



CITY OF OAKLAND

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Public Ethics Commission  
Enforcement Unit

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July 27, 2022

Mr. Scott Law

**Re: City Councilmember Sheng Tao and Julie Caskey, Campaign Treasurer: Case No. 22-04**

Dear Mr. Law:

On February 7, 2022, the PEC received your complaint that alleged that Councilwoman Sheng Thao’s campaign committee and the campaign manager Julie Caskey, received/accepted six (6) donations that were over the \$900 limit for individual donations in violation of the Oakland Campaign Reform Act. In early February 2022, after the PEC conducted a preliminary review of the allegations the PEC determined that the Respondent’s campaign had received two over-limit contributions (see graph below) in the last quarter of 2021, but that the over-limit contributions had been identified and returned to the respected donors in January 2022. After careful review of the facts, interviews with witnesses, the law, and our telephone discussion in July 2022, the facts alleged do not constitute a violation of law within the Commission’s jurisdiction, and we must dismiss your complaint pursuant to our Complaint Procedures.

**O.M.C. 3.12.050** provides that, “No person shall make to any candidate and the controlled committee of such a candidate, and no candidate and the candidate’s controlled committee shall receive from any such person, a contribution or contributions totaling more than one hundred dollars (\$900.00), adjusted annually pursuant to Subsection F., for each election except as stated in Subsection B. of this Section.”

The PEC investigation determined that the Treasurer (Respondent Caskey) for Thao’s campaign identified two (2) over limit donations. The following were reported to the PEC Filing Clerk:

Between 11/10-12/31/21	Robert Wasserman	Donated \$1150	On 1/12/22	Refunded \$250
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## Item 14d - Dismissal Letter 22-04

PEC Dismissal Letter, 22-04

In late 2021	Julie Caskey	Donated \$900 And a loan to the campaign for \$500	On 1/25/22	Paid loan \$500
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The PEC confirmed that there were only two over-limit contributions that the campaign had promptly returned.

Thank you for expressing your concerns about this matter. We understand and take each of the concerns you raised with earnest consideration. For your reference, the PEC Complaint Procedures can be found on our website and a copy is enclosed.

We are required to inform the Public Ethics Commission of the resolution of this matter at its next public meeting, as part of our regular monthly update on Enforcement actions. That meeting will take place on August 10, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. by teleconference as will be posted on the Commission's website in advance of the meeting. The report will be purely informational, and no action will be taken by the Commission regarding this matter, which is now closed. However, you are welcome to call-in to that meeting to listen and/or give public comment if you wish. You may also submit written comments to us before that meeting, and we will add them to the meeting materials.

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention. If you have other questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Kellie Johnson, Enforcement Chief  
City of Oakland, Public Ethics Commission  
KJohnson3@oaklandca.gov