

---

---

LOS ANGELES CITY ETHICS COMMISSION

**N E W S**

*...preserving the public trust*

---

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
Tuesday, December 9, 2003

**CONTACT:** Barbara Freeman  
(213) 978-1960

**City Ethics Commission Levies \$5,100 Fine for Campaign Finance Violations**

**14<sup>th</sup> District Councilman Villaraigosa and Treasurer Fined for Exceeding  
Contribution Limits During 2001 Mayoral Race**

At a public meeting today, the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission fined Fourteenth District City Councilmember Antonio Villaraigosa and his campaign treasurer Stephen J. Kaufman \$5,100 for violating the City's campaign finance laws related to Villaraigosa's 2001 bid for Mayor. In the settlement agreement approved by the Commission, Villaraigosa and his treasurer admitted to violating the law by accepting six campaign contributions in excess of the \$1,000 per person limit for Mayoral candidates. The six contributions exceeded the limit by a total of \$5,100, the same amount as the fine imposed. The law allows for penalties of up to \$5,000 per violation in this case; however, according to the written settlement agreement, the Commission's staff recommended the lower fine amount, in part, because the parties cooperated with the Commission's investigation into the matter and no evidence was found that the violations were intentional.

"The matter was resolved in a fair and open manner," said Commission Executive Director LeeAnn Pelham. "Ensuring that campaigns are held responsible when they fail to comply with the laws is vital to reinforcing accountability in government."

The stipulated settlement resolves all factual and legal issues raised in this matter. A [copy is available](http://ethics.lacity.org) on the City Ethics Commission's Website at <http://ethics.lacity.org>.

# # # #