



Complaint No. P2012-05 alleges that Respondents violated Section 1275(a) of the Ventura County Code ("the Ordinance") when Respondents made two independent expenditures in excess of \$1,000 supporting Bob Roper in the 2012 election and failed to report those expenditures within 24 hours as required by the Ordinance. Specifically, on September 27, 2012, Respondents filed a California Fair Political Practices Commission Form 460 ("Form 460"). Page 6 of this form lists an independent expenditure of \$4,500 for phone banking in support of Bob Roper made on June 6, 2012. On October 8, 2012, Respondents filed a Form 460. Page 7 of this form lists an independent expenditure of \$5,896.50 for a research survey in support of Bob Roper made on August 9, 2012. Respondents did not file Ventura County Form 1275, Report of Independent Expenditures ("Form 1275"), within 24 hours of making both expenditures as required by Section 1275(a). After having been notified of the violations by the Elections Division, Respondents filed the required Form 1275s on November 1, 2012.

Complaint No. P2012-09 alleges that Respondents violated Section 1275(a) of the Ventura County Code ("the Ordinance") when Respondents made four independent expenditures in excess of \$1,000 supporting Bob Roper in the 2012 election and failed to report those expenditures within 24 hours as required by the Ordinance. On May 25, 2012, Respondents filed a Form 460. Page 8 of this form lists an independent expenditure of \$10,542.72 made April 18, 2012 for mailers/postcards in support of Bob Roper. On May 31, 2012, Respondents filed a California Fair Political Practices Commission Form 469 ("Form 469"). Page 1 of this form lists independent expenditures of: \$6,063.44 for printing mailers in support of Bob Roper; \$5,195.15 for printing postcard mailers in support of Bob Roper; and \$2,101.94 for reprinting a jumbo postcard in support of Bob Roper, all made on May 24, 2012. Respondents did not file Form 1275s within 24 hours of making the four expenditures as required by Section 1275(a), nor did they file a copy of the mail pieces with those reports. After having been notified of the violations by the Elections Division, Respondents filed four Form 1275s on November 1, 2012.

On August 10, 2012 Respondents executed and electronically filed with the California Secretary of State an amended Form 410, Statement of Organization, indicating that the Respondent Committee was a state filer and not a Ventura County filer. As of that date, pursuant to Government Code Section 81009.5, the additional filing requirements of Section 1275 did not apply to the Respondents' independent expenditures. Thus, Respondents were not required to file Form 1275 for the August 9, 2012 independent expenditure.


Respondents' treasurer has been cooperative in the investigation, admitted the filing errors, and indicated Respondents were unaware of Ventura County's additional filing requirements.

As the full and final stipulated resolution of Case Nos. P2012-05 and P2012-09, Respondents hereby agree to pay an administrative fine of \$5,000.00 to the County of Ventura. While less than the maximum possible fine that could be levied in these matters, the amount is justified by the following facts:


1. Respondents did not attempt to conceal the expenditures;
2. Respondents have no other enforcement history with the County of Ventura;
3. Respondents cooperated in the investigation and admitted the violation;
4. Respondents filed Forms 1275, as applicable, when notified of the failure.

Respondents hereby agree that if further consideration of these matters by the Commission becomes necessary, no Commission board members or staff, nor the Executive Director, shall be disqualified because of prior consideration of this Stipulation.

DATED: March 14, 2013

  
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 Craig A. Steele, Investigator  
 COUNTY OF VENTURA CAMPAIGN  
 FINANCE ETHICS COMMISSION

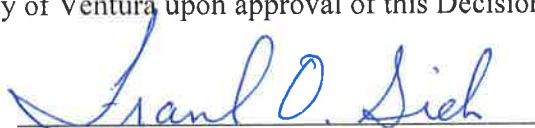
DATED: March 14, 2013

  
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 By: Chris Mathison  
 Respondents Firefighters for a Better  
 Government

**DECISION AND ORDER**  
**Case Nos. P2012-05 and P2012-09**

The County of Ventura Campaign Finance Ethics Commission ("Commission") has considered the above Stipulation and a report from its investigator at its meeting on April 19, 2013. The Commission hereby approves the Stipulation and orders that, in accordance with the Stipulation, Respondents shall pay a stipulated fine of \$5,000.00 to the General Fund of the County of Ventura upon approval of this Decision and Order.

DATED: 4.19.2013



Frank O. Sieh, Chair  
COUNTY OF VENTURA CAMPAIGN  
FINANCE ETHICS COMMISSION