

REGISTERED VOTERS' PETITION TO REMOVE MAYOR PAULETTE GUAJARDO

1. The undersigned registered voters file this Petition to remove Paulette Guajardo from serving as mayor for the City of Corpus Christi.
2. According to City of Corpus Christi's Code of Ordinances, Article II, City Council, Section 11(a), the mayor "shall be subject to removal by the council . . . for:"
 - (1) "Willful violation of any code of ethics or conflicts of interest provision"
 - (2) "Willful violation of any express prohibition of this Charter."
 - (3) "Misconduct, malfeasance, incompetence, inability or willful neglect in performance of official duties." . . .
3. Article II, City Council, Section 11(b) states: "A removal action . . . shall be instituted upon petition by five or more registered voters, and any final decision to remove a member shall be by the majority vote of all council members holding office, with the exception of the challenged member.
4. Pursuant to these and all provisions of the City of Corpus Christi's Code of Ordinances, this petition is for the removal of Paulette Guajardo as mayor (and for all appropriate forms of reprimand, censure, suspension, and sentencing).
 - Philip Ramirez (campaign contributor to Paulette Guajardo) altered a FEMA screenshot, and then used that altered federal document to solicit a \$2,000,000.00 award from the Corpus Christi Economic Development Corporation, City of Corpus Christi Type B Board, and City of Corpus Christi;

- Paulette Guajardo, prior to the 4/23/24 reading of the ordinance to approve the \$2,000,000.00 award to her campaign contributor, was told by Peter Zanoni that the FEMA/federal document had been altered;
- Paulette Guajardo, prior to the 4/23/24 reading of the ordinance to approve the \$2,000,000.00 award to her campaign contributor, was told by Ajit David (on April 16, 2024) that the FEMA/federal document had been altered;
- Paulette Guajardo, prior to the 4/23/24 reading of the ordinance to approve the \$2,000,000.00 award to her campaign contributor, was told *again* by Ajit David (on April 23, 2024) that the FEMA/federal document had been altered;
- Other information confirms that Paulette Guajardo, in advance of the 4/23/24 reading of the ordinance and vote which allowed the award of \$2,000,000.00 to Paulette Guajardo's campaign contributor, was told that the FEMA/federal document had been altered.
- With full knowledge of the wrongful acts of her campaign contributor (the altering of the FEMA/federal document), Paulette Guajardo nonetheless directed Peter Zanoni to put it on the City Council's agenda for approval (4/23/24). Paulette Guajardo participated and aided approval of the award of \$2,000,000.00 to her campaign donor while her campaign contributors' request was being considered by the CCREDC, and while it was before the City Council on first reading, and in conversations with Peter Zanoni in advance of the 4/23/24 reading, and by directing Peter Zanoni to put it on the City Council's agenda for approval, and during the 4/23/24 City Council meeting, and in other ways.

To be clear, the \$2,000,000.00 award is to Elevate QOF LLC, owned in part by Philip Ramirez and Deven Bhakta – both campaign contributors for Paulette Guajardo.

These facts and other information show that Paulette Guajardo is not fit for public service. We, the residents, voters, and taxpayers of the City of Corpus Christi, believe the facts clearly show that Paulette Guajardo pushed for approvals so that her friend / campaign contributor, by use of an altered FEMA/federal document, would get \$2,000,000.00 of taxpayer money – and Paulette Guajardo did so with full knowledge of FEMA/federal document had been altered/tampered/forged. This is “misconduct” and “malfeasance” on the part of Paulette Guajardo. and thus grounds for removal. Even if it is argued that Paulette Guajardo turned a blind eye so that her campaign contributor could get the taxpayer money (\$2,000,000.00), this is “incompetence,” “inability,” and “willful neglect in performance of official duties.” The Mayor is in charge of the City of Corpus Christi, and thus responsible for the actions of the City. The Mayor had full knowledge of the scheme that was on-going (use of the altered/tampered/forged FEMA/federal document), and yet deliberately acted to make certain her friend would be allowed to get \$2,000,000.00 for his project.

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