COMPLAINT

To: Fair Political Practices Commission
428 J Street, Suite 620
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Phat Bui
Garden Grove City Councilman

Re: Complaint for violation of FPPC California Code of Regulations Section 18901. Mass Mailing Sent at Public Expense.

I am a resident of Orange County California, a member of the Garden Grove City Council and a candidate for the Orange County Board of Supervisors District 1 in the June 7, 2016 primary election.

My opponent, 1st District incumbent Supervisor Andrew Do, has mailed at least two mass mailings at taxpayer’s expense, which clearly violate Section 18901.

Exhibit #1 “Get Help Filing Your Taxes” is a mass mailer sent on Orange County Board of Supervisor District 1 mailing indicia.

It violates Section 18901 4(B)(1) Any item in which the elected officer's name appears only in the letterhead or logotype of the stationery, forms (including "For Your Information" or "Compliments of" cards), and envelopes of the agency sending the mailing, or of a committee of the agency, or of the elected officer, or in a roster listing containing the names of all elected officers of the agency. In any such item, the names of all elected officers must appear in the same type size, typeface, type color, and location. Such item may not include the elected officer's photograph, signature, or any other reference to the elected officer, except as specifically permitted in this subdivision (b)(1) or elsewhere in this regulation.

The mailing in question features Andrew Do’s name three times, including one reference in larger type than any other copy in the announcement.

If this mailing is deemed to be “An announcement of any official agency event or events for which the agency is providing the use of its facilities or staff or other financial support.” under Section 18901 (9)(A) then it does not comply with Section (9)(B) which states “Any announcement provided for in this subdivision (b)(9) shall not include the
elected officer's photograph or signature and may include only a single mention of the elected officer's name except as permitted elsewhere in this regulation.”

Exhibit #2 “Know Your Taxpayers’ Rights Under Proposition 13” was mailed under Bulk Rate Permit Number 998 which is registered to the County of Orange. It violates the same sections of Section 18901 as does mailing number one.

In addition, it fails to meet the test set forth in subsection 9 (A) 1. An announcement of any meeting or event of the type listed in paragraphs 1 or 2. 1. An announcement sent to an elected officer's constituents concerning a public meeting which is directly related to the elected officer's incumbent governmental duties, which is to be held by the elected officer, and which the elected officer intends to attend.

The Orange County Assessor, an independently elected official is directly responsible for property tax collections and information. Dispensing property tax information and advice is not directly related to the governmental duties of a member of the Board of Supervisors.

Exhibit #3 “Help Wanted,“ a Vietnamese language mailer, advertises a “Free Job Fair.” It also violates Section 18901 (B)(1) and 9(A) as it contains three mentions of Andrew Do’s name and it advertises a public meeting which is not directly related to the incumbent office holder’s official duties.

I urge you to act promptly in order to stop the continued violations of Section 18901 and protect the taxpayers of Orange County.

Sincerely,

Phat Bui
Garden Grove City Councilman
Candidate for Orange County Board of Supervisors, District 1