



**Portland  
City Auditor**  
Chief Deputy



November 21, 2024

Jonathan Tasini  
Jonathan Tasini for City Council  
**Delivered Electronically**  
jonathan@jonathantasini.com  
theteam@jonathantasini.com

**Notice of Determination  
Letter of Warning and Education  
Campaign Finance Complaint No.: 2024-10-JT**

Dear Jonathan Tasini and Jonathan Tasini for City Council:

The City Elections Division, a Division within the Auditor's Office, received a complaint on November 4, 2024, alleging Jonathan Tasini's city council campaign, Jonathan Tasini for City Council, violated City Charter campaign finance regulations by not prominently displaying required disclaimer information on a mailer and on their campaign website (Ex. 1.). The complaint included a picture of the mailer. (Ex. 2.) The complaint contended that the font used for the disclaimer on the mailer was too small and that no disclaimer existed on the campaign website.

City Charter and Auditor's Office Administrative Rule (ARA) 13.04 require the inclusion of disclaimer information on political communications that cost \$250 or more to create (meaning, for example, designing, producing, providing, presenting, hosting, distributing a communication, etc.). (See City Charter Sections 3-303; ARA 13.04(A)(2)(b).)

After initial review of the complaint, the Auditor's Office opened an investigation, as detailed below. The Auditor's Office determined there is sufficient evidence to support a finding of **seven violations** and issues this **Letter of Warning and Education** with no monetary penalty.

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503-823-4078

## Investigation and Findings

The Auditor's Office sent Notice of Complaint No. 2024-10-JT to Jonathan Tasini on November 6, 2024. Jonathan Tasini provided a response to the complaint and a response to a request for information. (Exs. 3, 4.) The Auditor's Office found the following in the course of its investigation:

1. Jonathan Tasini was a candidate for City Council for District No. 2 in the November 5, 2024, General Election.
2. Jonathan Tasini for City Council (ORESTAR ID 23246) is the candidate committee for Jonathan Tasini.
3. The Auditor's Office reviewed the photograph of the mailer provided by the complainant, as well as Tasini's website. The Auditor's Office finds the mailer and website both qualify as "communications" under City Charter Section 3-308(d)<sup>1</sup>.
4. In Tasini's response on November 7, 2024, he acknowledged that the campaign website was missing the dominant contributor from the disclaimer. In reference to the mailer, he acknowledged "the font size in the actual content was probably bigger than previous mailers. Thus, I assume the ratio was 'off' in terms of disclosure." (Ex 3.)
5. The mailer included the following disclaimer: "Authorized and Paid for by Jonathan Tasini For City Council, PAC ID 23246 Dominant Contributors: UFCW 555 Active Ballot Club." (Ex. 2.) The Auditor's Office finds the disclaimer was in smaller font than the majority of the text on the mailer.
6. Tasini provided a confirmation email dated October 28, 2024, supporting that UFCW 555 printed the mailer on October 28, 2024. (Ex. 5.)
7. Tasini provided a mailer invoice dated October 31, 2024, showing the campaign paid \$4,011.31 for processing and distribution of the mailers. (Ex. 6.) Tasini also provided the confirmation email from UFCW showing the campaign received an in-kind contribution of \$763.49 for printing. (Ex. 5.) The Auditor's Office determined the total cost for the mailer was at least \$4,774.80, which exceeded the \$250 threshold triggering City disclaimer requirements for both communications. (See ARA 13.04(A)(2)(b).)

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<sup>1</sup> Charter Section 3-308(d) defines the types of "communication" subject to City disclaimer requirements for communications that also relate to a City of Portland candidate election, and includes "any written, printed, digital, electronic or broadcast communications [excluding] communication by means of small items worn or carried by Individuals, bumper stickers, Small Signs, or a distribution of five hundred (500) or fewer substantially similar pieces of literature within any 10-day period."

8. On November 5, 2024, the Auditor's Office reviewed the Jonathan Tasini for City Council website. The website disclaimer stated, "Paid for by Jonathan Tasini For City Council, PAC ID 23246." (Ex. 7.) No dominant contributors were listed in the disclaimer. In the response, Tasini also provided a screenshot of the relevant portion of the website. (Ex 8.)
9. Tasini provided a website invoice dated November 29, 2023, showing the campaign paid \$1,500 for the site and a second invoice for \$50 monthly as a maintenance fee. (Exs. 9, 10.) The Auditor's Office finds that at the time of the filing of the current complaint, the campaign would have paid a total of 12 months of monthly maintenance fees, for a total of \$600. The Auditor's Office therefore determined the total cost for the website was \$2,100, which exceeded the \$250 threshold triggering City disclaimer requirements. (See ARA 13.04(A)(2)(b).)
10. The Auditor's Office reviewed Jonathan Tasini for City Council's campaign finance activity reported in the Oregon Elections System for Tracking and Reporting (ORESTAR) (Ex. 11.) The Auditor's Office finds on October 4, 2024, UFCW 555 made an in-kind contribution of \$763.49, resulting in an aggregate contribution total of \$1,304.62 given to Jonathan Tasini for City Council. Because this amount exceeds the \$1,158 threshold that defines a dominant contributor<sup>2</sup>, the Auditor's Office finds UFCW 555 was a dominant contributor at the time of the mailer's printing on October 28, 2024. Likewise, UFCW 555 qualified as a dominant contributor by the time the current complaint was filed, for purposes of analyzing the website. Therefore, the Auditor's Office finds one dominant contributor in the current election cycle was required to be disclosed on both the mailer and website communications: UFCW 555<sup>3</sup>.
11. The Auditor's Office reviewed ORESTAR to determine if the dominant contributor (UFCW 555) was registered as a political committee in the state of Oregon. "UFCW 555 Initiative Support" is a registered committee but does not show activity related to Jonathan Tasini for City Council or any other candidate contributions. As of November 21, 2024, it does not appear that UFCW 555 has a registered political committee that reported in-kind contributions to Jonathan

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<sup>2</sup> Charter Section 3-308(f) defines "dominant contributor" as any individual or entity which contributes more than \$1,000 during an election cycle to support or oppose a particular candidate. Appendix A for ARA 13 adjusts this amount to \$1,158 for inflation.

<sup>3</sup> Exhibits 2, 3, 5, and 11 all list "UFCW 555" or "UFCW 555 Active Ballot Club" as the dominant contributor. To the best of our knowledge the Auditor's Office believes the entity that made the in-kind contributions to be the Local 555 chapter of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, which is consistent with Tasini's ORESTAR reporting. Tasini's mailer disclaimer (and the fact the national organization of UFCW maintains a PAC with "Active Ballot Club" in its name) raises questions about whether a political committee formed by UFCW Local 555 was the contributor, but the Auditor's Office has been provided no evidence to suggest that was the case.

Tasini for City Council or to the other candidates that reported contributions from UFCW 555.

## **Analysis and Determination**

The Auditor's Office enforces Charter Section 3-303, which specifies that "[e]ach Communication to voters related to a City of Portland Candidate Election shall Prominently Disclose the true original sources of the Contributions...used to fund the Communication, including...[t]he names of any Political Committees...that have paid to provide or present" the communication.

Pursuant to ARA 13.04(A)(2), the following communications are exempt from the City's disclaimer requirement:

- Communications by unpaid volunteers with customized, personalized, or individualized content in the body of the message that is prepared without the use of templates; and
- Communications that cost less than \$250 to create.

Neither of these exemptions applied to the mailer or the website. To the contrary, Jonathan Tasini for City Council paid at least \$4,774.80 to create the mailer and \$2,100 to create the website, meaning each communication was well over the \$250 threshold, thereby triggering the City's disclaimer requirements for each communication. Both disclaimers included the required information for who paid to provide or present the communication, which was Jonathan Tasini for City Council. However, each disclaimer should have identified UFCW 555 as a dominant contributor in accordance with Charter Section 3-303(a)(2)(a). Each disclaimer also should have identified the type of business from which the dominant contributor obtained a majority of income over the previous 5 years. This should match the name associated with its 6-digit code on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) in accordance with Charter Section 3-303(a)(3)(b). Each disclaimer also should have identified the dominant contributor's top three funders during the current election cycle in accordance with Charter Section 3-303(b). No other disclaimer information was required.

For the required information, the disclaimer also needed to be prominently disclosed, meaning "readily comprehensible to a person with average reading, vision, and hearing faculties." (City Charter Section 3-308(o).) Printed disclaimers must additionally appear "in a type of contrasting color and in the same or larger font size as used for the majority of the text in the printed material." (City Charter Section 3-308(o)(1).) The Auditor's Office determined that the disclaimer text on the mailer was not at least the same size as the majority of text on the mailer, and therefore, the mailer's disclaimer was not prominently disclosed. The Auditor's Office determined that the disclaimer text on the website was not at least the same size as the majority of text on the website, and therefore, the website's disclaimer was not prominently disclosed.

The Auditor's Office therefore concludes the evidence substantiates a finding of seven violations of City Charter Section 3-303 by Jonathan Tasini for City Council due to:

- Not prominently disclosing the required disclaimer on the mailer;
- Not prominently disclosing the required disclaimer on the website;
- Excluding a dominant contributor from the website disclaimer;
- Excluding the type of business from which a dominant contributor obtained a majority of their income from the mailer disclaimer;
- Excluding the type of business from which a dominant contributor obtained a majority of their income from the website disclaimer;
- Excluding the dominant contributor's top three funders during this election cycle from the mailer disclaimer; and
- Excluding the dominant contributor's top three funders during this election cycle from the website disclaimer.

The Auditor's Office will refer the matter of whether UFCW 555 should be registered as a political committee in ORESTAR to the Oregon Secretary of State's office to be reviewed. The Auditor's Office will follow up on any related matter—including publishing the true original source of the contributions used to fund the communications—once that review and possible additional disclosures in ORESTAR is complete.

## **Outcome**

This is the first violation of the City's disclaimer requirements for Jonathan Tasini for City Council in the current election cycle. Jonathan Tasini cooperated with the investigation by providing a prompt response to the complaint and additional information in response to a request for information. As a result, the Auditor's Office issues this determination as a **Letter of Warning and Education** rather than a monetary fine.

## **Additional Authority and Appeals**

This Notice of Determination is issued pursuant to the Auditor's authority under City Charter Section 3-305. That section sets forth the process for implementation and enforcement of the provisions of City Charter Article 3 (Campaign Finance in Candidate Elections), including the recipient's appeal rights. (See also ARA 13.03(C) (requiring in part that decisions on complaints be in writing, identify whether a violation occurred, and state the basis for the decision).)

As described by City Charter Section 3-305(i) and [ARA 13.03\(D\)\(5\)-\(6\)](#), the complainant and the subject of the complaint may seek judicial review of the decision in Multnomah County Circuit Court. In addition, the Auditor's Office may, on its own discretion or on request of an interested party, withdraw a decision for reconsideration within the earlier of 30 days from issuance of the decision or until the decision is appealed.

As set out in ARA 13.03(D)(6), decisions of the Auditor's Office can be appealed to the Circuit Court within the following timelines:

- For decisions that are not withdrawn for reconsideration, within 60 days from the issuance of a decision; and
- For decisions that are withdrawn for reconsideration, within 60 days from the issuance of the reissued decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Reed Brodersen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Reed Brodersen  
Chief Deputy Auditor

cc: Complainant