

Stephanie W. Telles
7200 Settlement Way NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120

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By Cristobal Rocha at 9:14 am, Jul 21, 2025

July 18, 2025

City of Albuquerque Ethics Commission – Submitted Via Email to CityClerk@cabq.gov

RE: Appeal of Complaint Rejection – BOE 03-2025 (Telles v. Forrester)

Dear Members of the Board and Office of the City Clerk,

I respectfully submit this letter to appeal the July 17, 2025, rejection of my complaint (BOE 03-2025) by Acting Albuquerque City Clerk on behalf of the Office of the City Clerk on the grounds that it was not “facially sufficient.”

Under the narrowest reading of Section 5(A)(3)(g) of the Board’s Rules, my complaint cited state laws rather than enumerated City Code provisions, I believe this decision reflects an overly rigid interpretation of the rules and undermines the Board’s ethical mandate.

The Rules of the Board expressly allow the City Clerk to return an incomplete complaint for correction under Section 5(A)(6). If the absence of specific City Code citations was the only deficiency, I should have been afforded the opportunity to revise and resubmit, rather than the complaint being summarily dismissed.

The factual narrative and timeline clearly implicate violations of local election integrity, ethical conduct, and campaign practices governed by the City Charter’s Election Code, Open and Ethical Elections Code, and Code of Ethics. Specifically, the offer to pay down my campaign debts in exchange for withdrawing a legal challenge, along with subsequent threats of retaliatory legal action, constitute conduct inconsistent with the ethical obligations expected of campaigns and their agents under City law.

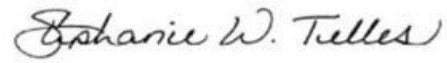
Facial sufficiency should be about the substance of the allegations, not strict form. Even without precise citations, the conduct described in my complaint reasonably suggests violations that the Board is empowered to investigate and address.

In support of this appeal, I have attached a one-page addendum that outlines in good faith the specific sections of the City’s Codes and Board Rules that I believe were violated, as required by Rule 5(A)(3)(g).

In accordance with Section 5(A)(6) of the Rules of the Board of Ethics & Campaign Practices, I respectfully ask that the Board reverse the Clerk’s rejection and find the complaint facially sufficient so it may proceed through the review and hearing process.

Thank you for your attention to this appeal and for your ongoing service in upholding transparency, fairness, and ethical standards in Albuquerque's elections.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephanie W. Telles".

Stephanie W. Telles, MBA, CFE
Candidate, Albuquerque City Council District 1

Attachment: Addendum of Violated City Code Provisions