



**STATE ETHICS COMMISSION**

RAMONA GOOLSBY,

Complainant,

v.

HOWIE MORALES,

Respondent.

No. 2023-36

**ORDER APPROVING SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND DISMISSING  
COMPLAINT**

On February 2, 2024, at an open meeting, the Commission voted to approve the attached settlement agreement with respondent, resolving the claims in this matter. Pursuant to that agreement, the complaint against respondent is hereby DISMISSED. Pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-16G-10(F) (2021), the complaint and the settlement agreement are subject to public disclosure.

**SO ISSUED, this 2nd day of February 2024.**

**HON. WILLIAM F. LANG, Chair  
JEFFREY L. BAKER, Commissioner  
STUART M. BLUESTONE, Commissioner  
HON. CELIA CASTILLO, Commissioner  
HON. DR. TERRY MCMILLAN, Commissioner  
RONALD SOLIMON, Commissioner  
JUDY VILLANUEVA, Commissioner**



## **STATE ETHICS COMMISSION**

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Hon. William F. Lang (Chair)  
Jeffrey L. Baker  
Stuart M. Bluestone  
Hon Dr. Terry McMillan  
Hon. Celia Castillo  
Ronald Solimon  
Dr. Judy Villanueva

Jeremy D. Farris, Executive Director

January 18, 2024

Morales4NM  
c/o Holly Agajanian  
490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Ste. 400  
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Via email: [holly.agajanian@exec.nm.gov](mailto:holly.agajanian@exec.nm.gov)

Re: *Goolsby v. Lt. Governor Howie Morales (Morales4NM)*, No. 2023-036: Offer of Settlement

Dear Ms. Agajanian,

I am writing to confer with you about some recent developments in this case and to offer to resolve this matter with a settlement agreement. As you know, this administrative matter concerns alleged violations of the Campaign Reporting Act by your client, Howie Morales (“Respondent”), in his capacity as a candidate seeking election to the Office of Lieutenant Governor.

On September 14, 2023, the State Ethics Commission referred this matter to the secretary of state in accordance with Section 1-19-34.4(C) of the Campaign Reporting Act. Under Section 1-19-34.4(C), the subject of a complaint alleging a violation of the Campaign Reporting Act is entitled to a thirty-five (35) day window to voluntarily correct any alleged violations before the State Ethics Commission undertakes an investigation and final adjudication of the complaint. On September 21, 2023, the secretary of state declined to certify voluntary compliance, citing a conflict of interest. After the complaint was returned to the State Ethics Commission, we exchanged a number of communications regarding the investigation and potential settlement of this administrative matter.

On December 5, 2023, we received correspondence from disclosure auditor Anastacio Trujillo with the Office of the Secretary of State indicating that the Respondent, Lt. Governor Morales, and his campaign committee Morales4NM requested that the auditor review their amended filings of his various campaign reports to certify voluntary compliance with the Campaign Reporting Act. *See* attached correspondence. Mr. Trujillo wrote that “all reporting periods appear as amended and all reported transactions within those reports comply with the Campaign Reporting Act requirements.” Upon review of the amended filings, the above statement is correct.

Given your client’s voluntary amendment of his reports of contribution, and in light of the unique procedural posture of this matter (i.e., the Secretary of State’s refusal to ascertain

