
LOS ANGELES CITY ETHICS COMMISSION
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**CITY ETHICS COMMISSION DIRECTOR ISSUES PUBLIC ACCUSATION
FOR EXCESS CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED**

Los Angeles City Ethics Commission Executive Director LeeAnn Pelham announced today that there is probable cause to believe that Councilmember Tony Cardenas and the 2001 Tony Cardenas for City Council committee violated the Los Angeles City Charter during the 2001 special primary election in City Council District Two by accepting and depositing seven contributions in excess of the contribution limit established by Charter section 470(c)(3). The matter will now go to the City Ethics Commission pursuant to City Charter Section 706(c) to determine whether a violation occurred. As in all cases referred to the Commission for an administrative hearing, the Respondents are presumed innocent of any violation of City law, unless and until such time that the violation is determined by the Commission at a public hearing.

Charter section 470(c)(3) establishes a \$500 per election limit on the total amount any candidate for City Council may receive from any person. In addition, Los Angeles Municipal Code section 49.7.2 specifies a number of circumstances when contributions of two entities, or an individual and an entity, must be aggregated and, for contribution limits purposes, treated as one.

According to City law, following a finding of probable cause the Executive Director must make a public announcement of the Accusation. The Commission determines then if a violation has occurred, and it is authorized to levy fines of up to \$5,000 for each violation or three times the amount that was failed to be reported, or that was unlawfully contributed or expended, whichever is greater.

The Commission and its staff may not comment on this matter until after a final determination has been made. For a copy of the Accusation, please contact the Commission at (213) 978-1960.

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