

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

Schedule D
Summary of Expenditures
Supporting/Opposing Other
Candidates, Measures and Committees

Amounts may be rounded
to whole dollars.

Statement covers period from <u>09/25/2022</u> through <u>10/22/2022</u>	CALIFORNIA FORM 460
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I.D. NUMBER 1450698	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE
NAME OF FILER

Scarlet Peralta for Montebello City Council 2022

DATE	NAME OF CANDIDATE, OFFICE, AND DISTRICT, OR MEASURE NUMBER OR LETTER AND JURISDICTION, OR COMMITTEE	TYPE OF PAYMENT	DESCRIPTION (IF REQUIRED)	AMOUNT THIS PERIOD	CUMULATIVE TO DATE CALENDAR YEAR (JAN. 1 - DEC. 31)	PER ELECTION TO DATE (IF REQUIRED)
10/07/2022	Georgina Tamayo City Council Member City of Montebello	<input type="checkbox"/> Monetary Contribution <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nonmonetary Contribution <input type="checkbox"/> Independent Expenditure	Mailer/postage	2,521.52	2,521.52	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose					
10/07/2022	Ricardo Alonzo City Council Member City of Montebello	<input type="checkbox"/> Monetary Contribution <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nonmonetary Contribution <input type="checkbox"/> Independent Expenditure	Mailer/postage	1,968.59	1,968.59	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose					
		<input type="checkbox"/> Monetary Contribution <input type="checkbox"/> Nonmonetary Contribution <input type="checkbox"/> Independent Expenditure				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose					
SUBTOTAL \$				4,490.11		

Schedule D Summary

- Contributions and independent expenditures made this period of \$100 or more. (Include all Schedule D subtotals.) \$ 4,490.11
- Unitemized contributions and independent expenditures made this period of under \$100 \$ 0.00
- Total contributions and independent expenditures made this period. (Add Lines 1 and 2. Do not enter on the Summary Page.) **TOTAL \$** 4,490.11

**Schedule C
Nonmonetary Contributions Received**

Amounts may be rounded to whole dollars.

Statement covers period from <u>09/25/2022</u> through <u>10/22/2022</u>	CALIFORNIA FORM 460
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I.D. NUMBER 1450015	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE
NAME OF FILER

Ricardo Alonzo for City Council 2022

DATE RECEIVED	FULL NAME, STREET ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE OF CONTRIBUTOR (IF COMMITTEE, ALSO ENTER I.D. NUMBER)	CONTRIBUTOR CODE *	IF AN INDIVIDUAL, ENTER OCCUPATION AND EMPLOYER (IF SELF-EMPLOYED, ENTER NAME OF BUSINESS)	DESCRIPTION OF GOODS OR SERVICES	AMOUNT/ FAIR MARKET VALUE	CUMULATIVE TO DATE CALENDAR YEAR (JAN 1 - DEC 31)	PER ELECTION TO DATE (IF REQUIRED)
10/07/2022	Scarlet Peralta for Montebello City Council 2022 (ID# 1450698) [REDACTED] Long Beach, CA 90802	<input type="checkbox"/> IND <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC		Mailer/postage	2,267.81	2,267.81	
		<input type="checkbox"/> IND <input type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC					
		<input type="checkbox"/> IND <input type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC					
		<input type="checkbox"/> IND <input type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC					

Attach additional information on appropriately labeled continuation sheets.

SUBTOTAL \$ 2,267.81

Schedule C Summary

1. Amount received this period – itemized nonmonetary contributions. (Include all Schedule C subtotals.)	\$	2,267.81
2. Amount received this period – unitemized nonmonetary contributions of less than \$100	\$	0.00
3. Total nonmonetary contributions received this period. (Add Lines 1 and 2. Enter here and on the Summary Page, Column A, Lines 4 and 10.)	TOTAL \$	2,267.81

*Contributor Codes
 IND – Individual
 COM – Recipient Committee
 (other than PTY or SCC)
 OTH – Other (e.g., business entity)
 PTY – Political Party
 SCC – Small Contributor Committee