Jennifer S. Riggs

Board Certified in Administrative Law Texas Board of Legal Specialization jriggs@r-alaw.com

Jason Ray

Board Certified in Administrative Law Texas Board of Legal Specialization 512 457-9812 – direct line jray@r-alaw.com

RIGGS ALESHIRE & RAY

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

700 LAVACA ST., SUITE 920 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701 512 457-9806 TELEPHONE 512 457-9066 FACSIMILE **Bill Aleshire**

Member, College of The State Bar of Texas aleshire@r-alaw.com

Laura Diamond

Member, College of The State Bar of Texas 512 457-9831 – direct line Idiamond@r-alaw.com

August 18, 2014

VIA HAND DELIVERY

City of Austin Ethics Review Commission c/o Cynthia "Cindy" Tom
Assistant City Attorney
Ethics & Compliance Team
Law Department, City of Austin
301 West 2nd Street, 4th Floor
Austin, Texas 78701

RE: Response to Susana Almanza to complaint filed by Stefan Wray

Dear Commission Members,

This law firm represents Susana Almanza in this matter. Attached is the sworn response by Susana Almanza to the complaint filed by Stefan Wray. Ms. Almanza quickly corrected the unintentional mistake on her campaign finance report, a mistake that several other candidates made as well. Ms. Almanza waives personal appearance at the preliminary hearing, and asks the Commission to consider this submission on her behalf.

Please let me know if we can be of further assistance in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Aleshire

Texas Bar No. 24031810 RIGGS & ALESHIRE, P.C.

700 Lavaca, Suite 920 Austin, Texas 78701

Telephone:

(512) 457-9806

Facsimile:

(512) 457-9066

Aleshire@R-ALaw.com

Cc: James Cousar, Counsel to the Commission Stefan Wray, Complainant

AFFIDAVIT OF SUSANA ALMANZA

Before me, the undersigned notary, on this day personally appeared Susana Almanza, the affiant, a person whose identity is known to me. After I administered an oath to affiant, affiant testified:

- 1. "My name is Susana Almanza. I am over 18 years of age, of sound mind, and capable of making this affidavit. The facts stated in this affidavit are within my personal knowledge and are true and correct.
- 2. By an email notice from the City Clerk's Office on the afternoon of August 13, 2014, I became aware of a complaint filed against me regarding campaign finance reporting for my campaign for Austin City Council District 3. On my campaign finance report (March 31, 2014 thru June 30, 2014), I made an unintentional error in not reporting the occupation and employer name of certain contributors to my campaign.
- 3. On the morning of August 15, 2104, I filed a corrected report providing the unintentionally omitted information about the contributors. (See Attached)
- 4. I did not intentionally make this error. The City's instructions to the candidates implied that the candidates should review the Texas Election Code provision regarding such reports or occupation and employer, but that statute does not apply to these candidates for Austin City Council. My campaign manager and I were left with the impression that the occupation/employer reporting was not required. I did not ask an attorney about whether there was a requirement elsewhere in City Code requiring the reporting. However, I did ask former Mayor Gus Garcia whether the contributors' occupation and employer name had to be reported, and he told me it did not. Apparently, the reporting requirement became effective since Mayor Garcia last ran for office, but, regardless, I did not intentionally make this mistake.
- 5. When I became aware of the issue, I also checked other City Council campaign finance reports and noted that candidates in Districts 1, 2, 8, 9, and 10 made the same mistake. I ask that the Ethics Commission find that my mistake was unintentional and that my quick correction of the error be recognized.

Further affiant sayeth not.

Susana Almanza

Sworn to and subscribed before me by Susana Almanza on August 18

, 2014.

VALERIE BRINKMAN
Notary Public, State of Texas
My Commission Expires
December 10, 2017

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas My commission expires: 12 10 2017

Affidavit of Susana Almanza Page 1 of 1

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	FURUA	שועואף	AIE/OFFI	CEHOLDE	K	2014 A
1 ACCOUNT#	078741		2 Total pages filed:	8	OFFICI	E USE WILY
3 CANDIDATE / OFFICEHOLDER NAME	MS/MRS/MR	SUSO LASTA	ina	M1 SUFFIX	Date Received	TS HILL
4 ORIGINAL REPORT TYPE	January 15 July 15	Runo		Other (specify)	Date Hand-delivered	11 K
	30th day before election	appo appo	day after treasurer pintment (officaholder only report	n	Receipt #	Amount
5 ORIGINAL PERIOD	Month Day	Year	Month	Day Year	Date Processed	
COVERED	3/31/2	OIY THR	OUGH 66/	30/2014	Date Imaged	
Occupation and name of Employer for Contributors donating \$200 and above was not included in July 15th Report, Correction is attached.						
7 AFFIDAVIT	7 AFFIDAVIT I swear, or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that this corrected report is true and correct.					
	Check ONLY if applicable:					
Semiannual reports: This report is an amendment/correction to a semiannual report due on or after September 1, 2011. If amendment/correction is filed on or after the eighth day after the original report was filed, I swear, or affirm, that the original report was made in good faith and without an intent to mislead or to misrepresent the information contained in the report.						
Other reports (excluding semiannual reports due on or after September 1, 2011): I swear, or affirm, that I am filing this corrected report not later than the 14th business day after the date I learned that the report as originally filed is inaccurate or incomplete. I swear, or affirm, that any error or omission in the report as originally filed was made in good faith.						
	~~~~			Signature of Candid	late or Officeholde	my
Sworn to and subscribed before me, by the said Susana Almanza, this the 15th day of August						
20 14/ . to a	erjify which, witness my har	nd and seal	• -		Motor A.	skc
Signature of officer ad	ministering oath	Printed r	name of officer admi	<del></del>	Title of office	cer administering path
Remember To Attach Any Part Of The Campaign Finance Report Form Needed To Report And Explain Corrections						

#### CANDIDATE / OFFICEHOLDER FORM C/OH COVER SHEET PG 1 CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT ACCOUNT # (Ethics Commission filers) 2 PAGE# The C/OH INSTRUCTION GUIDE explains how to complete this form. 1 of 7 00078741 CANDIDATE / MS/MRS/MR FIRST OFFICE USE ONLY OFFICEHOLDER NAME Susana Date Received NICKNAME LAST SUFFIX **Almanza** ADDRESS / PO BOX; APT / SUITE #; STATE: ZIP CODE CANDIDATE / **OFFICEHOLDER** MAILING 6103 Larch Terrace Austin, TX 78741 **ADDRESS** Date Hand-delivered or Date Postmarked Change of Address Receipt # Amount CAMPAIGN MS/MRS/MR FIRST M Date Processed TREASURER Ms. Sylvia NAME Date Imaged NICKNAME LAST SUFFIX Herrera Ph.D CAMPAIGN STREET ADDRESS (NO PO BOX PLEASE); APT / SUITE #; CITY; STATE; ZIP CODE TREASURER **ADDRESS** 4926 E. Cesar Chavez Austin, TX 78741 (Residence or business) **CAMPAIGN** AREA CODE PHONE NUMBER EXTENSION TREASURER PHONE (602) 575-8829 **8** REPORT TYPE January 15 30th day before election Runoff 15th day after campaign treasurer appointment (officeholder only) X July 15 8th day before election Exceeded \$500 limit Final report (Attach C/OH - FR) 9 PERIOD Dav COVERED THROUGH 03/31/2014 06/30/2014 **10 ELECTION ELECTION DATE ELECTION TYPE** Day Primary Runoff X General Special 11/04/2014 11 OFFICE OFFICE HELD (if any) 12 OFFICE SOUGHT (if known) **Austin City Council District 3 GO TO PAGE 2**

CANDIDATE SUPPORT &		OLDER REPORT:	FORM C/C COVER SHEET F		
13 C/OH NAME Almar	nza, Susana (Ms.)	·	14 ACCOUNT # (Ethics Commissis 00078741	on filers)	
15 NOTICE FROM  This box is for notice of political expenditures by political committees to support the candidate have been made without the candidate's or officeholder's knowledge or consent. Candidates and information only if they receive notice of such expenditures.			didate / officeholder. These expenditures s and officeholders are required to repor	s mary t this	
POLITICAL COMMITTEE(S)	COMMITTEE TYPE	COMMITTEE NAME			
·	GENERAL	COMMITTEE ADDRESS	***************************************		
	SPECIFIC .	COMMITTEE CAMPAIGN TREASURER NAME	,		
additional pages		COMMITTEE CAMPAIGN TREASURER ADDRESS			
16 CONTRIBUTION TOTALS		POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF \$50 OR LESS (OTHER THAN S. LOANS, OR GUARANTEES OF LOANS), UNLESS ITEMIZED	\$	0.00	
•	2. TOTAL POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS (OTHER THAN PLEDGES, LOANS, OR GUARANTEES OF LOANS)  \$				
EXPENDITURE 3. TOTAL POLITICAL EXPENDITURES OF \$100 OR LESS, UNLESS ITEMIZED TOTALS				0.00	
	\$	0.00			
CONTRIBUTION BALANCE	5. TOTAL POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS MAINTAINED AS OF THE LAST DAY OF THE REPORTING PERIOD \$ 0.0			0.00	
OUTSTANDING LOAN TOTALS	TOTAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF ALL OUTSTANDING LOANS AS OF THE LAST DAY OF THE REPORTING PERIOD			0.00	
17 AFFIDAVIT					
I swear, or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that the accompanying report is true and correct and includes all information required to be reported by me under Title 15, Election Code.  THOMAS A GRAUZER NOTARY PUBLIC State of Texas					
Comm. Exp. 11 19-2014 Signature of Candidate or Officeholder					
AFFIX NOTARY STAMP / SEAL ABOVE					
Sworn to and subscribed before me, by the said Swana Almanza , this the 15th day of Ayust , 20 14 , to certify which, witness my hand and seal of office.					
Signature of officer admir	Thus Algus thomas A. Granzer public Signature of officer administering oath Print name of officer administering oath  Title of officer administering oath				

	Austin, TX 78759		ı	
			(if travel outside of To	exas, complete Schedule T)
Principal occup Accountant	pation / Jub tille (See Instructions)	Employer (See Instructions) Southwest Key		
Date	Full name of contributor	<b>/</b>	Amount of contribution (\$)	In-kind contribution description (if applicable)
05/08/2014	Contributor address; City; State; Zip Code 10108 Spicewood Mesa Austin, TX 78759		\$250.00   	
			(if travel outside of T	exas, complete Schedule T)
Principal occup Engineer	pation / Job title (See Instructions)	Employer (See in	structions)	

## **POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

## SCHEDULE A

	OTHER THAN PLEDGES OR LOANS						
The INSTRUCTION GUIDE explains how to complete this form.			1 PAGE# Schedule: 2/5 Report: 4/7				
2	FILER NAME	Almanza, Susana (Ms.)		3 ACCOUNT# 00078741	(Ethics Commission filers)		
4	Date	5 Full name of contributor  out-of-state PAC (ID# Delgado Savage, Veronica (Ms.)		7 Amount of contribution (\$)	8 in-kind contribution description (if applicable)		
	05/08/2014	6 Contributor address; City; State; Zip Code 2929 Lagerway Austin, TX 78748		\$250.00	 		
				(If travel outside of	Texas, complete Schedule T)		
9	Principal occup VP Youth Jus	ation / Job title (See Instructions) tice	10 Employer (See In: Southwest Key	structions)			
	Date	Full name of contributor  ut-of-state PAC (ID# Fiveash, Peggy (Ms.)	<b>\</b>	Amount of contribution (\$)	In-kind contribution description (if applicable)		
	05/08/2014	Contributor address; City; State; Zip Code 700 N. 3rd St. Ballinger, TX 76821		\$200.00	!   		
				(If travel outside of	Texas, complete Schedule T)		
	Principal occup Consultant	ation / Job title (See Instructions)	Employer (See In Self	structions)			
	Date	Full name of contributor  ut-of-state PAC (ID# Ginsberg, Michael (Mr.)		Amount of contribution (\$)	In-kind contribution description (if applicable)		
	06/27/2014	Contributor address; City; State; Zip Code 917 W. Lynn St. Austin, TX 78703		\$350.00	 		
				<u> </u>	Texas, complete Schedule T)		
	Attorney	ation / Job title (See Instructions)	Employer (See In: GM Law Firm	structions)			
	Date	Full name of contributor	}	Amount of contribution (\$)	In-kind contribution description (If applicable)		
	05/09/2014	Contributor address; City; State; Zip Code 201 E. Yellowhammer Ave. McAllen, TX 78504		\$200.00	 		
				(if travel outside of	Texas, complete Schedule T)		
•	Principal occup Retired	ation / Job title (See Instructions) ·	Employer (See In Retired	structions)			
	Date •	Full name of contributor  out-of-state PAC (ID# Mendez, Rodolfo (Mr.)	!)	Amount of contribution (\$)	In-kind contribution description (If applicable)		
	06/07/2014	Contributor address; City; State; Zip Code 3111 Garwood Austin, TX 78702		\$300.00	 		
				(If travel outside of	Texas, complete Schedule T)		
Principal occupation / Job title (See Instructions) Director			Employer (See In Ballet East	structions)			

Principal occupation / Job title (See Instructions)

VP Immigrant Youth Services

#### Texas Ethics Commission P.O.Box 12070 Austin, Texas 78711-2070 (512)463-5800 TDD 1-800-735-2989 **POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS** SCHEDULE A OTHER THAN PLEDGES OR LOANS 1 PAGE# The INSTRUCTION GUIDE explains how to complete this form. Schedule: 3/5 Report: 5/7 2 FILER NAME Almanza, Susana (Ms.) 3 ACCOUNT # (Ethics Commission filers) 00078741 5 Full name of contributor Date Out-of-state PAC (ID# Amount of In-kind contribution contribution (\$) Michel, Lorri (Ms.) description (if applicable) 06/27/2014 6 Contributor address; City: State: Zip Gode \$350.00 917 W. Lynn St. Austin, TX 78703 (If travel outside of Texas, complete Schedule T) 10 Employer (See Instructions) Principal occupation / Job title (See Instructions) Attorney Self Date Full name of contributor ut-of-state PAC (tD# Amount of In-kind contribution contribution (\$) description (if applicable) Moses, Russell G. (Mr.) 05/08/2014 Contributor address; City; State; Zip Code \$200.00 1401 E. Rundberg Lane #76 Austin, TX 78763 (If travel outside of Texas, complete Schedule T) Principal occupation / Job title (See Instructions) Employer (See Instructions) Professor Austin Comm. College Date Amount of In-kind contribution contribution (S) description (if applicable) Ramirez, Jill Christine (Ms.) Contributor address; 06/07/2014 City; State; Zip Code \$350.00 5309 Presido Rd. Austin, TX 78745 (If travel outside of Texas, complete Schedule T) Principal occupation / Job title (See Instructions) Employer (See Instructions) **Program Director** Latino Health Care Forum Date Full name of contributor ut-of-state PAC (ID# Amount of In-kind contribution contribution (\$) description (if applicable) Rodgers, Brian (Mr.) Contributor address; 06/28/2014 City; State; Zip Code \$350.00 1112 W. 9th St. Austin, TX 78703 (If travel outside of Texas, complete Schedule T) Principal occupation / Job title (See Instructions) Employer (See Instructions) Real Estate Investor Self Date Amount of In-kind contribution contribution (\$) description (if applicable) Rodriguez, Alexia (Ms.) 05/14/2014 Contributor address: City; State; Zip Code \$250.00 2405 Rock Terrace Circle Austin, TX 78704

(if travel outside of Texas, complete Schedule T)

Employer (See Instructions)

Southwest Keys

## **POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

### SCHEDULE A

OTHER THAN PLEDGES OR LOANS						
The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.				1 PAGE# Schedule: 4/5 Report: 6/7		
2 F	ILER NAME	Almanza, Susana (Ms.)		3 ACCOUNT# 00078741	(Ethics Commission filers)	
4	Date 4	5 Full name of contributor  ut-of-state PAC (IDE Rodriguez, Frank (Mr.)	<u>'</u>	7 Amount of contribution (\$)	8 In-kind contribution description (if applicable)	
06	3/30/2014	6 Contributor address; City; State; Zip Code PO Box 1271 Austin, TX 78767	••••••	\$350.00	i i	
				(If travel outside of	Texas, complete Schedule T)	
	rincipal occup resident	ation / Job title (See Instructions)	10 Employer (See In: Latino Helath C			
	Date	Full name of contributor	<u> </u>	Amount of contribution (\$)	In-kind contribution description (if applicable)	
05	5/08/2014	Contributor address; City; State; Zip Code 7209 Blessing Dr.	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	\$350.00	 	
		Austin, TX 78752			l	
P	rincipal occur	ation / Job title (See Instructions)	Employer (See In		Texas, complete Schedule T)	
	perations O		SER Jobs for P			
	Date •	Full name of contributor  out-of-state PAC (IDI Sanchez, Jennifer (Ms.)	<del>!</del> )	Amount of contribution (\$)	In-kind contribution description (if applicable)	
05	5/08/2014	Contributor address; City; State; Zip Code 6105 Highlandale Dr. Austin, TX 78731		\$250.00	l   	
				(if travel outside of	Texas, complete Schedule T)	
Principal occupation / Job title (See Instructions) VP Community Engagement			Employer (See In Southwest Key	structions)		
	Date	Full name of contributor  ut-of-state PAC (ID) Sanchez, Juan (Mr.)		Amount of contribution (\$)	In-kind contribution description (if applicable)	
05	5/08/2014	Contributor address: City; State; Zip Code 6105 Highlandale Dr. Austin, TX 78731		\$250.00	 	
				(If travel outside of	Texas, complete Schedule T)	
	rincipal occup resident	ation / Job title (See Instructions)	Employer (See In Southwest Key	structions)		
	Date	Full name of contributor	<del> </del>	Amount of contribution (\$)	In-kind contribution description (if applicable)	
05	5/08/2014	Contributor address; City; State; Zip Code 2311 Enfield Rd. Austin, TX 78703	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	\$300.00	<del>!</del> 	
				(If travel outside of	Texas, complete Schedule T)	
Principal occupation / Job title (See Instructions) Owner			Employer (See In Pedro SS Servi	structions)		

# **POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

## SCHEDULE A

	OTHER THAN PLEDGES OR LOANS					
The INSTRUCTION GUIDE explains how to complete this form.			•	1 PAGE # Schedule: 5/5	5 Report: 7/7	
2	FILER NAME	Almanza, Suşana (Ms.)		3 ACCOUNT# 00078741	(Ethics Commission filers)	
4	Date	5 Full name of contributor ☐ out-of-state PAC (ID# Sheppard, Peggy (Ms.)	)	7 Amount of contribution (\$)	8 In-kind contribution description (if applicable)	
	05/14/2014	6 Contributor address; City; State; Zip Code 465 W. 14th St. New York, NY 10031		\$200.00	I I I ,	
				(If travel outside of	Texas, complete Schedule T)	
9	Principal occup Director	ation / Job title (See Instructions) .	10 Employer (See In WE ACT	structions)	-	
	Date .	Full name of contributor  ut-of-state PAC (ID# Spitz, Robert (Mr.)	)	Amount of contribution (\$)	In-kind contribution description (if applicable)	
	06/28/2014	Contributor address; City; State; Zip Code 3211 E. Cesar Chavez Austin, TX 78702		\$350.00	 	
<u> </u>					Texas, complete Schedule T)	
	Principal occup Veterinarian	ation / Job title (See Instructions)	Employer (See In Self	structions)		
	Date	Full name of contributor	)	Amount of contribution (\$)	In-kind contribution description (if applicable)	
	06/24/2014	Contributor address; City; State; Zlp Code 4111 Tablerock Dr. Austin, TX 78731		\$350.00	 	
			·	· '	Texas, complete Schedule T)	
	Architect	ation / Job title (See Instructions)	Employer (See In Self	structions)		
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