

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
BEFORE THE RHODE ISLAND ETHICS COMMISSION**

**In re: Santos Javier,  
Respondent**

**Complaint No. 2024-10**

**INFORMAL RESOLUTION AND SETTLEMENT**

The Respondent, Santos Javier, and the Ethics Commission Prosecutor, representing the People of the State of Rhode Island, hereby agree to a resolution of the above-referenced matter as follows, subject to the approval of the Rhode Island Ethics Commission:

**I. FINDINGS OF FACT AND ADMISSIONS**

1. As a declared candidate for the Rhode Island House of Representatives in 2024, the Respondent was required to file a 2023 Financial Disclosure Statement with the Ethics Commission by July 26, 2024.

2. The instant Complaint, filed with the Ethics Commission on July 29, 2024, alleges that the Respondent failed to file a 2023 Financial Disclosure Statement by July 26, 2024. The Complaint also alleges that the Respondent failed to disclose his ownership interest in real property not used exclusively as his principal residence on his previously filed 2020 and 2021 Financial Disclosure Statements while he was a candidate for a municipal elective office.

3. On July 31, 2024, Senior Confidential Investigator Gary V. Petrarca emailed the 2024 candidates for elective office who had not filed their 2023 Statements, including the Respondent, reminding them of the statutory filing requirement and that their filings were overdue.

4. On August 7, 2024, the Respondent electronically filed his 2023 Statement with the Ethics Commission.

5. On August 20, 2024, the Ethics Commission initially determined that the Complaint states facts that, if true, are sufficient to constitute a violation of the Financial Disclosure mandate and approved an investigation.

6. Also on August 20, 2024, the Respondent presented to the Commission's office in the interest of resolving the instant matter. He informed that he did not disclose his rental property on his 2020 and 2021 Statements on the basis that the rental unit, located in the same building in which he resides, remained vacant during the years 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic. The Respondent further informed that he rented the unit for a portion of 2023. Although he did not rent out his property during the 2020 or 2021 calendar years, in order to provide full transparency, the Respondent amended his 2020 and 2021 Statements during his meeting with the Prosecution to include his rental property in response to the questions involving real estate ownership and indebtedness.

7. During the same meeting with the Prosecution, the Respondent also made the following necessary amendments to his 2023 Financial Disclosure Statement that was not referenced in the Complaint: (1) disclosure of his ownership interest in real estate that was not used exclusively as his principal residence; and (2) disclosure of the mortgage lender on his real estate that was not used exclusively as his principal residence.

## **II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. As a candidate for a state elected office, the Respondent was, at all relevant times, subject to the Financial Disclosure mandate, pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-16(c).

2. The Respondent's August 7, 2024 filing of his 2023 Statement with the Ethics Commission was not timely as required by § 36-14-16(c).

**III. SETTLEMENT**

Pursuant to the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the parties hereby agree, subject to the approval of the Commission, to the following, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-13(d) and 520-RICR-00-00-3.16 Informal Disposition (1011):

1. The Commission shall enter an Order and Judgment adopting the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and terms of the Settlement herein.

2. The Respondent agrees that the Prosecution will recommend the imposition of a civil penalty in the amount of One Hundred Dollars (\$100). The Respondent agrees to the payment of said civil penalty.

3. The above terms represent the full and complete Informal Resolution and Settlement for Complaint No. 2024-10.

  
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Teresa Giusti, Esq. (Bar No. 8006)  
Commission Prosecutor  
Dated: 9/24/24

  
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Santos Javier  
Respondent  
Dated: 9/24/24

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
RHODE ISLAND ETHICS COMMISSION

In re: Santos Javier,  
Respondent

Complaint No. 2024-10

**ORDER**

This matter having been heard before the Rhode Island Ethics Commission on September 24, 2024, pursuant to 520-RICR-00-00-3.16 Informal Disposition (1011), and the Commission having considered the Complaint herein, the arguments of the parties, and the proposed Informal Resolution and Settlement, which is incorporated by reference herein, it is hereby:

**ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED**

THAT,

1. The Commission approves the Informal Resolution and Settlement as submitted subject to an amended civil penalty as reflected below; and
2. The Commission incorporates by reference herein the Findings of Fact and Admissions, and the Conclusions of Law, set forth in the Informal Resolution and Settlement; and
3. The Respondent's August 7, 2024 filing of his 2023 Statement with the Ethics Commission was not timely and violated R.I. General Laws § 36-14-16(c); and
4. The Respondent is ordered to pay no civil penalty.

ENTERED as an Order of this Commission,

  
Chairperson  
Dated: 9/24/24