responsible	\$10,000 in contributions
25, 2018	Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	received
25, 2010	For Oakland City Council 2018"	
September	"Oaklanders For Responsible	\$12,499 in contributions
26, 2018	Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	received
20, 2010	For Oakland City Council 2018"	
September	"Oaklanders For Responsible	\$4,990 in contributions
27, 2018	Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	received
27, 2010	For Oakland City Council 2018"	
September	"Oaklanders For Responsible	\$12,500 in contributions
28, 2018	Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	received
20, 2010	For Oakland City Council 2018"	
October 5,	"Oaklanders For Responsible	\$7,500 in contributions
2018	Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	received
2010	For Oakland City Council 2018"	
October 8,	"Oaklanders For Responsible	\$1,000 in contributions
2018	Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	received
2010	For Oakland City Council 2018"	

# 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

# Item 10 - 22-09 Proposed Settlement Agreement

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

October 11,	"Oaklanders For Responsible	\$5,000 in contributions
2018	Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	received
2010	For Oakland City Council 2018"	
October 12,	"Oaklanders For Responsible	\$2,500 in contributions
2018	Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	received
2016	For Oakland City Council 2018"	
Octobor 16	"Oaklanders For Responsible	\$4,990 in contributions
October 16,	Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	received
2016	For Oakland City Council 2018"	
Octobor 18	"Oaklanders For Responsible	\$10,000 in contributions
October 18,	Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	received
2016	For Oakland City Council 2018"	
October 26,	"Oaklanders For Responsible	\$14,000 in contributions
2018	Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	received
2016	For Oakland City Council 2018"	
November 2,	"Oaklanders For Responsible	\$5,000 in contributions
2018	Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	received
2018	For Oakland City Council 2018"	
	"Oaklanders For Responsible	\$12,500 in contributions
November 3,	Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	received
2018	For Oakland City Council 2018"	
1		

Form 496

Finally, ORL filed what are known as Form 496s ("Independent Expenditure Reports", sometimes informally referred to as "24-hour independent expenditure reports" or "late independent expenditure reports"). These are forms that must be filed whenever a committee makes an independent expenditure (such as an ad) that costs \$1,000 or more in the 90 days before an election. The form must include the committee's full name. The purpose of the form is to inform voters – before the election – of who is making independent expenditures, and where the money for those independent expenditures is coming from.

### **EXHIBIT**

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

On the following dates, ORL filed a Form 496 with the PEC, in which it gave its name as "Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018." Mayor Schaaf's last name did not appear in its committee name on all of these forms:

Form 496s Filed By ORL While Libby Schaaf Was Controlling Candidate			
Date Filed Committee Name Given on Form		Activity Reported	
October 2, 2018	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	\$5,470.73 of canvassing opposing Desley Brooks \$12,500 in contributions received	
October 2, 2018 (amendment)	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	\$4,774.82 of canvassing opposing Desley Brooks \$7,490 in contributions received \$2,500 in contributions returned	
October 3, 2018	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	\$8,052 of literature opposing Desley Brooks \$39,980 in contributions received	
October 9, 2018	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	\$17,282 of polling, literature, photography, and consulting opposing Desley Brooks \$21,300 in contributions received	
October 15, 2018	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	\$5,000 of web costs opposing Desley Brooks \$56,280 in contributions received	
October 16, 2018	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	\$12,491.55 of polling, photography, staff time, consulting, and literature opposing Desley Brooks \$4,990 in contributions received	

### **EXHIBIT**

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

Octobor 17	"Oaklanders For Responsible	\$4,104.60 of canvassing
October 17,	Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	opposing Desley Brooks
2010	For Oakland City Council 2018"	
October 25, 2018	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	\$21,164 of polling, consulting, photography, literature, and web costs opposing Desley Brooks \$20,440 in contributions received
October 30, 2018	October 30, 2018  Cotober 30,	\$12,178 of photography and web costs opposing Desley Brooks \$16,948 in contributions received
October 30, 2018		\$13,212.06 of canvassing and literature opposing Desley Brooks \$16,948 in contributions received
October 31, 2018		\$19,291 of literature opposing Desley Brooks \$16,948 in contributions received
November 6, 2018	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	\$16,000 of staff time opposing Desley Brooks \$34,848.99 in contributions received \$5,000 in contributions returned

ORL Publishes Ads that Fail to Disclose It is Candidate Controlled

In addition to its field program of door-to-door voter contact, ORL also released a

### **EXHIBIT**

# In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

number of physical ads during the campaign. These included what is known as a "doorhanger" (an ad that is left around a voter's door handle), as well as four mailers. All of these ads included a disclaimer that said "This mailing was not authorized, approved or paid for by a candidate for city office, a committee controlled by a candidate for city office, or an election official." None of the disclaimers on these mailers or doorhanger listed that ORL was a candidate controlled committee.

ORL was not required to break down the costs of each of its individual mailers on the campaign finance forms it filed. Its internal records also do not clearly indicate precisely how much money was spent on the design, production, and delivery of each of its mailers and the doorhanger (nor are they required to). However, in total ORL reported spending \$82,194.14 on "literature" (i.e. printed campaign ads) during the 2018 election. This does not include related costs that might have also gone into making these mailers and the doorhanger, such as the cost of legal review, the portion of the door-to-door canvassing budget that went into delivering the doorhangers, or Linney's precise consulting fee per piece of literature. However, based on this aggregate literature cost, it can be said that each of the mailers and the doorhanger cost the following, at minimum:

# Approximate Cost of Each ORL Mailer, As Percentage of Total Reported "Literature" Expenses

Mailer	Copies Printed	% of Total Copies	% of "Literature"
Manei	(Approx.)	Printed	Expenses
Doorhanger	9,000	18.5%	\$15,205.92
Mailer #1	12,730	26%	\$21,370.44
Mailer #2	9,000	18.5%	\$15,205.92
Mailer #3	9,000	18.5%	\$15,205.92
Mailer #4	9,000	18.5%	\$15,205.92

### **EXHIBIT**

# In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

In 2018, candidate campaign committees in Oakland were prohibited from receiving

ORL Receives Contributions In Excess Of The Legal Limit

contributions of more than \$800 from all contributors except "broad-based committees" (such as labor union PACs or OAKPAC), for which the limit was \$1,600 per election. In 2019 that limit went up to \$1,700 per election for broad-based committees, but remained the same for all other contributors.

Throughout the 2018 campaign and into 2019, ORL received the following direct<sup>2</sup> contributions in excess of \$800 from a single contributor:

Direct Contributions Received By ORL Over The Contribution Limit						
Donor	Date Received	Total Amount of Contribution	Amount of Contribution In Excess of Limit			
McGrath Properties, Inc. <sup>3</sup>	08/30/2018	\$2,500	\$1,700			
David Roe	09/13/2018	\$4,990	\$4,190			
Jennifer L. Pahlka	09/19/2018	\$4,000	\$3,200			
Patricia Kernighan	09/20/2018	\$950	\$150			
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 595 PAC	09/24/2018	\$10,000	\$8,400			
Kenneth J. Schmier	09/25/2018	\$4,999	\$4,199			
Sprinkler Fitters & Apprentices Local 483 PAC	09/25/2018	\$7,500	\$5,900			
Lisa Schmier	09/26/2018	\$4,999	\$4,199			

<sup>2</sup> We use the word "direct" here because, as shown below, ORL also received earmarked contributions through OAKPAC. We are therefore not including purported contributions from OAKPAC in this table; we will account for those earmarked donations from third parties in later in this Exhibit.

<sup>3</sup> This contribution was returned on 9/11/18.

### **EXHIBIT**

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

Sheet Metal Workers'			
International Association Local	09/27/2018	\$10,000	\$8,400
Union No. 104			
Eugene Zahas	09/27/2018	\$2,500	\$1,700
Sprinkler Fitters & Apprentices	10/01/01/01	4	4= 000
Local 483 PAC	10/04/2018	\$7,500	\$5,900
Bruce Beasley	10/05/2018	\$1,000	\$200
U.A. Local 342 PAC Fund	10/10/2018	\$5,000	\$3,400
Kim A. Thompson	10/11/2018	\$2,500	\$1,700
Libitzky Holdings, L.P.	10/15/2018	\$4,999	\$4,199
State Building & Construction			
Trades Council of California	10/17/2018	\$10,000	\$8,400
Independent Expenditure PAC			
Carmel Partners	10/25/2018	\$5,000	\$4,200
Danny W. Wan	10/25/2018	\$1,500	\$700
Salvatore T. Fahey	10/29/2018	\$999	\$199
Libby Schaaf	10/29/2018	\$999	\$199
Cannaroyalty <sup>4</sup>	10/31/2018	\$5,000	\$4,200
DRIVE Committee	11/08/2018	\$5,000	\$4,200
Elaine Brown	11/19/2018	\$1,000	\$200
Andrew Fremder	11/19/2018	\$1,000	\$200
Ron Gershoni	11/19/2018	\$2,500	\$1,700
Michael McDonald	11/19/2018	\$1,000	\$200
Robert (Zachary) Wasserman	11/19/2018	\$1,000	\$200
		Total Amount of	Contributions = \$108,435
	Total Recei	ved Over The Con	tribution Limit = \$82,035

In addition, ORL received the following donations via OAKPAC (see section below) that were also over the legal contribution limit:

<sup>4</sup> This contribution was returned on 11/5/18.

# 

# Item 10 - 22-09 Proposed Settlement Agreement

### **EXHIBIT**

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

Contributions Over the Limit to ORL (Made Via OAKPAC)				
Donor (per 460)	Date of Contribution to OAKPAC	Amount	Amount Over the Limit	
Bay Area Citizens PAC	10/23/2018	\$2,500	\$1,700	
Horizon Beverage Company	10/26/2018	\$5,000	\$4,200	
Equity and General Trade Association	11/05/2018	\$5,000	\$4,200	
Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites - Balaji Enterprises, LLC	11/05/2018	\$5,000	\$4,200	
Kiva Sales and Service	11/05/2018	\$2,500	\$1,700	
Lane Partners	11/05/2018	\$10,000	\$9,200	
Best Bay Apartments, Inc.	11/16/2018	\$10,000	\$9,200	
TMG Partners	11/16/2018	\$10,000	\$9,200	
Wilson Meany LP AAF / 11 West Ninth Street Property Owner LP	05/20/2019	\$10,000	\$9,200	
Abid	07/02/2019	\$3,000	\$2,200	
Argent Materials, Inc.	07/02/2019	\$5,000	\$4,200	
Foster Interstate Media, Inc. and Affiliated Entities	07/02/2019	\$5,000	\$4,200	
Oakland Lofts, LLC	07/02/2019	\$5,000	\$4,200	
Wasserman	07/02/2019	\$1,000	\$200	
CCSAC, Inc.	07/22/2019	\$5,000	\$4,200	
Comcast Financial Agency Corporation, A Comcast Cable Communications Group Company	12/18/2019	\$5,000	\$5,000	
Total Amount of contributions = \$89,800				
Total over the limit = \$77,000				

OAKPAC & ORL Fail to Properly Report Intermediary (Conduit) Contributions

In the course of their fundraising efforts, OAKPAC was effectively used as a passthrough vehicle for donors who wished to contribute money to ORL.

When soliciting donations to ORL, some ORL principals gave donors the option of contributing directly to ORL or waiting until October 20, 2018, and giving their money to

### **EXHIBIT**

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

OAKPAC instead. This was done because ORL, as a primarily-formed committee<sup>5</sup> opposing Desley Brooks, was legally required to publicly report all of its large donors within 24 hours. OAKPAC, on the other hand, was not officially engaged in an IE against Brooks, and therefore did not have to make any such disclosures. All it was required to do was file periodic (not daily) reports on its finances, the last of which (before the election) covered all money it had received up to October 20. Donors who wished to keep their names out of the public record until after the election were given the option of holding off on donating until after October 20, and then giving their money to OAKPAC. OAKPAC then contributed that money to ORL under its own name (it is unclear whether any donors were told that their money would go specifically to ORL, but most were told that that OAKPAC was "supporting" efforts to unseat Brooks). Meanwhile, ORL was informed of these pledges (before October 20) and could make its spending decisions accordingly, knowing that this money would eventually be coming its way "via OAKPAC" (in the words of ORL's internal accounting document).

In addition, ORL principals also encouraged donors who wished to give \$5,000 or more to send their money to OAKPAC instead of ORL, with the understanding that OAKPAC would give the money to ORL. This was done in order to avoid Oakland's law requiring IE committees such as ORL to disclose their top two donors over \$5,000 on the face of ads that they send out to public. By reportedly giving money to OAKPAC rather than ORL, donors could avoid being named on the face of ORL's ads.

<sup>5</sup> A "primarily-formed committee" is a campaign committee that spends at least 70% of its funds to support or oppose one or more specific candidates (or ballot measures) in a particular election, or has the primary purpose of supporting or opposing one or more specific candidates (or ballot measures). ORL was a primarily-formed committee because it spent 100% of its funds opposing Desley Brooks; it therefore had to comply with the particular disclosure rules applying to primarily-formed committees (including the requirement to report large contributions it received within 24 hours). OAKPAC was not a primarily-formed committee and therefore

did not have to file those 24-hour disclosure reports.

### **EXHIBIT**

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

Fundraising for ORL in this manner continued even after the election concluded. ORL owed a debt to Linney's firm after the election, including a \$40,000 win bonus. In order to pay back the debt, Leslie, Wasserman and Mayor Schaaf organized a fundraising dinner in which guests were encouraged to contribute up to \$5,000. All of these donors were told to make their checks out to OAKPAC, though the event was advertised as a joint fundraising event for ORL and OAKPAC. That event took place on July 1, 2019. The funds were split between ORL and OAKPAC.

Neither ORL nor OAKPAC reported any of these transactions as "intermediary contributions" on their campaign finance reports, as required under the law. Leslie and Wasserman (the latter of whom personally solicited many of these contributions) reviewed and approved OAKPAC's campaign finance reporting forms, and Leslie signed them as to their completeness and accuracy, under penalty of perjury. Leslie and Wasserman later told the PEC that they were not aware that OAKPAC would be deemed under the law to be acting as the "intermediary" for these donations and that they would not have solicited donations in this way if they had fully understood the legal implications of it. Leslie told the PEC that she was primarily focused on not making OAKPAC a "primarily formed committee" under the law (essentially meaning a committee that spends 70% or more of its funds on a particular race) The donors to OAKPAC whose contributions were passed on to ORL without being properly reported were the following:

20
21

Contributions to ORL Made via OAKPAC			
Donor (per 460)	Date of Contribution to OAKPAC	Amount	
Bay Area Citizens PAC	10/23/2018	\$2,500	
Horizon Beverage Company	10/26/2018	\$5,000	
Equity and General Trade Association	11/05/2018	\$5,000	
Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites - Balaji Enterprises, LLC	11/05/2018	\$5,000	
Kiva Sales and Service	11/05/2018	\$2,500	

Contributions to OPL Made Via OAKDAC

# 

# Item 10 - 22-09 Proposed Settlement Agreement

### **EXHIBIT**

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

Lane Partners	11/05/2018	\$10,000
Best Bay Apartments, Inc.	11/16/2018	\$10,000
TMG Partners	11/16/2018	\$10,000
Wilson Meany LP AAF / 11 West Ninth Street Property Owner LP	05/20/2019	\$10,000
Abid	07/02/2019	\$3,000
Argent Materials, Inc.	07/02/2019	\$5,000
Foster Interstate Media, Inc. and Affiliated Entities	07/02/2019	\$5,000
Oakland Lofts, LLC	07/02/2019	\$5,000
Wasserman	07/02/2019	\$1,000
CCSAC, Inc.	07/22/2019	\$5,000
Comcast Financial Agency Corporation, A Comcast Cable Communications Group Company	12/18/2019	\$5,000

This money was given by OAKPAC to ORL on the following dates:

Earmarked Funds From OAKPAC to ORL					
Contributor	Date	Amount			
Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (OAKPAC)	11/02/2018	\$2,500			
Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (OAKPAC)	11/02/2018	\$10,000			
Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (OAKPAC)	11/12/2018	\$17,500			
Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (OAKPAC)	11/26/2018	\$20,000			
Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (OAKPAC)	05/30/2019	\$10,000			
Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (OAKPAC)	07/10/2019	\$19,000			
Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (OAKPAC)	08/13/2019	\$5,000			
Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (OAKPAC)	12/20/2019	\$5,000			

The following is a breakdown of how the donations to OAKPAC were contributed to ORL in several batches:

# EXHIBIT

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
a -	١	١

25

26

27

Earmarked Fund	s From OAKP	AC to ORL (P	Precise Breakdown)	
Original Donor to OAKPAC	Date Given	Amount	Date of Donation	Amount
	(per 460)		from OAKPAC to ORL	
Bay Area Citizens PAC	10/23/18	\$2,500	-	-
Horizon Beverage Company	10/26/18	\$5,000	-	-
-	-	-	11/01/18	\$10,000
-	-	-	11/01/18	\$2,500
Equity and General Trade	11/05/18	\$5,000	_	
Association	11/05/10	\$5,000	_	_
Total =		\$12,500		\$12,500
Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites - Balaji Enterprises, LLC	11/05/18	\$5,000	-	-
Kiva Sales and Service	11/05/18	\$2,500	-	_
Lane Partners	11/05/18	\$10,000	_	_
-	-	-	11/08/18	\$17,500
Total =		\$17,500	.,,,	\$17,500
Best Bay Apartments, Inc.	11/16/18	\$10,000	-	-
TMG Partners	11/16/18	\$10,000	-	-
-	-	-	11/21/18	\$20,000
Total =		\$20,000		\$20,000
Wilson Meany LP AAF / 11 West Ninth Street Property Owner LP	5/20/19	\$10,000	-	-
-	_	_	5/23/19	\$10,000
Total =		\$10,000	פיוניונ	\$10,000
Abid	7/02/19	\$3,000	_	\$10,000
	7/02/19		-	-
Argent Materials, Inc.	//02/19	\$5,000	-	-
Foster Interstate Media, Inc. & Affiliated Entities	7/02/19	\$5,000	-	-
Oakland Lofts, LLC	7/02/19	\$5,000	-	-
Wasserman	7/02/19	\$1,000	-	-
-	-	-	7/02/19	\$19,000
Total =		\$19,000		\$19,000
CCSAC, Inc.	07/22/2019	\$5,000	-	-
-	-	-	08/13/2019	\$5,000
Total =		\$5,000		\$5,000

# 1 2 3 4

# 5

6

7 8

9

1112

1314

1516

1718

19

2021

2223

2425

26

2728

# Item 10 - 22-09 Proposed Settlement Agreement

### **EXHIBIT**

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

Comcast Financial Agency Corporation	12/18/2019	\$5,000 -	12/20/2019	- \$5 <b>,</b> 000
Total =		\$5,000	12/20/2019	\$5,000

The pass-through donations under investigation totaled \$89,800. This represented nearly half of the total money raised by ORL over the course of its existence from 2018-2019 (\$202,808.99) and for which the names of the true donors were not reported to the public. Note that nearly half of this money was given after the 2018 election was over.

### **SUMMARY OF LAW & LEGAL ANALYSIS**

All statutory references and discussions of law pertain to the referenced statutes and laws as they existed at the time of the violations.

All definitions of terms are the same as those set forth in the California Political Reform Act (California Government Code Sections 81000 through 91014), as amended, unless the term is specifically defined in Oakland's Campaign Reform Act (Oakland Municipal Code Chapter 3.12) or the contrary is stated or clearly appears from the context.

Provisions of the California Political Reform Act relating to local elections, including any subsequent amendments, are incorporated into the Oakland Campaign Reform Act (OCRA), except as otherwise provided in, or inconsistent with, other provisions of local law.<sup>7</sup>

### ORL Was a Candidate-Controlled Committee

Many of the alleged violations in this matter hinge on whether ORL was "candidate-controlled." Being a candidate-controlled committee is not a violation in-and-of itself, but candidate-controlled committees have additional disclosure requirements and must abide by

<sup>7</sup> OMC § 3.12.240(d).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> OMC § 3.12.140.

### **EXHIBIT**

# In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

Oakland's campaign contribution limit. Therefore, to determine whether ORL violated any of the laws applicable to candidate-controlled committees, it must first be established that it was indeed "candidate-controlled."

A committee is candidate-controlled if a candidate or elected official has a significant influence on the actions or decisions of the committee. Neither the Political Reform Act, FPPC Regulations, or the Oakland Municipal Code define the term "significant influence." The applicable standard for determining when a candidate exercises "significant influence" over a campaign committee can only be found in advice letters published by the FPPC, one of which states, "The definition of 'controlled committee' has been interpreted broadly to include any significant participation in the actions of a committee by a candidate... [including] extensive involvement in a committee's fundraising activity."

### Element 1: Committee

The first element to establish is whether ORL was a "committee." A "committee" is any person or combination of persons who directly or indirectly receives campaign contributions totaling two thousand dollars (\$2,000) or more in a calendar year, or who makes independent expenditures totaling one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more in a calendar year. <sup>10</sup> Here, ORL received contributions in 2018 well in excess of \$2,000 and made independent expenditures well in excess of \$1,000 that same year, according to its sworn campaign reporting forms. It first registered as a committee on August 24, 2018. It crossed the \$2,000 threshold for contributions received on August 30, 2018. There is thus no question that ORL was a "committee" for our purposes here.

<sup>8</sup> Cal. Govt. Code § 82016.

<sup>9</sup> FPPC Lyman Advice Letter No. I-19-163

<sup>10</sup> Cal. Govt. Code § 82013.

### In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

1 2

### Element 2: Candidate or Elected Official

3

4

5 6

7

8 9

10

11 12

13

14

15 16

17

18 19

20 21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

The second element to establish if a committee is candidate-controlled is to establish whether the person alleged to have controlled the committee was a candidate or elected official. The term "candidate" includes an elected officer. "Elected officer" means any person who holds an elective office.<sup>12</sup>

Here, Mayor Schaaf was a candidate or elected official because she was serving as Mayor of Oakland at the time of her involvement with ORL, having been elected to that position in 2014. She also had an open committee at the time, Libby Schaaf for Mayor 2018, for which she was also registered as the controlling candidate. She was a candidate for the office of Oakland Mayor in 2018, during the same election in which ORL was active. There is this no question that Mayor Schaaf was a "candidate" for our purposes here.

# Element 3: Significant Influence on the Actions or Decisions of the Committee

Finally, to establish that a committee is candidate-controlled, there must be sufficient facts to show that a candidate or elected official had "significant influence" on the actions or decisions of the committee. 13 Neither the Political Reform Act, FPPC Regulations, or the Oakland Municipal Code define the term "significant influence." The applicable standard for determining when a candidate exercises "significant influence" over a campaign committee can only be found in advice letters published by the FPPC, one of which states, "The definition of 'controlled committee' has been interpreted broadly to include any significant participation

¹¹ OMC § 3.12.040(B); Cal. Govt. Code § 82007.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> OMC § 3.12.040; Cal. Govt. Code § 82020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> OMC § 3.12.040; Cal. Govt. Code § 82016.

## In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

in the actions of a committee by a candidate... [including] extensive involvement in a committee's fundraising activity."14

Such influence can be direct or indirect. 15 Reading the FPPC Advice Letters and legal precedent as a whole, examples of the type of behavior that might constitute significant influence include communicating with a committee about its campaign strategy, messaging, or advertising, or making substantial fundraising efforts for a committee. 16 However, fundraising alone is not sufficient to constitute "significant influence" unless a candidate has extensive involvement in the committee's fundraising activities by actively participating in its solicitations, fundraising events and fundraising strategy. <sup>17</sup>

Actions that do not constitute significant influence include things such as publicly supporting a committee, making donations from the official's own personal funds to a committee, or appearing on a committee's advertisements without working on the messaging of those advertisements.<sup>18</sup> It also does not include providing ministerial or administrative support to a campaign (e.g. bookkeeping). 19 It does not matter whether the candidate has an official title or role on the campaign: "[P]ractical operational realities, rather than job title, determine whether a committee is controlled."20

Here, Mayor Schaaf was fundamental in selecting ORL's personnel, shaping its strategy, and determining its messaging. She also initially reached out to professional campaign consultants about starting an independent expenditure campaign, asked Doug

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

23 <sup>16</sup> Travis v. Brand, 62 Cal. App. 5th 240, 251, 261-262 (2021).

28

25

26

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> FPPC Lyman Advice Letter No. I-19-163

<sup>22</sup> <sup>15</sup> Id.

<sup>24</sup> 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Barker Advice Letter, FPPC # A-97-478 (1997); FPPC Pirayou Advice Letter, No. 1-10-159.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Travis v. Brand, 62 Cal. App. 5th 240, 261-262 (2021).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Lacy Advice Letter, FPPC #I-03-076 (2003).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Lacy Advice Letter, FPPC #I-03-076 (2003) at 2 (internal quotation marks omitted).

### **EXHIBIT**

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

Linney to produce a written campaign plan, and continued to have significant participation in ORL even after the campaign was underway. She was a regular attendee at ORL meetings, which were meant to discuss ORL strategy. Mayor Schaaf also made suggestions as to who should be the "public face" of ORL, and remained in personal, one-on-one contact with Linney throughout the campaign. However, later in the campaign she did send an e-mail request to the ORL group to be taken off of group emails.

In sum, the totality of Mayor Schaaf's participation rose to the FPPC's standard for "significant influence" over the decisions and activities of ORL. As such, ORL was a candidate controlled committee.

ORL Failed to Publicly Identify Itself as a Controlled Committee On Its Campaign Forms

All committees must register with the appropriate filing officer<sup>21</sup> and file periodic campaign forms itemizing their contributions and expenditures.<sup>22</sup> For committees that are controlled by an Oakland elected officer, or which are primarily-formed to support or oppose a candidate in an Oakland election, their filing officer is the PEC.<sup>23</sup> The forms they must file (including any amendments to those forms) include:

- the committee's initial registration and termination statements (Form 410)<sup>24</sup>
- its pre-election and semi-annual campaign statements (form 460)<sup>25</sup>

<sup>22</sup> Cal. Govt. Code § 84215.

<sup>23</sup> OMC §§ 3.12.240, 3.12.260, Cal. Govt. Code §§ 84101, 84215(d).

 $^{24}$  Cal. Govt. Code § 84101; Cal. Code of Regulations §18410(a)(3); OMC §§ 3.12.240, 3.12.260.

<sup>25</sup> Cal. Govt. Code §§ 82006, 84200, 84200.8; OMC §§ 3.12.240, 3.12.260.

27

1 2

4 5

3

7

6

8

1011

12

14

13

1516

17

18

19

2021

22

23

24

25

2627

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Cal. Govt. Code § 84101.

### **EXHIBIT**

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

- 1
- its 24-hour contribution reports (Form 497)<sup>26</sup>, and

3

45

6

7

8

9

11

12

13

15

14

16

1718

1920

21

2223

24

2526

27

28

• its 24-hour independent expenditure reports (Form 496).<sup>27</sup>

Each of those reports, including amendments, must include the committee's full name.<sup>28</sup> For a candidate-controlled committee, its name must include the last name of its controlling candidate<sup>29</sup> (e.g. "... a controlled committee of Mayor Smith"). The Form 410 and Form 460 must also be signed by the controlling candidate, under penalty of perjury.<sup>30</sup>

### Element 1: Candidate-controlled committee

The first element to establish whether ORL failed to file campaign forms identifying Mayor Schaaf as its controlling candidate, is to show that Mayor Schaaf did indeed control ORL. As demonstrated above, ORL was a candidate-controlled committee of Mayor Schaaf, an Oakland elected official. ORL was therefore required to file the above-listed forms with the PEC.

### Element 2: Failure to Disclose Candidate-Controlled Status on Forms

The next element to establish whether ORL failed to file campaign forms identifying

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Cal. Govt. Code § 84203; OMC §§ 3.12.240, 3.12.260.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Cal. Govt Code §§ 84204(c), 84215(d); OMC §§ 3.12.240, 3.12.260.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Cal. Govt. Code §§ 84102, 84106.5 (full committee name required on Form 410); § 84211(0) (full committee name required on Form 460); § 84203(a) (full committee name required on late contribution report); 84204(b) (full name required on late independent expenditure report).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Cal. Govt. Code § 84106.5; Cal. Code of Regulations § 18402(c)(1).

 $<sup>^{30}</sup>$  Cal. Govt. Code §§ 84101, 84213(a); Cal. Code of Regulations §18410(a)(13).

### **EXHIBIT**

# In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

Schaaf as its controlling candidate, is to demonstrate that it filed forms that lacked the required disclosure particular to each form.

| Form 410

A Form 410 must include the committee's full name. For a candidate-controlled committee, its name must include the last name of its controlling candidate (e.g. "...a controlled committee of Mayor Smith"). The Form 410 must also expressly disclose that it is a controlled committee, and identify its controlling candidate. The controlling candidate must sign the form under penalty of perjury.

Here, ORL filed Form 410s with the PEC on the following dates August 24, 2018; August 31, 2018; September 20, 2018; June 15, 2020. None of those forms disclosed that ORL was a controlled committee, identified Mayor Schaaf as its controlling candidate, or included Mayor

Schaaf's last name in the committee name. Mayor Schaaf did not sign any of the forms.

Form 460

A Form 460 must include the committee's full name. For a candidate-controlled committee, its name must include the last name of its controlling candidate (e.g. "...a controlled committee of Mayor Smith"). The Form 460 must also expressly disclose that it is a controlled committee, and identify its controlling candidate. The controlling candidate must sign the form under penalty of perjury.

On the following dates, ORL filed a Form 460 with the PEC, in which it did not disclose that it was a controlled committee, did not identify Mayor Schaaf as its controlling candidate, and failed to include Mayor Schaaf's last name in its committee name: September 27, 2018 (covering January 1 – September 22, 2018); October 10, 2018 (covering January 1 – September 22, 2018); October 25, 2018 (covering September 23 – October 20, 2018); January 31, 2019

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

(covering October 21 – December 31, 2018); July 30, 2019 (covering January 1, 2019 – June 30, 1 2 2019); January 29, 2020 (covering July 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019); and June 10, 2020 3 (covering January 1, 2020 – June 10, 2020). Mayor Schaaf did not sign any of the forms. 4 5 Form 497 6 7 A Form 497 must include the committee's full name. For a candidate-controlled committee, its name must include the last name of its controlling candidate (e.g. "...a 8 9 controlled committee of Mayor Smith"). On the following dates, ORL filed a Form 497 with the PEC, in which it failed to include 10 11 Mayor Schaaf's last name in its committee name (all dates are from 2018): August 31, September 14, September 20, September 25, September 26, September 27, September 28, 12 October 5, October 8, October 11, October 12, October 16, October 18, October 26, November 13 2, and November 3. 14 15 16 Form 496 17 18 A Form 496 must include the committee's full name. For a candidate-controlled committee, its name must include the last name of its controlling candidate (e.g. "...a 19 20 controlled committee of Mayor Smith"). 21 On the following dates, ORL filed a Form 496 with the PEC, in which it failed to include 22 Mayor Schaaf's last name in its committee name (all dates are from 2018): October 2 (twice), 23 October 3, October 9, October 15, October 16, October 17, October 25, October 30 (twice), 24 October 31, and November 6. 25 26 27 28

#### **EXHIBIT**

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

1 2

ORL Failed to Publicly Identify Itself As a Candidate Controlled Committee On Its Mass Mailers

Any committee that makes independent expenditures for a mass mailing or other campaign materials which support or oppose any candidate must place a disclaimer on the mailing containing certain information. Among the information to be disclosed is the committee's name.<sup>31</sup>

Here, ORL put out a doorhanger and four mailers that gave its name as "Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018," without identifying Mayor Schaaf as its controlling candidate in the committee name. As demonstrated below, this was a violation of Oakland's disclaimer rules.

#### Element 1: Mass mailing

"Mass mailing" means over two hundred substantially similar pieces of mail.<sup>32</sup> Here, ORL produced a doorhanger (9,000 copies) and four mailers (12,730 copies of the first mailer, and approximately 9,000 copies each of the remaining three mailers). These quantities mean that the doorhanger and four mailers qualified as mass mailings.

#### Element 2: Independent expenditure

An independent expenditure is an expenditure made by a committee in connection with a communication (e.g. a television ad or mailer) which expressly advocates the election

26 31 OMC § 3.12.230(A).

<sup>32</sup> Cal Govt Code § 82041.5.

#### **EXHIBIT**

# In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

or defeat of a clearly identified candidate, but which is not made to or at the behest of the affected candidate or their campaign committee.<sup>33</sup>

Here, ORL produced a doorhanger and mailers that expressly advocated the defeat of Desley Brooks and supported the election of her opponents (Loren Taylor, Natasha Middleton, Maria Rodriguez, and sometimes Mya Whitaker). There is no evidence that ORL coordinated in any way with any of the affected candidates or their campaign committees in the production of its doorhanger or four mailers. Mayor Schaaf did take a photo of three candidates (Loren Taylor, Natasha Middleton, and Maria Rodriguez) that appeared on one of ORL's mailers, but there is no evidence gathered that she informed them that it would be used on one of ORL's mailers, or otherwise discussed ORL's expenditures with them.

As such, ORL's mass mailings supported or opposed particular candidates but were not produced in coordination with those candidates. They therefore qualified as independent expenditures.

#### Element 3: Disclaimer including committee's name

The final element to consider is whether ORL placed a disclaimer on its doorhanger and mailers that included all of the information required, including the committee's name. Here, the doorhanger and mailers all included a disclaimer which gave the committee's name as "Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018." This name did not include language to the effect of, "a controlled committee of Oakland Mayor Schaaf," as required. All of the mailers also included a disclaimer stating that the ads were not authorized by a "candidate" or "a committee controlled by a candidate," which was untrue – all of the ads were authorized by a candidate controlled committee.

<sup>33</sup> Cal. Govt. Code § 82031.

#### **EXHIBIT**

# In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

As such, ORL distributed five mass mailings that were independent expenditures and failed to meet the City of Oakland's disclaimer requirements.

ORL Received Contributions Over The Legal Limit

In the 2018 election, candidate-controlled committees in Oakland were prohibited from receiving contributions in excess of eight hundred dollars (\$800) from any person, other than broad-based committees such as labor union PACs or OAKPAC, for which the contribution limit was one-thousand six dollars (\$1,600).<sup>34</sup> ORL was a candidate-controlled committee that received contributions in excess of these amounts, as demonstrated immediately below.

#### Element 1: Candidate-controlled committee

The first element to establish whether a violation of the contribution limit took place, is to show that ORL was candidate-controlled. As demonstrated above, ORL was a candidate-controlled committee of Mayor Schaaf.

OMC §§ 3.12.050(B) (induvial limit), 3.12.060(B) (broad-based committees). A broad-based committee is a committee of persons which has been in existence for more than six (6) months, receives contributions from one hundred (100) or more persons, and acting in concert makes contributions to five (5) or more candidates. OMC § 3.12.040(A). Both the labor unions PACs that contributed to ORL, as well as OAKPAC, fit within this definition because they are long-standing committees funded by dues-sharing from their large member base, and have supported five or more candidates throughout their existence.

#### **EXHIBIT**

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

### Element 2: Receiving contributions over the legal limit

3 | 4 | 5 | |

The next element to establish whether a violation of the contribution limit took place, is to show that ORL received contributions in excess of \$800 from contributors who were not broad-based committees, and in excess of \$1,600 from contributors who were broad-based committees (such as labor union PACs or OAKPAC).

The following table shows all direct contributions received by ORL in excess of the contribution limit:

Direct Contributions Received By ORL Over The Contribution Limit				
Donor	Date Received	Total Amount of Contribution	Amount of Contribution In Excess of Limit	
McGrath Properties, Inc. <sup>35</sup>	08/30/2018	\$2,500	\$1,700	
David Roe	09/13/2018	\$4,990	\$4,190	
Jennifer L. Pahlka	09/19/2018	\$4,000	\$3,200	
Patricia Kernighan	09/20/2018	\$950	\$150	
International Brotherhood of	09/24/2018	\$10,000	\$8,400	
Electrical Workers Local 595 PAC	09/24/2016	\$10,000	\$0,400	
Kenneth J. Schmier	09/25/2018	\$4,999	\$4,199	
Sprinkler Fitters & Apprentices	09/25/2018	\$7,500	\$5,900	
Local 483 PAC	09/23/2010	\$7,500	7),900	
Lisa Schmier	09/26/2018	\$4,999	\$4,199	
Sheet Metal Workers'				
International Association Local	09/27/2018	\$10,000	\$8,400	
Union No. 104				
Eugene Zahas	09/27/2018	\$2,500	\$1,700	
Sprinkler Fitters & Apprentices	10/04/2018	¢7.500	¢5,000	
Local 483 PAC	10/04/2018	\$7,500	\$5,900	
Bruce Beasley	10/05/2018	\$1,000	\$200	
U.A. Local 342 PAC Fund	10/10/2018	\$5,000	\$3,400	

<sup>35</sup> This contribution was returned on 9/11/18.

#### **EXHIBIT**

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

Total Received Over The Contribution Limit = \$82,035				
Total Amount of Contributions = \$108,435				
Robert (Zachary) Wasserman	11/19/2018	\$1,000	\$200	
Michael McDonald	11/19/2018	\$1,000	\$200	
Ron Gershoni	11/19/2018	\$2,500	\$1,700	
Andrew Fremder	11/19/2018	\$1,000	\$200	
Elaine Brown	11/19/2018	\$1,000	\$200	
DRIVE Committee	11/08/2018	\$5,000	\$4,200	
Cannaroyalty <sup>36</sup>	10/31/2018	\$5,000	\$4,200	
Libby Schaaf	10/29/2018	\$999	\$199	
Salvatore T. Fahey	10/29/2018	\$999	\$199	
Danny W. Wan	10/25/2018	\$1,500	\$700	
Carmel Partners	10/25/2018	\$5,000	\$4,200	
Independent Expenditure PAC				
Trades Council of California	10/17/2018	\$10,000	\$8,400	
State Building & Construction				
Libitzky Holdings, L.P.	10/15/2018	\$4,999	\$4,199	
Kim A. Thompson	10/11/2018	\$2,500	\$1,700	

In addition, ORL received the following donations via OAKPAC (see section below) that were also over the legal contribution limit:

Contributions Over the Limit to ORL (Made Via OAKPAC)			
Donor (per 460)	Date of Contribution to OAKPAC	Amount	Amount Over the Limit
Bay Area Citizens PAC	10/23/2018	\$2,500	\$1,700
Horizon Beverage Company	10/26/2018	\$5,000	\$4,200
Equity and General Trade Association	11/05/2018	\$5,000	\$4,200
Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites - Balaji Enterprises, LLC	11/05/2018	\$5,000	\$4,200
Kiva Sales and Service	11/05/2018	\$2,500	\$1,700
Lane Partners	11/05/2018	\$10,000	\$9,200
Best Bay Apartments, Inc.	11/16/2018	\$10,000	\$9,200

 $<sup>^{36}</sup>$  This contribution was returned on 11/5/18.

## Item 10 - 22-09 Proposed Settlement Agreement

#### **EXHIBIT**

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

TMG Partners	11/16/2018	\$10,000	\$9,200
Wilson Meany LP AAF / 11 West Ninth Street Property Owner LP	05/20/2019	\$10,000	\$9,200
Abid	07/02/2019	\$3,000	\$2,200
Argent Materials, Inc.	07/02/2019	\$5,000	\$4,200
Foster Interstate Media, Inc. and Affiliated Entities	07/02/2019	\$5,000	\$4,200
Oakland Lofts, LLC	07/02/2019	\$5,000	\$4,200
Wasserman	07/02/2019	\$1,000	\$200
CCSAC, Inc.	07/22/2019	\$5,000	\$4,200
Comcast Financial Agency Corporation, A Comcast Cable Communications Group Company	12/18/2019	\$5,000	\$5,000
Total Amount of contributions = \$89,800			
Total over the limit = \$77,000			

In conclusion, ORL was a candidate-controlled committee that received contributions totaling \$159,035.00 over the legal limit.

#### OAKPAC Made Earmarked Contributions to ORL

No campaign contributions shall be made via a third-party intermediary unless it is reported as such by all parties who are required to file campaign finance reports.<sup>37</sup>

Here, OAKPAC principals solicited contributions to ORL and gave the donors the option to make their checks payable to OAKPAC; and then directed OAKPAC's treasurer to make contributions of an equivalent amount to ORL. Neither OAKPAC nor ORL publicly reported that OAKPAC was acting as an intermediary for others. The original donors' names were therefore never publicly identified with ORL, though they were listed on reports filed by OAKPAC after the election was over.

 $<sup>^{37}</sup>$  OMC  $\S$  3.12.240, incorporating Cal. Govt. Code  $\S\S$  84211, 84215 and 85704.

#### **EXHIBIT**

# In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

#### Liability

Any person who violates any provision of the Oakland Campaign Reform Act, who causes any other person to violate any provision of this Act, or who aids and abets any other person in the violation of the Act, may be found liable for an administrative violation by the PEC. If two or more persons are responsible for any violation, they shall be jointly and severally liable.<sup>38</sup>

"Person" means an individual, proprietorship, firm, partnership, joint venture, syndicate, business, trust, company, corporation, association, committee, and any other organization or group of persons acting in concert.<sup>39</sup>

The principal officer of a committee is any individual primarily responsible for approving the political activity of the committee including, but not limited to authorizing the content of the communications made by the committee, the committee's contributions or expenditures, or the committee's campaign strategy. If more than one individual shares in the primary responsibility for those activities, each such individual is a principal officer.<sup>40</sup>

In addition to a committee itself, persons who qualify as principal officers of the committee are jointly and severally liable for violations by the committee. For committees controlled by a candidate, the candidate and the committee's treasurers are deemed to be principal officers. In addition, an agent acting on behalf of a person is jointly and severally liable for a violation that arises out of the agent's actions. There is a rebuttable presumption that "agents" of a committee include any current or former officer of the committee; any person who has received compensation or reimbursement from the committee; and any

<sup>39</sup> OMC 3.12.040(J)

<sup>40</sup> 2 Cal. Code of Regulations § 18402.1.

<sup>41</sup> OMC 3.12.230(A)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> OMC 3.12.270(C)

#### **EXHIBIT**

# In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

person who holds or has held a position within the committee organization that reasonably appears to be able to authorize expenditures for committee activities.<sup>42</sup>

"Aiding and abetting" is not itself a violation but rather a legal rule that allows the Enforcement Unit to charge anyone who caused, encouraged, or participated in the underlying violation, even if they were not the direct perpetrator. The test of whether a person aided or abetted in the commission of a violation is whether that person in any way, directly or indirectly, aided the perpetrator(s) by acts or encouraged the perpetrator(s) by words or gestures, instigated or advised the commission of the violation, or was present for the purpose of assisting in its commission. An aider and abettor must have knowledge of the illegal purpose of the perpetrator(s) and have intentionally assisted them in the violation. The aider and abettor is not only liable for the particular violation that to their knowledge their confederates were contemplating committing, but they are also liable for the natural and reasonable or probable consequences of any act that they knowingly aided or encouraged.

### 

#### **VIOLATIONS:**

#### OAKLANDERS FOR RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP; MAYOR SCHAAF; DOUG LINNEY

Respondents, Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership; Mayor Schaaf (its controlling candidate); and Doug Linney (who caused, aided and abetted the violations), violated the following Oakland Municipal Code(s):

<sup>42</sup> OMC 3.12.230(B)

<sup>44</sup> Id. at 134.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> People v. Villa, 156 Cal. App. 2d 128, 133, 134 (1957) (applying California Penal Code section 31, which contains a similar "aiding and abetting" provision to that found under OMC 3.12.270(C)).

#### **EXHIBIT**

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

### 

# 

## 

# 

### 

# 

# 

Count 1: Failure to Disclose Controlling Candidate on Campaign Forms

On the following dates, Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership filed a Statement of Organization ("Form 410") with the PEC, on which it did not disclose that it was a controlled committee, did not identify Mayor Schaaf as its controlling candidate, and failed to include Mayor Schaaf's last name in its committee name. Mayor Schaaf did not sign any of the forms.

Form 410s Filed By ORL While Libby Schaaf Was Controlling Candidate		
Date Filed	Committee Name Given on Form	
August 24, 2018	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	
August 24, 2018	For Oakland City Council 2018"	
August 24, 2048	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	
August 31, 2018	For Oakland City Council 2018"	
September 20,	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	
2018	For Oakland City Council 2018"	
luno 45, 2020	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	
June 15, 2020	For Oakland City Council 2018"	

As the controlling candidate, Mayor Schaaf's last name was required to be included as part of the committee's name for all purposes. Also, Mayor Schaaf was required to be identified as the controlling candidate on the committee's Form 410, and she was required to sign the committee's Form 410.

On the following dates, Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership filed a Recipient Committee Campaign Statement ("Form 460") with the PEC, in which it gave its name as "Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018." It failed to include Mayor Schaaf's last name in its committee name, did not disclose that it was a controlled committee, and did not identify Mayor Schaaf as its controlling candidate. Mayor Schaaf did not sign any of the forms as its controlling candidate:

# Item 10 - 22-09 Proposed Settlement Agreement

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

Form 460s Filed By ORL While Libby Schaaf Was Controlling Candidate			
Date Filed	Dates Covered	Committee Name Given on Form	
September 27, 2018	January 1 – September 22, 2018	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	
October 10, 2018	January 1 – September 22, 2018 (amendment)	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	
October 25, 2018	September 23 – October 20, 2018	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	
January 31, 2019	October 21 – December 31, 2018	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	
July 30,2019	January 1, 2019 – June 30, 2019	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	
January 29, 2020	July 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	
June 10, 2020	January 1, 2020 – June 10, 2020	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	

As the controlling candidate, Mayor Schaaf's last name was required to be included as part of the committee's name for all purposes. Also, Mayor Schaaf was required to be identified as the controlling candidate on the committee's Form 460, and she was required to sign the committee's Form 460.

On the following dates, Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership filed a Contribution Report ("Form 497") with the PEC, in which it failed to include Mayor Schaaf's last name in its committee name:

## Item 10 - 22-09 Proposed Settlement Agreement

### EXHIBIT

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

Form 497s Filed By ORL While Libby Schaaf Was Controlling Candidate			
Date Filed	Committee Name Given on Form	Activity Reported	
August 31, 2018	"Oaklanders For Responsible	\$2,500 in contributions	
	Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	received	
2010	For Oakland City Council 2018"	received	
September	"Oaklanders For Responsible	\$4,999 in contributions	
14, 2018	Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	received	
14, 2010	For Oakland City Council 2018"	. eccived	
September	"Oaklanders For Responsible	\$4,000 in contributions	
20, 2018	Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	received	
20, 2010	For Oakland City Council 2018"	received	
September	"Oaklanders For Responsible	\$10,000 in contributions	
25, 2018	Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	received	
2), 2010	For Oakland City Council 2018"	received	
September	"Oaklanders For Responsible	\$12,499 in contributions	
26, 2018	Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	received	
20, 2010	For Oakland City Council 2018"	received	
September	"Oaklanders For Responsible	\$4,990 in contributions	
27, 2018	Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	received	
27, 2010	For Oakland City Council 2018"	received	
September	"Oaklanders For Responsible	\$12,500 in contributions	
28, 2018	Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	received	
20, 2010	For Oakland City Council 2018"	received	
October 5,	"Oaklanders For Responsible	\$7,500 in contributions	
2018	Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	received	
2010	For Oakland City Council 2018"	received	
October 8,	"Oaklanders For Responsible	\$1,000 in contributions	
2018	Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	received	
2010	For Oakland City Council 2018"	received	
October 11,	"Oaklanders For Responsible	\$5,000 in contributions	
2018	Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	received	
2010	For Oakland City Council 2018"	received	
October 12,	"Oaklanders For Responsible	\$2,500 in contributions	
2018	Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks	received	
2010	For Oakland City Council 2018"	received	

## Item 10 - 22-09 Proposed Settlement Agreement

#### **EXHIBIT**

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

October 16, 2018	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	\$4,990 in contributions received
October 18, 2018	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	\$10,000 in contributions received
October 26, 2018	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	\$14,000 in contributions received
November 2, 2018	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	\$5,000 in contributions received
November 3, 2018	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	\$12,500 in contributions received

As the controlling candidate, Mayor Schaaf's last name was required to be included as part of the committee's name for all purposes.

On the following dates, Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership filed an Independent Expenditure Report ("Form 496") with the PEC, in which it failed to include Mayor Schaaf's last name in its committee name:

Form 496s Filed By ORL While Libby Schaaf Was Controlling Candidate			
Date Filed	Committee Name Given on Form	Activity Reported	
October 2, 2018	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	\$5,470.73 of canvassing opposing Desley Brooks \$12,500 in contributions received	
October 2, 2018 (amendment)	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	\$4,774.82 of canvassing opposing Desley Brooks \$7,490 in contributions received \$2,500 in contributions returned	
42			

EXHIBIT PEC Case No. 22-09

### EXHIBIT

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

October 3, 2018	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	\$8,052 of literature opposing Desley Brooks \$39,980 in contributions received
October 9, 2018	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	\$17,282 of polling, literature, photography, and consulting opposing Desley Brooks \$21,300 in contributions received
October 15, 2018	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	\$5,000 of web costs opposing Desley Brooks \$56,280 in contributions received
October 16, 2018	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	\$12,491.55 of polling, photography, staff time, consulting, and literature opposing Desley Brooks \$4,990 in contributions received
October 17, 2018	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	\$4,104.60 of canvassing opposing Desley Brooks
October 25, 2018	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	\$21,164 of polling, consulting, photography, literature, and web costs opposing Desley Brooks \$20,440 in contributions received
October 30, 2018	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	\$12,178 of photography and web costs opposing Desley Brooks \$16,948 in contributions received
October 30, 2018	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	\$13,212.06 of canvassing and literature opposing Desley Brooks
	43	

EXHIBIT PEC Case No. 22-09

## Item 10 - 22-09 Proposed Settlement Agreement

# In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

		\$16,948 in contributions received
October 31, 2018	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	\$19,291 of literature opposing Desley Brooks \$16,948 in contributions received
November 6, 2018	"Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, Opposing Desley Brooks For Oakland City Council 2018"	\$16,000 of staff time opposing Desley Brooks \$34,848.99 in contributions received \$5,000 in contributions returned

As the controlling candidate, Mayor Schaaf's last name was required to be included as part of the committee's name for all purposes.

In this way, Respondent violated OMC § 3.12.240, incorporating Cal. Govt. Code §§ 84102(f), 84106.5, 84203, 84211(o)-(p), 84213(a), and Regulation 18402(c)(1) and 18410(a)(13).

### Count 2: Failure to Disclose Controlling Candidate On A Mass Mailer

On or around September 21, 2018, Respondents distributed approximately 9,000 copies of a mass mailer in Oakland. That mass mailer failed to identify the subject committee as candidate-controlled by Mayor Schaaf. The approximate value of the unlawful expenditure was \$15,205.92.

On or around October 3, 2018, Respondents distributed approximately 12,730 copies of a second mass mailer in Oakland. That mass mailer failed to identify the subject committee as a candidate-controlled committee of Mayor Schaaf. The approximate value of the unlawful expenditure was \$21,370.44.

In or around October 2018, Respondents distributed approximately 9,000 copies of a third mass mailer in Oakland. That mass mailer failed to identify the subject committee as

#### **FXHIRIT**

# In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

candidate-controlled by Mayor Schaaf. The approximate value of the unlawful expenditure was \$15,205.92.

In or around October 2018, Respondents distributed approximately 9,000 copies of a fourth mass mailer in Oakland. That mass mailer failed to identify the subject committee as candidate-controlled by Mayor Schaaf. The approximate value of the unlawful expenditure was \$15,205.92.

In or around October 2018, Respondents distributed approximately 9,000 copies of a fifth mass mailer in Oakland. That mass mailer failed to identify the subject committee as candidate-controlled by Mayor Schaaf. The approximate value of the unlawful expenditure was \$15,205.92.

In this way, Respondents violated OMC § 3.12.230.

#### **VIOLATIONS:**

#### OAKLANDERS FOR RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP; MAYOR SCHAAF

Respondents, Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership; and Mayor Schaaf (its controlling candidate who caused the violation), violated the following Oakland Municipal Code(s):

#### Count 3: Failure to Properly Report Intermediary (Conduit) Contributions

On their campaign statements (Form 460), Respondents reported the following contributions as being received from OAKPAC rather than from the true source of the contributions:

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

Contributions Over the Limit to ORL	`	(FAC)	
_	Date of	_	Amount
Donor (per 460)	Contribution	Amount	Over the
	to OAKPAC		Limit
Bay Area Citizens PAC	10/23/2018	\$2,500	\$1,700
Horizon Beverage Company	10/26/2018	\$5,000	\$4,200
Equity and General Trade Association	11/05/2018	\$5,000	\$4,200
Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites - Balaji Enterprises, LLC	11/05/2018	\$5,000	\$4,200
Kiva Sales and Service	11/05/2018	\$2,500	\$1,700
Lane Partners	11/05/2018	\$10,000	\$9,200
Best Bay Apartments, Inc.	11/16/2018	\$10,000	\$9,200
TMG Partners	11/16/2018	\$10,000	\$9,200
Wilson Meany LP AAF / 11 West Ninth Street	05/20/2019	\$10,000	¢0.200
Property Owner LP	05/20/2019	\$10,000	\$9,200
Abid	07/02/2019	\$3,000	\$2,200
Argent Materials, Inc.	07/02/2019	\$5,000	\$4,200
Foster Interstate Media, Inc. and Affiliated Entities	07/02/2019	\$5,000	\$4,200
Oakland Lofts, LLC	07/02/2019	\$5,000	\$4,200
Wasserman	07/02/2019	\$1,000	\$200
CCSAC, Inc.	07/22/2019	\$5,000	\$4,200
Comcast Financial Agency Corporation, A Comcast	12/18/2019	\$5,000	\$5,000
Cable Communications Group Company			

These contributions should have been reported as contributions from the true sources, with OAKPAC reported as an intermediary; but they were not.

In this way, Respondents violated OMC § 3.12.240, incorporating Cal. Govt. Code §§ 84211, 84215 and 85704.

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

## 

## 

## 

### 

## 

## 

## 

## 

## 

## 

## 

# 

## 

## 

## 

# 

## 

### 

## 

45 This contribution was returned on 9/11/18. 

**VIOLATIONS:** 

#### **OAKLANDERS FOR RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP**

Respondent, Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, violated the following Oakland Municipal Code(s):

### Count 4: Receiving Contributions in an Amount Over the Legal Limit

On the following dates, Respondent received direct monetary contributions in excess of \$800, which was the contribution limit for candidate-controlled committees in 2018:

Direct Contributions Received By ORL Over The Contribution Limit				
Donor	Date Received	Total Amount of Contribution	Amount of Contribution In Excess of Limit	
McGrath Properties, Inc. <sup>45</sup>	08/30/2018	\$2,500	\$1,700	
David Roe	09/13/2018	\$4,990	\$4,190	
Jennifer L. Pahlka	09/19/2018	\$4,000	\$3,200	
Patricia Kernighan	09/20/2018	\$950	\$150	
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 595 PAC	09/24/2018	\$10,000	\$8,400	
Kenneth J. Schmier	09/25/2018	\$4,999	\$4,199	
Sprinkler Fitters & Apprentices Local 483 PAC	09/25/2018	\$7,500	\$5,900	
Lisa Schmier	09/26/2018	\$4,999	\$4,199	
Sheet Metal Workers' International Association Local Union No. 104	09/27/2018	\$10,000	\$8,400	
Eugene Zahas	09/27/2018	\$2,500	\$1,700	

#### **EXHIBIT**

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

Sprinkler Fitters & Apprentices Local 483 PAC	10/04/2018	\$7,500	\$5,900
Bruce Beasley	10/05/2018	\$1,000	\$200
U.A. Local 342 PAC Fund	10/10/2018	\$5,000	\$3,400
Kim A. Thompson	10/11/2018	\$2,500	\$1,700
Libitzky Holdings, L.P.	10/15/2018	\$4,999	\$4,199
State Building & Construction			
Trades Council of California	10/17/2018	\$10,000	\$8,400
Independent Expenditure PAC			
Carmel Partners	10/25/2018	\$5,000	\$4,200
Danny W. Wan	10/25/2018	\$1,500	\$700
Salvatore T. Fahey	10/29/2018	\$999	\$199
Libby Schaaf	10/29/2018	\$999	\$199
Cannaroyalty <sup>46</sup>	10/31/2018	\$5,000	\$4,200
DRIVE Committee	11/08/2018	\$5,000	\$4,200
Elaine Brown	11/19/2018	\$1,000	\$200
Andrew Fremder	11/19/2018	\$1,000	\$200
Ron Gershoni	11/19/2018	\$2,500	\$1,700
Michael McDonald	11/19/2018	\$1,000	\$200
Robert (Zachary) Wasserman	11/19/2018	\$1,000	\$200
		Total Amount	of Contributions = \$108,435
	Total Recei	ved Over The C	ontribution Limit = \$82,035

And on the following dates, Respondent received monetary contributions in excess of \$800, which was the contribution limit for candidate-controlled committees in 2018, via OAKPAC:

Contributions Over the Limit to ORL (Made Via OAKPAC)				
Donor (per 460)	Date of Contribution	Amount	Amount Over the	
	to OAKPAC		Limit	
Bay Area Citizens PAC	10/23/2018	\$2,500	\$1,700	
Horizon Beverage Company	10/26/2018	\$5,000	\$4,200	
Equity and General Trade Association	11/05/2018	\$5,000	\$4,200	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> This contribution was returned on 11/5/18.

# In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

Comcast Financial Agency Corporation, A Comcast Cable Communications Group Company	12/18/2019 tal Amount of co	\$5,000	\$5,000
CCSAC, Inc.	07/22/2019	\$5,000	\$4,200
Wasserman	07/02/2019	\$1,000	\$200
Oakland Lofts, LLC	07/02/2019	\$5,000	\$4,200
Foster Interstate Media, Inc. and Affiliated Entities	07/02/2019	\$5,000	\$4,200
Argent Materials, Inc.	07/02/2019	\$5,000	\$4,200
Abid	07/02/2019	\$3,000	\$2,200
Wilson Meany LP AAF / 11 West Ninth Street Property Owner LP	05/20/2019	\$10,000	\$9,200
TMG Partners	11/16/2018	\$10,000	\$9,200
Best Bay Apartments, Inc.	11/16/2018	\$10,000	\$9,200
Lane Partners	11/05/2018	\$10,000	\$9,200
Kiva Sales and Service	11/05/2018	\$2,500	\$1,700
Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites - Balaji Enterprises, LLC	11/05/2018	\$5,000	\$4,200

As a candidate-controlled committee, the Respondent committee was prohibited from receiving contributions from a single source in excess of \$800 per person or \$1,600 per broad-based committee during the 2018 election.

In this way, Respondent violated OMC § 3.12.050.

#### **VIOLATIONS:**

#### LIBBY SCHAAF; DOUG LINNEY

Respondents, Libby Schaaf (controlling candidate of ORL, who also caused the violations); and Doug Linney (who caused the violations), violated the following Oakland Municipal Code(s):

#### **EXHIBIT**

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

## 

On the dates listed above in Count 4. Perpendents received

Count 5: Receiving Contributions in an Amount Over the Legal Limit

On the dates listed above in Count 4, Respondents received direct monetary contributions in excess of \$800, which was the contribution limit for candidate-controlled committees in 2018.

As principals of a candidate-controlled committee, Respondents were prohibited from receiving contributions from a single source in excess of \$800 per person or \$1,600 per broad-based committee during the 2018 election.

In this way, Respondents violated OMC § 3.12.050.

### **VIOLATIONS:**

# OAKPAC, OAKLAND METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE; BARBARA LESLIE, ROBERT ZACHARY WASSERMAN

Respondents, OAKPAC, Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce; Barbara Leslie (OAKPAC's principal officer, who also caused the violations), and Robert Zachary Wasserman (OAKPAC's agent, who also caused the violations) violated the following Oakland Municipal Code(s):

### Count 6: Failure to Properly Report Intermediary (Conduit) Contributions

Respondents, either directly or by causing/aiding-and-abetting, reported the following payments as direct contributions from OAKPAC to ORL rather than accurately reporting them as intermediary contributions from the original donors:

#### **EXHIBIT**

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

Contributions to ORL Made Via OAKPAC				
Donor (per 460)	Date of Contribution to OAKPAC	Amount		
Bay Area Citizens PAC	10/23/2018	\$2,500		
Horizon Beverage Company	10/26/2018	\$5,000		
Equity and General Trade Association	11/05/2018	\$5,000		
Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites - Balaji Enterprises, LLC	11/05/2018	\$5,000		
Kiva Sales and Service	11/05/2018	\$2,500		
Lane Partners	11/05/2018	\$10,000		
Best Bay Apartments, Inc.	11/16/2018	\$10,000		
TMG Partners	11/16/2018	\$10,000		
Wilson Meany LP AAF / 11 West Ninth Street Property Owner LP	05/20/2019	\$10,000		
Abid	07/02/2019	\$3,000		
Argent Materials, Inc.	07/02/2019	\$5,000		
Foster Interstate Media, Inc. and Affiliated Entities	07/02/2019	\$5,000		
Oakland Lofts, LLC	07/02/2019	\$5,000		
Wasserman	07/02/2019	\$1,000		
CCSAC, Inc.	07/22/2019	\$5,000		
Comcast Financial Agency Corporation, A Comcast Cable Communications Group Company	12/18/2019	\$5,000		
	Total = \$89,800.00			

Instead, OAKPAC reported them as contributions from OAKPAC to ORL on the following dates:

**Reporting Period** 

07/01/18 - 12/31/18

07/01/18 - 12/31/18

07/01/18 - 12/31/18

07/01/18 - 12/31/18

07/01/18 - 12/31/18

1/1/19 - 6/30/19

7/1/19 - 12/31/19

7/1/19 - 12/31/19

7/1/19 - 12/31/19

#### **EXHIBIT**

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

Intermediary Contributions From OAKPAC to ORL
Not Correctly Reported

Amount

\$7,500

\$2,500

\$10,000

\$17,500

\$20,000

\$10,000

\$19,000

\$5,000

\$5,000

**Date** 

10/25/2018

11/02/2018

11/02/2018

11/12/2018

11/26/2018

05/30/2019

07/10/2019

08/13/2019

12/20/2019

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

In this way, Respondents violated OMC § 3.12.240, incorporating Cal. Govt. Code §§ 84211, 84215 and 85704.

14

11

12

13

1516

17

18

19

2021

22

2324

26

25

2728

### PENALTY ANALYSIS

Oakland's Campaign Reform Act authorizes the Commission to impose the following base-level and maximum penalties for the following types of violations:

Violation	Counts	Base-Level Per Violation	Statutory Limit Per Violation
Failure to Disclose Controlling Candidate on Campaign Forms	1	\$1,000	\$5,000
Failure to Disclose Controlling Candidate on a Mass Mailer	2	\$1,000	\$5,000 or three times the value of the unlawful expenditure, whichever is greater

#### **EXHIBIT**

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

Failure to Properly Report Intermediary Contributions	3, 6	\$1,000	\$5,000 or three times the amount not properly reported, whichever is greater
Receiving Contributions Over The Legal Limit	4-5	\$1,000, plus the unlawful amount	\$5,000 or three times the amount of the unlawful contribution, whichever is greater.

In addition to monetary penalties, the Commission may issue warnings or require other remedial measures.<sup>47</sup>

The PEC will consider all relevant mitigating and aggravating circumstances surrounding a violation when deciding on a penalty, including, but not limited to, the following factors:

- The seriousness of the violation, including, but not limited to, the extent of the public impact or harm;
- 2. The presence or absence of any intention to conceal, deceive, or mislead;
- 3. Whether the violation was deliberate, negligent, or inadvertent;
- 4. Whether the violation was isolated or part of a pattern;
- 5. Whether the respondent has a prior record of violations and/or demonstrated knowledge of the rule or requirement at issue;
- 6. The extent to which the respondent voluntarily and quickly took the steps necessary to cure the violation (either independently or after contact from the PEC);
- 7. The degree to which the respondent cooperated with the PEC's enforcement activity in a timely manner;
- 8. The relative experience of the respondent;

<u> </u>
<sup>47</sup> OMC § 3.12.270(C).

53

2
 3
 4

56

8

7

1011

12

13

1415

1617

18

19 20

21

22

2324

25

26

27

#### **EXHIBIT**

# In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

9. The respondent's ability to pay the contemplated penalty without suffering undue financial hardship. This factor shall not apply to the portion of a penalty that constitutes a repayment or disgorgement of the unlawful amount, except in cases of extreme financial hardship.

The PEC has broad discretion in evaluating a violation and determining the appropriate penalty based on the totality of circumstances. This list of factors to consider is not an exhaustive list, but rather a sampling of factors that could be considered. There is no requirement or intention that each factor – or any specific number of factors - be present in an enforcement action when determining a penalty. As such, the ability or inability to prove or disprove any factor or group of factors shall in no way restrict the PEC's power to bring an enforcement action or impose a penalty.

#### Analysis of the Present Case

The circumstances of the Respondents' conduct establish the following aggravating and mitigating factors that should be taken into account when determining an appropriate penalty in this case.

The Respondents' violations in this case are serious. The strict rules applying to candidate-controlled committees go directly to the very purpose of campaign finance law. Candidates for office, and particularly high-ranking officeholders such as the Mayor, have a disproportionate ability to bring in campaign money. This includes donations from sources whose business interests could benefit from being in a candidate or official's good favor, even if that relationship never rises to a formal quid pro quo. Here, there is no evidence of any quid pro quo. However, the contribution restrictions serve to reduce the actuality or appearance of corruption, and (in the case of officeholders) to reduce the unfair fundraising benefits that can come with political power.

#### **EXHIBIT**

# In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

In this case, Mayor Schaaf and her associates' actions were negligent. All of them were fully aware that Mayor Schaaf had significant participation in the IE campaign against Brooks, including its creation, strategy, budgeting decisions, and selection of personnel.

In an interview with PEC staff, Mayor Schaaf conveyed that she believed at the time that she had an understanding of the rules concerning what makes a committee "candidate-controlled." Specifically, she said the rules would have required her to only have a "supporting role" and "limited involvement" on the committee, and "being more responsive or reactive to requests that people make for your help." Mayor Schaaf did receive advice from Doug Linney regarding what he believed his attorneys had told him regarding permissible activities that would not constitute "significant activity." However, the advice as conveyed by Mr. Linney was not accurate and articulated a greater level of permissible activity than that permitted under FPPC Advice Letters. Mayor Schaaf told the PEC that she guided her behavior based on this erroneous information.

To be clear, candidates and officeholders are allowed to fundraise for existing committees, including independent expenditure committees. What they cannot do is create or repurpose an existing committee, and then exercise significant influence over the committee. Here, Mayor Schaaf was negligent in determining her obligations to avoid "significantly influencing" the campaign committee, resulting in the listed violations related to this influence.

For his part, though Doug Linney was aware of the extent Mayor Schaaf's role with ORL, he later told the PEC that it was his understanding that Mayor Schaaf was not the final "decision-maker" for ORL and that therefore she was not its controlling candidate. Linney facilitated the filing of ORL's campaign forms that failed to disclose her controlling role. While stating to PEC staff that this was his first independent expenditure campaign, as a generally experienced campaign consultant, Linney should have been aware that ORL's solicitation and receipt of contributions were over the legal limit. He also facilitated the publication of mailers that did not disclose Mayor Schaaf's controlling role on the campaign.

#### **EXHIBIT**

# In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

However, in mitigation, the Brooks campaign distributed campaign mailers and made press statements that stated that Mayor Schaaf was involved with the committee, therefore the public was provided with some information about Mayor Schaaf's possible involvement, albeit not on the face of ORL's mailers or campaign forms.

In further aggravation, regarding Respondent Schaaf, the Mayor's actions could be considered as part of a pattern. This is evidenced by PEC cases #19-01 and #22-09, concerning similar activity in the 2018 election, and which are also being brought to the PEC at the same time as this case. However, the Mayor contends she was acting under the same mistaken advice provided to her by Mr. Linney in these matters. The Mayor has also been involved in a prior PEC case (though not as a respondent) involving contributions from a City contractor to one of her committees (PEC #18-19).

As an additional aggravating factor, the violations may have had some impact on the election. The candidate opposed by this committee ultimately lost.

In mitigation, the Mayor, Linney and Leslie were forthcoming when providing documents to PEC investigators. This included documents that evidenced the violations in this case. The Mayor and other witnesses also voluntarily provided interviews to PEC staff without a subpoena. Schaaf and Linney's actions appear to have been motivated by a misunderstanding of the law.

As for the violations associated with using OAKPAC as a pass-through for earmarked contributions, these are also serious violations of the Campaign Reform Act. The people involved in this arrangement were all sophisticated individuals who should have been familiar with campaign finance law (Wasserman is also an attorney) and engaged in activity which deprived voters of donor information required by law. In mitigation, OAKPAC did report the original donors on its own Form 460s, though not until after the election was over. Leslie and Wasserman's actions appear to have been motivated by a misunderstanding of the law.

None of the respondents in this case have prior PEC or FPPC violations in which they were named individually. Finally, respondents are now admitting liability to the violations in

#### **EXHIBIT**

# In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

this agreement, thereby taking responsibility for what occurred and working with the PEC to redress any harm caused.

As an additional mitigating factor, PEC staff notes that it has reviewed the personal finances of Mayor Schaaf, Linney, Leslie, and Wasserman, and found that the penalties contemplated in this settlement agreement are sufficiently large to act as a deterrent to future violations, without being so large as to cause an undue financial burden for them. PEC staff has also reviewed the finances of OAKPAC and determined that the penalty contemplated here is sufficiently large to act as a deterrent to future violations, without being so large as to cause an undue financial burden for OAKPAC.

#### **RECOMMENDED PENALTIES**

In light of the above factors, PEC staff and respondents have mutually agreed upon the following penalties and recommend that the Commission vote to approve them:

Count	Violation	Respondent(s)	Amount at Issue	Recommended Penalty
1	Failure to Disclose Controlling Candidate on Campaign Forms	Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership; Libby Schaaf; Doug Linney	-	\$5,000
2	Failure to Disclose Controlling Candidate on a Mass Mailer	Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership; Mayor Schaaf; Doug Linney	\$82,194.12	\$10,000
3	Failure to Properly Report Intermediary Contributions	Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership; Mayor Schaaf	\$89,800	\$5,000

### EXHIBIT

In the Matter of Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership, et al. PEC 22-09 Case Summary

1 2	4	Receiving Contributions in an Amount Over The Legal Limit	Oaklanders For Responsible Leadership	\$159,035	\$80,518
3 4	5	Receiving Contributions in an Amount Over The Legal Limit	Mayor Schaaf; Doug Linney	(Same as Counts 4 above)	\$5,000
5			OAKPAC, Oakland		
6		Failure to Properly	Metropolitan Chamber		
7	6	Report Intermediary	of Commerce; Barbara	\$89,800	\$48,000
		Contributions	Leslie; Robert Zachary		
8			Wasserman		
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					
21					
22					
23					
24					
25					
26					
27					
28			58 EXHIBIT PEC Case No. 22-09		
	I		- ,		