



State of New Jersey

ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

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ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

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COUNSEL

April 29, 1985

Mr. Eugene A. Iadanza  
1090 Broadway  
West Long Branch, New Jersey

Re: A.O. 6-1985  
Friends of Joe Palala

Dear Mr. Iadanza:

I have been requested by the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission to respond to your letter dated April 12, 1985.

It is the view of the Commission that campaign contributions may not be used to defray the private expenses of a candidate or of any other person. This is so for a number of reasons, including the fact that most campaign contributions are given for the purpose of aiding the candidacy or similar political purposes, and not for the purpose of defraying private expenses.

The facts set forth in your letter are not in our judgment dispositive of the question, since the Commission takes the position that it has no jurisdiction to pass on the question whether campaign funds may be used for a continuing political purpose (the most obvious example being the operation of a legislative or other office of an elected public official). It is possible to envision the use which you describe as being substantially a use related to the public business of the office of the elected official (such as reasonable entertainment of constituents or other persons whose assistance is sought in connection with the legislative programs).

The facts in your letter, however, do not suggest any such use. In the absence of such additional facts, the Commission would conclude that the use of campaign funds for that purpose would not be appropriate.

Mr. Eugene A. Iadanza  
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Because the transfer of funds to a continuing political committee envisions the continued use of those funds within the political process, the answer to the question would not be any different, and the use of the funds by a continuing political committee would also be deemed by the Commission inappropriate.

Very truly yours,

NEW JERSEY ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT  
COMMISSION

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Edward J. Farrell  
Counsel

EIF:no

cc: Mr. Frederick M. Herrmann