

Fair Political Practices Commission

Good morning commissioners, My name is David Danciu and I am also a commissioner in the city of Chula Vista. I was required to take your ethics training which I have completed. It is stated in this training that an action by an elected official can be considered unethical while at the same time it is legal. Many residents of Chula Vista have serious concerns about campaign contributions to our city council members or those running for political office. In our city, most campaign contributions come from developers, mobile home park owners and gambling establishment owners. This in and of itself is not that unusual. However, these donations always seem to coincide with upcoming legislation that will financially benefit these owners. In one recent case, the principles of an out of town developer, some employees and their wives all donated the maximum amount to two people involved in political campaigns who were soon to rule on a needed zoning change. The recipients of these funds sat as the decision making body that approved this legislation. It is true that there have been rules established that must be adhered to, but just because these rules have been followed doesn't change the fact that there is a breach of ethics or a conflict of interest involved. In other words, if an elected official or someone running for office does the paperwork correctly, that makes their actions acceptable; perhaps not ethical, but legal just the same. We are sick and tired of this

pay-to-play philosophy that dictates that all is well as long as you don't get caught! The consensus opinion is that there has rarely and possibly NEVER been a case of an elected official voting against a party that helps fund their campaign. Any comments?