

Rajinder Minhass-Bal and Harpreet Bal  
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June 13, 2023

Compliance Audit Committee  
The City of Markham  
101 Town Centre Boulevard  
Markham, Ontario, L3R 9W3

Dear Members of the Compliance Audit Committee

RE: Notice of Compliance  
Rajinder Minhas-Bal and Harpreet Bal  
Explanation Regarding Violation of Municipal Elections Act 1996

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I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to address the recent notice of compliance I received from the city of Markham, indicating that I am in violation of the Municipal Elections Act 1996 for exceeding the total donation limit of \$5,000.00 to multiple candidates in the recent elections. I would like to take this opportunity to explain my situation and express my sincerest apologies for inadvertently contravening the regulations outlined in the Act.

As a real estate agent residing in Mississauga, Ontario, I am privileged to work in the vibrant city of Markham. Over the years, I have developed meaningful relationships with numerous influential individuals who have become my dear friends. Recently, five of these friends decided to run for elections with the aspiration of becoming City Councillor, and I wholeheartedly supported their campaigns. In my desire to show my support, I made individual donations of \$1,200.00 to each of their campaigns, resulting in a cumulative amount of \$6,000.00, which exceeds the total donation limit prescribed by the Act.

I must sincerely emphasize that my violation of the Municipal Elections Act 1996 was entirely unintentional. At the time of making these contributions, I was not fully aware of the specific legal provisions stipulated within the Act regarding the maximum allowable donation amounts. My primary intention was to support my friends' endeavors without realizing the legal constraints in place. As a law-abiding citizen, I deeply regret my oversight and understand the seriousness of this situation.

I would like to assure the Compliance Audit Committee that I have a profound respect for the electoral process and the legal framework that governs it. I understand the importance of maintaining transparency, integrity, and fairness in our democratic system. My inadvertent

violation of the Municipal Elections Act was an unfortunate lapse in judgment, and I assure you that it was not motivated by any intention to circumvent the law or gain an unfair advantage.

I acknowledge the gravity of this matter and assure you that I have taken immediate steps to rectify the situation. Firstly, upon receiving the notice of compliance, I contacted each of the candidates to explain the circumstances and request that they return the excess donations above the prescribed limit.

I assure you that I have learned a valuable lesson from this experience and will exercise greater diligence and awareness regarding campaign donation regulations in the future. It was never my intention to undermine the integrity of the electoral process, and I deeply regret any inconvenience or concern my actions may have caused.

I humbly request the Compliance Audit Committee's understanding and leniency in this matter. I kindly ask for your consideration of the circumstances I have outlined in this letter and urge you to take into account my immediate actions to rectify the situation by returning the excess donations. I remain committed to upholding the principles of fairness, transparency, and compliance with the law, and I will ensure such oversights do not occur in the future.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I am willing to cooperate fully with the Compliance Audit Committee, providing any additional information or documentation that may be required. Should you have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Rajinder Minhas-Bal

Harpreet Bal