

John Carroll
City of Carson, Deputy City Clerk
701 East Carson Street
Carson, CA 90745
via email to jcarroll@carsonca.gov

August 13, 2021

Dear Mr. Carroll,

I am writing you to address a number of concerns with various candidate documents as provided for public inspection by the California Elections Code within the 10-day specified inspection period. My concerns are as follows:

Freddy Gomez

- **Mr. Gomez's Candidate's Statement is written in the form of a third-party letter submitted by the 7 members of the community listed alongside their community, city, and/or organizational affiliations.** It is not a statement written by Mr. Gomez about his own background expressed by himself. The **California Elections Code 13307(1)** is very clear that a Candidate's Statement must be limited to the candidate's own description of his or her "own personal background and qualifications." **Therefore, I am challenging the inclusion of his candidate statement, as provided, in the Official Sample Ballot Booklet and on the City's website.**
- **Mr. Gomez submitted his nomination papers on 7/21/21 and his candidate's statement on 8/2/21.** The Candidate's Statement should be submitted at the same time as the nominations papers. **California Elections Code 13307(2)** explicitly states the following: "The statement authorized by this subdivision shall be filed in the office of the elections official when the candidate's nomination papers are returned for filing." Allowing Mr. Gomez to submit his nomination papers separately and in advance of his Candidate's Statement was a clear and exact violation of the Elections Code. **Therefore, I am requesting that Mr. Gomez's Candidate Statement be STRICKEN, WITHDRAWN, AND EXCLUDED FROM INCLUSION in the Official Sample Ballot Booklet and from the City's website.**
- Mr. Gomez's Candidate Registration & Qualification Form indicates "THE PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE" as his Middle Name or Initial (and/or Nickname). "The People's Candidate" is a self-derived moniker that should not be included on the ballot. **California Elections Code 13306** states that titles are not allowed in the ballot name and his including phrasing is clearly not considered a nickname by any means. **Therefore, I am challenging the inclusion of the words, "The People's Candidate," in the Official Sample Ballot Booklet, on the Ballot, and on the City's website.**

Michael "Mike" Mitoma

- **Mr. Mitoma's Candidate Statement includes the following line: "I am the only homeowner living in South Carson. The other candidates live in the north end of the distinct [sic]."** Not only is this information inaccurate and incorrect, Candidate Statements may not include references to other candidates according to **California Elections Code Section 13308**. **Therefore, I am challenging the inclusion of Mr. Mitoma's candidate statement, as provided, in the Official Sample Ballot Booklet and on the City's website.**

- **Mr. Mitoma’s Ballot Designation form and Ballot Designation Worksheet request a variety of designations that are problematic.**
 - **Retired Planning Commissioner** - Planning Commissioner is not a position from which you can retire. Planning Commissioner is not an occupation or a primary vocation.
 - **Retired Carson Businessowner** - The word “Carson” is not indicative of an occupation or vocation, rather, it is the “status” or condition of his occupation.
 - **Homeowner/Retired Businessowner** - The word “Homeowner” is not an occupation.

Each of these requests violate the **California Elections Code 13107** regarding Ballot Designations. **Therefore, I am challenging the inclusion of all three of Mr. Mitoma’s requested Ballot Designations in the Official Sample Ballot Booklet, on the Ballot, and on the City’s website.**

Multiple Candidate Statements

Only 25 enhanced words (boldface type, underscored and/or CAPITALIZED) are allowed on Candidate’s Statements according to the **LA County Municipal Elections Handbook, pg. 26; City of Carson Candidate Handbook, pg. 24.**

- **Isaias Pulido’s Candidate’s Statement includes a total of 107 enhanced words.** 42 of the words have dual enhancements. Also, “entire statements in all capital letters, bold and italics (or any combination of enhancements) are not acceptable. Mr. Pulido’s statement includes multiple violations of the latter included throughout his entire statement.” **Therefore, I am challenging the inclusion of Mr. Pulido’s candidate statement, as provided, in the Official Sample Ballot Booklet and on the City’s website.**
- **Freddy Gomez’s Candidate’s Statement includes a total of 200 enhanced words.** Also, “entire statements in all capital letters, bold and italics (or any combination of enhancements) are not acceptable.” Mr. Gomez’s entire statement has been provided in bold print. **Therefore, I am challenging the inclusion of his candidate statement, as provided, in the Official Sample Ballot Booklet and on the City’s website.**
- **Michael Mitoma’s Candidate’s Statement includes a total of 28 enhanced words.** **Therefore, I am challenging the inclusion of Mr. Mitoma’s candidate statement, as provided, in the Official Sample Ballot Booklet and on the City’s website.**

Please accept this document as my formal statement of contestation of the abovementioned issues.



Sincerely,

Dr. Sharma Henderson

Carson Resident/City Council District 4 Candidate

DrSharmaForCarson@gmail.com or 323-903-7674