

TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION

P.O. Box 12070, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711-2070

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February 5, 2024

Mr. Ruben Cortez, Jr.
1875 Los Angeles Court
Brownsville, Texas 78521-6122

**CERTIFIED MAIL NO. 9236 0901 9403 8347 2493 37,
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
DELIVERY CONFIRMATION NO.
9114 9011 2308 6199 1732 49**

Re: Notice of Complaint, SC-3240154

Dear Mr. Cortez:

We received sworn complaint SC-3240154 on January 29, 2024. The sworn complaint alleges that you: 1) did not file special session reports, which were due by August 14, 2023, December 7, 2023, and January 4, 2024, in violation of Section 254.0391 of the Election Code; and 2) did not disclose in your January 2024 semiannual campaign finance report political contributions or political expenditures for political advertising on Facebook, in violation of Section 254.031 of the Election Code.

The Texas Ethics Commission (TEC) accepts jurisdiction over the allegations. This does not mean that the TEC has found that violations occurred. It means that the sworn complaint meets the TEC's legal and technical form requirements for accepting jurisdiction.

The sworn complaint allegations will be processed as Category One violations. Under the law you are required to respond to the allegations not later than 10 business days from the date you receive this notice. Failure to respond will constitute a separate violation for which a separate civil penalty may be assessed.

The response must be in writing, admit or deny the allegations, and be signed by you. If you deny the allegations, then you should provide evidence supporting the denial. The response must include any challenge you seek to raise to the TEC's exercise of jurisdiction. The response should be under oath. We have enclosed an affidavit form that you may wish to use for the response. A respondent who is a candidate or officeholder may by writing submitted to the TEC designate an agent with whom the TEC staff may communicate regarding the complaint. If you have any information relevant to the complaint, please provide it at this time. Also, please be advised that you should preserve all documents and evidence related to the allegations in this complaint.

www.ethics.state.tx.us

(512) 463-5800 • TDD (800) 735-2989
Promoting Public Confidence in Government

To comply with legal requirements regarding the initial notice of a sworn complaint, I have also included a copy of the sworn complaint, the TEC's sworn complaint rules, a Statement of Respondent's Rights, and a copy of the relevant statutes of the Election Code. More information about the complaint process is available on the TEC's website at www.ethics.state.tx.us.

Please note that at this stage in the process, TEC members and staff are required by law to keep the complaint and all documents relating to it strictly confidential. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Nicholas Espinosa

Nicholas Espinosa
Director of Enforcement

Jurisdiction accepted
For the Texas Ethics Commission



Digitally signed by J.R. Johnson
Date: 2024.02.02 11:34:42
-06'00'

J.R. Johnson
Executive Director

NE:mc

Enclosures: Copy of Sworn Complaint
TEC Rules Concerning Sworn Complaints
Statement of Respondent's Rights
Relevant Statutes
Affidavit (for respondent only)