



P O R T L A N D
CITY AUDITOR
Elections

November 8, 2022

Rene Gonzalez
PO Box 82356
Portland, OR 97282

Rene for Portland
1010 SW 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97202

DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY
campaign@renewforportland.com
rene@artifexpartners.com
natalie@summitfinancenw.com

Notice of Determination No Violation

Campaign Regulation Complaint No. 2022-06-RG

Dear Rene Gonzalez and Rene for Portland:

The Auditor's Office received Complaint No. 2022-06-RG on October 24, 2022, which alleged campaign Rene for Portland did not disclose required dominant contributor funding information on a large postcard sent to Portland voters. The complaint alleged violations of [Portland City Charter Section 3-303](#) and corresponding [Portland City Code Section 2.10.030](#).

The Auditor's Office has determined no violation of campaign finance regulations occurred.

Investigation and Findings

The Auditor's Office sent Notice of Complaint No. 2022-06-RG to candidate committee Rene for Portland on October 26, 2022. The period for Rene for Portland to submit a response and supplemental information ended on November 2, 2022. The City Elections Office conducted an investigation of this complaint, and the findings of fact are as follows:

Disclosure on Large Postcard

Complaint No. 2022-06-RG alleges that the Rene for Portland campaign violated City campaign finance disclosure regulations by not including Schnitzer Property Management, LLC (Schnitzer), as a dominant contributor on a large postcard. The postcard was mailed to Portland voters in October 2022. The Auditor's Office reviewed the postcard and confirmed that Schnitzer was not listed as a contributor. This complaint alleges a violation of City Code Subsection 2.10.080 F., which specifies that dominant contributors include any entities that contribute more than \$1,016 to a candidate committee during an election cycle. Schnitzer would qualify as a dominant contributor subject to disclosure only if it contributed over \$1,016 to Rene for Portland.

City of Portland
1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 130, Portland, OR 97204
(503) 865-6503
www.portland.gov/elections



Previous Related Investigation: Complaint No. 2022-05-RG

The Auditor's Office conducted a related but separate investigation to determine whether Schnitzer had contributed in-kind donations to the Rene for Portland campaign in the form of subsidized rent and parking. The investigation concluded the reduced rent for rooms provided by Schnitzer to Rene for Portland did not qualify as a "contribution" as defined by City Code Subsection 2.10.080 E.2. The Auditor's Office also concluded that the evidence presently available about parking was insufficient to determine if an in-kind subsidized parking contribution was made by Schnitzer to Rene for Portland. As a result, the Auditor's Office concluded that the evidence was insufficient to support a finding that Schnitzer exceeded the \$1,016 contribution limit to qualify as a dominant contributor subject to disclosure. See [Complaint No. 2022-05-RG Notice of Determination of No Violations](#).

Conclusion and Outcome

After considering facts relevant to Complaint No. 2022-06-RG, the Auditor's Office finds the record remains substantially the same as in Complaint No. 2022-05-RG, and the same conclusions as to rent and parking apply. Therefore, under the current record, there is insufficient evidence that Schnitzer exceeded the \$1,016 contribution limit to qualify as a dominant contributor subject to disclosure on the postcard. The Auditor's Office finds the current record of evidence does not substantiate that Rene for Portland violated City Charter Section 3-303 and corresponding City Code Section 2.10.030.

Additional Authority and Appeals

This Notice of Determination is issued pursuant to the Auditor's authority under City Code Section 2.10.050. That section sets forth the process for implementation and enforcement of the provisions of City Code Chapter 2.10, including the recipient's appeal rights.

The recipient may request a reconsideration of this decision at any time before the decision becomes final, as provided in the Auditor's Administrative Rule [ARA 13.03\(D\)\(5\)](#).

This Notice of Determination becomes final within 30 calendar days from its issuance unless an appeal of this determination is filed. An appeal may be filed with the Multnomah County Circuit Court within 30 days of the issuance of a decision, as described in [City Code Section 2.10.050 I](#), and Auditor's Administrative Rule [ARA 13.02\(D\)\(6\)](#).

Sincerely,



Louise Hansen
City Elections Officer