

January 21, 2025

City of Montebello

Raul Alvarez, City Manager

Arnold Alvarez-Glasman, City Attorney

1600 W. Beverly Boulevard

Montebello, CA 90640

Dear Raul Alvarez and Arnold Alvarez-Glasman,

I am writing to express my concerns and insist that Councilmember Scarlet Peralta recuse herself from the voting process for the next City Council member of District 5. Given her past endorsements and campaign activities, it is crucial for the integrity and transparency of our city's governance that Ms. Peralta step aside from this process.

In 2022, Ms. Peralta publicly endorsed candidate Rick Alonzo and donated thousands of dollars to his campaign. After careful review, it appears that Ms. Peralta was the primary donor to Mr. Alonzo's campaign. I am attaching a copy of the endorsement and the 497 form. Additionally, her campaign manager and mentor, Christina Cortez, was directly involved in running both Peralta's and Alonzo's 2022 campaigns, as well as Peralta's 2020 and 2024 campaigns. More importantly, Mrs. Cortez played a significant role in the recall of District 5, which led to the current vacancy that Ms. Peralta is now one of four votes to appoint. Equally important to note, Angie Jimenez was served the recall papers on April 29; however, three days prior, on April 26, Rick Alonzo circulated a text message asking residents to sign his petition for appointment. I am attaching a copy of the text message.

While individual free speech rights are incredibly important, being a public official means subjecting oneself to public scrutiny. The public expects a City Council member to adhere to higher standards of conduct. Given Ms. Peralta's past endorsements and direct involvement by and through her campaign manager/mentor, Christina Cortez, serious questions of serial meetings arise. Just recently confirmed by a District 5 resident, Cristina Cortez asked him to step aside for Rick Alonzo and reaffirmed to the resident he did NOT have the council's votes. Ms. Peralta is subject to a PRA request, and this is my notice that I will be requesting a PRA of all electronic transmission, email, messages including WhatsApp.

The Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) oversees ethics laws that cover conflicts of interest and financial disclosures for public officials. According to these guidelines, a council member must avoid any

decision-making that appears biased due to personal interests or previous endorsements. Public officials are expected to serve the public with undivided loyalty, uninfluenced by any private interest or motive. Endorsing and donating to a candidate could create a perception of bias.

Mr. Glassman, as the city attorney, it is imperative you preserve the integrity and transparency of our city's governance for the greater good of the community. Based on the above facts, this situation is unethical behavior and should be taken seriously. I urge you to consider requesting Councilmember Peralta to recuse herself from the appointment process to ensure a fair and impartial selection.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

William Cervera