

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE CENSURE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO CITY COUNCIL  
IN CONSIDERATION OF THE ALLEGATIONS BROUGHT AGAINST COUNCILMEMBER PADILLA**

**Background**

On August 2, 2024, Councilmembers Blower and Villapudua submitted a complaint to the Interim City Clerk pursuant to Council Policy 4.08, requesting a censure hearing regarding an alleged violation of Council Policy 5.10, by Councilmember Padilla.

At the August 20, 2024, Council Meeting, there was no unanimous vote to stop the process and the Mayor appointed the Council Censure Ad-Hoc Committee pursuant to Council Policy 4.08.020(2). The Ad Hoc was tasked with reviewing the allegations of the complaint, following the process under Council Policy 4.08, and preparing a report and recommendation to the full Council.

**Council Policy 4.08**

Council Policy 4.08.020(6) requires the Ad-Hoc Committee to do the following:

1. Decide based on the facts and evidence, whether there are reasonable grounds to believe/not believe that the alleged violation of law or serious violation of adopted City policy occurred.
2. Make a written report to the City Council stating the specific law or policy alleged to have been violated, and summarizing the complaint, evidence, and the results of any additional investigation.

On October 7, 2024, the Censure Ad Hoc Committee reviewed the compiled facts and evidence, discussed, and determined that there were reasonable grounds to believe that the alleged serious violation of policy occurred. The AD Hoc designated Committee Members Wright and Lenz to draft this report as detailed above.

**Specific law or policy alleged to have been violated**

Council Policy 5.10 – Mayor and Council Discretionary Funding. Councilmember Padilla is alleged to have violated Section 5.10.010(2)(B)(ii) which prohibits the reimbursement of expenses that are religious or political in nature.

**Summary of the Complaint and Evidence**

**Complaint**

The complaint submitted by Councilmembers Blower and Villapudua, alleges that Councilmember Padilla violated Council Policy 5.10: Mayor and Council Discretionary Funding, Section 2.B., when she used discretionary funds to host an event that was political in nature on Saturday July 20, 2024, at Michael Faklis park.

**Evidence**

1. Complaint
2. Council Policy 4.08
3. Council Policy 5.10

4. Stocktonia Article- Padilla's Party in the Park
5. Record Article- Nonprofit Donors React to Candidate Speeches
6. Record Article- Padilla May Face Censure
7. Video Link- Stocktonia Article (Padilla's Party in the Park)
8. Video Link- 08-20-2024 (Council Meeting Councilmember Padilla's Comments)
9. All documents related to Councilmember Padilla's Event including the original Discretionary Fund request

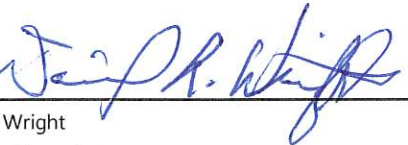
**Recommendation**


Following review of all compiled facts and evidence, the Censure Ad Hoc Committee finds that the allegations in the complaint are supported by sufficient evidence that a serious violation of adopted City policy has occurred. Specifically, that Council Policy 5.10 was violated because discretionary funds were used at an event where political activity occurred rendering the event political in nature.

The Committee's determination is supported by the following evidence of political activity:

1. Several candidates for local office were present at the event and Padilla invited them to speak.
2. The candidate-speakers discussed their candidacy and the upcoming election.
3. At least one candidate-speaker encouraged voting for the other candidate-speakers.
4. One of the candidate-speakers referenced the creation of a majority voting block.
5. Councilmember Padilla wore a campaign shirt as did one of the candidate-speakers.

Therefore, the Committee finds that a censure hearing is warranted and recommends that Councilmember Padilla be censured. The Committee further directs the Interim City Clerk to forward this report and recommendation to the entire City Council and set the matter for a public censure hearing at its next regular meeting on November 12, 2024.

X   
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Dan Wright  
Councilmember

X   
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Susan Lenz  
Councilmember