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THE STATE OF ARIZONA  
CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

Phoenix, Arizona  
October 7, 2025  
1:30 p.m.

By: Kathryn A. Blackwelder, RPR  
Certified Reporter  
Certificate No. 50666


**CERTIFIED  
TRANSCRIPT**

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<p>1 PUBLIC MEETING BEFORE THE CITIZENS CLEAN 2 ELECTIONS COMMISSION convened at 1:30 p.m. on October 3 7, 2025, at the State of Arizona, Clean Elections 4 Commission, 1110 West Washington, Conference Room, 5 Phoenix, Arizona, in the presence of the following 6 Board Members:</p> <p>7</p> <p>8 Mr. Mark Kimble, Chairman 9 Mr. Galen Paton 10 Ms. Christina Werther 11 Mr. Sam Crump 12 Mr. Steve Titla</p> <p>13 OTHERS PRESENT:</p> <p>14 Thomas M. Collins, Executive Director 15 Paula Thomas, Executive Officer 16 Mike Becker, Policy Director 17 Gina Roberts, Voter Education Director 18 Alec Shaffer, Web Content Manager 19 Craig Morgan, Taft Law 20 Allie Karpurk, Osborn Maledon 21 Cathy Herring, KCA</p> <p>22 23 24 25</p>	<p>1 Cathy, if we are able to get that slide up, I 2 think that would be help -- help me a little bit with 3 talking through this a little bit.</p> <p>4 So -- so hopefully what you all can see there 5 is a timeline of where we are to try to -- try to put 6 us in a -- you know, try to put this in some 7 perspective. So we have -- so the sort of narrative, 8 that covers both of these Agenda items, and it starts, 9 you know, prior to January 2025 when Mr. Jaramillo, 10 who --</p> <p>11 I should note, I heard from him earlier about 12 whether or not he was going to be able to get a break 13 from work to join us. I don't -- I don't expect that 14 he's going -- he has, but, you know, but he did contact 15 me and was trying to work that out.</p> <p>16 So we had an issue that we've had with a 17 handful of candidates this 2024 election cycle where 18 folks were not -- sort of stopped -- sort of -- did 19 stop contacting or filing and then didn't respond to 20 calls from staff or from our auditors. And so among 21 the complaints that were filed -- that I filed was this 22 one against Hector Jaramillo in January.</p> <p>23 So in January there's a complaint. That 24 complaint essentially articulates, hey, you haven't 25 filed and we don't know what's going on with you.</p>
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<p>1 P R O C E E D I N G</p> <p>2 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Agenda Item I is the call 3 to order. It is 1:30 p.m. on October 7th, 2025. I'm 4 Mark Kimble and I call this meeting of the Citizens 5 Clean Elections Commission to order.</p> <p>6 With that, we will take attendance.</p> <p>7 Commissioners, please identify yourselves for the 8 record.</p> <p>9 COMMISSIONER PATON: Galen Paton. 10 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Christina Werther. 11 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Steve Titla. 12 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Sam Crump.</p> <p>13 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you. We have all 14 Commissioners -- all five Commissioners present, so we 15 obviously have a quorum.</p> <p>16 Item II, discussion and possible action on 17 Hector Jaramillo, 2024 legislative candidate, repayment 18 order issued March 2025 and Office of Administrative 19 Hearings Case Number 25-01-CCE. Commissioners, our 20 first business item is our March 27th, 2025 repayment 21 order against Hector Jaramillo. Tom has a brief 22 outline of the circumstances, but he is requesting that 23 we vacate that order.</p> <p>24 Tom.</p> <p>25 MR. COLLINS: Thank you, Commissioners.</p>	<p>1 You're not responding to the audits; that's not 2 allowed. You know, and lays out all the different -- 3 excuse me -- potential violations that are there, 4 including the possibility of being subject to 5 repayment. That did not lead to a response, which was 6 our -- our hope.</p> <p>7 And then in March we had to make a decision 8 about what to do with the -- in order to get 9 Mr. Jaramillo's attention. And given that there were 10 no filings, at that time we made a decision -- I made a 11 decision that said, okay, well, the immediate question 12 is where is the money, because without the reports and 13 without any response to the auditors we don't know 14 where that is, and the most effective way to get that 15 -- get the attention of anybody is to initiate the 16 proceedings to collect the money. So we did that via a 17 repayment order. We issued that order -- you all 18 approved and issued that order in March.</p> <p>19 And then that day, you know, we heard from 20 Mr. Jaramillo for the first time, and then over the 21 course of the next several months a couple of things 22 happened. The first thing that happened, you know, is 23 we got some -- started to get some -- well, I don't 24 know if it's first or second, but around the same time 25 we got both cooperation around providing the documents</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p> <p>1 that we needed to work on the audit, and we went 2 broader -- the audit was then broader than the audit we 3 would do just as a matter of course. It was a fuller 4 audit. And those documents were provided to me and 5 relayed to the auditor.</p> <p>6 At the same time, because the repayment order 7 is a real -- you know, this is a real live 8 administrative action that we took, Mr. Jaramillo had a 9 right under -- under the administrative code to -- or, 10 under the Administrative Procedures Act to file an 11 appeal to the Office of Administrative Hearings, which 12 he did, so --</p> <p>13 So now a couple of things are happening at 14 one time. There is an appeal to the Office of 15 Administrative Hearings. There is an effort to 16 provide -- by our auditors to make sure that we have 17 what we need to understand if, in fact, the repayment, 18 you know, order should stand. And then thirdly, there 19 is the outstanding issue in the complaint regarding 20 late filing and related matters.</p> <p>21 You know, so we get through -- we're on a 22 track where the auditors are working, the OAH 23 proceedings are proceeding, and we are -- start working 24 with Mr. Jaramillo on a conciliation that would -- 25 because this was the draft conciliation that we have --</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p> <p>1 to the ALJ that says, hey, we're still working on this, 2 but -- because that would imply that we still have a 3 position to defend the repayment order on its terms.</p> <p>4 All right. So we -- so our goal was to have 5 a conciliation that consolidated everything and 6 dismissed the appeal, imposed the fines, and moved on. 7 August, we lose that month because of the storm 8 knocking out our camera. I mean, this is a thing that 9 happens. And so now we are in a position where we need 10 to bifurcate these issues.</p> <p>11 And procedurally what my view is is that what 12 we -- the right thing to do here is to, you know, get 13 rid of -- you know, to vacate the repayment order, 14 because we're not going to pursue repayment, and then 15 we have another agenda item where you will be, you 16 know, assessing whether or not there is reason to 17 believe there's a violation on the fine issue.</p> <p>18 That's a step we had -- we were, you know, 19 going to, again, avoid by virtue of the conciliation, 20 had we gotten that done. But again, because we ended 21 up with this kind of oddly compressed timeline where 22 we're going to have to report back to OAH before we 23 resolve the case, you know, we -- it just is -- it's a 24 cleaner record for -- for us to work on these matters 25 as staff to be able to, you know, communicate to the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p> <p>1 we offered and later withdrew from consideration that 2 would have wrapped up the filing issues and the 3 repayment -- and the repayment issues, and that -- that 4 conciliation would have dismissed the OAH appeal. It 5 would have dismissed that case, because we would have 6 withdrawn the -- in that conciliation we would have 7 withdrawn the repayment order, we would have assessed a 8 fine for the -- the late penalties and other, you know, 9 matters that were contained there, and it would have 10 resolved both issues, both the repayment order and the 11 penalty issue that we had.</p> <p>12 August we had our -- our -- the storm hit our 13 camera, and that -- and that actually matters here 14 because at the end of October I have, along with the 15 attorneys that are working with us on the appeal, a 16 report due to the Office of Administrative Hearings on 17 the status of the repayment order.</p> <p>18 So now we've completed the audit work. We 19 are, as staff, satisfied that the repayment order is 20 not something that we would want to be defending on 21 appeal, because we asked for -- given we had no 22 information, we asked for the entire amount of money 23 back. We now have an audit report that says that 24 doesn't justify asking for money back, right, and -- 25 and so we can't make a report, as a practical matter,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 9</p> <p>1 Office of Administrative Hearings what we need to 2 communicate there, and then we can continue to work on 3 the penalty aspect of this -- these matters.</p> <p>4 So that's the -- that's the big picture. We 5 broke them up into different Agenda items because they 6 are different Agenda items insofar as in one case we 7 are -- we are -- we are -- you know, we're dealing with 8 a decision that has already been made that, you know, 9 in view of the subsequent cooperation, we now know that 10 that repayment order is not something that we -- we 11 would have imposed had this information been provided 12 to us in a timely manner.</p> <p>13 And then in the other case, we, as staff, are 14 recommending that we make a determination that there's 15 reason to believe a violation occurred because that 16 there, right, the failure to file and provide that 17 information, that is the cause of the repayment order 18 having been initiated in the first place.</p> <p>19 So those are separate questions. One of 20 these we're asking to now clear the -- clear this one 21 out. And then because we had -- you know, because of 22 the compressed timeline we are now under, we will move 23 forward and essentially move forward with the fine 24 aspect of this in that separate Agenda item.</p> <p>25 So that's -- that's the broad overview. But</p>

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<p>1 the bottom line is that, you know, when -- once we 2 received the information from Jaramillo about his -- 3 his bank accounts and the like, we were not going to 4 sustain a repayment order. And because of the mishap 5 with the -- with the -- with the -- with the 6 technological mishap, we lost this month, so that means 7 that -- losing that month means that I was going to 8 have to go back to OAH, and I can only -- I can only 9 represent to OAH what I can fairly represent to OAH 10 ethically. So that's -- that's what it is. 11 It sounds complicated, but it's really -- in 12 this part, and you'll have to make a substantive 13 determination in the -- in the other Agenda item, but 14 this particular part is really, in many ways, 15 procedural and necessary in order for us to feel 16 comfortable moving forward to actually get this case 17 done. 18 And, you know, if we were in a setting where 19 we had a -- you know, a single judge, we would have 20 a -- we would do this in a phone call, where 21 Mr. Jaramillo would have the opportunity to appear if 22 he chose, I would be serving as -- as an attorney, and 23 you all would be serving -- there would be one judge 24 and we'd be done in -- very quickly. But, you know, 25 obviously because of our obligations under the Open</p>	<p>1 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: I'll second. 2 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, 3 Commissioner Crump. 4 It's been moved and seconded that we vacate 5 the repayment order. I will call the roll. 6 Commissioner Werther. 7 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Aye. 8 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Crump. 9 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Aye. 10 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Paton. 11 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye. 12 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Titla. 13 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye. 14 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Chair votes aye. Chair 15 votes aye. The motion is approved 5-to-nothing. 16 Let's move on to Item III, discussion and 17 possible action on MUR 25-01, Hector Jaramillo, 18 including Executive Director's recommendation on reason 19 to believe that violation or violations of the Clean 20 Elections Act and Rules have occurred. In the packet 21 you received outlining the Executive Director's 22 recommendation on whether there is reason to believe 23 violations of the Clean Elections Act and Rules 24 occurred -- 25 Tom, do you have anything you'd like to add?</p>
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<p>1 Meeting Law and other things, we have much more, you 2 know -- you know, sort of elaborate, if you will, 3 process for doing this. 4 So that's -- that's the upshot of where we 5 are on Item One. I'm not sure if there's specific 6 questions that you all have. I think that -- but I 7 think that about sums up what I have to say about it. 8 So I'm happy to, Mr. Chairman, to answer any questions 9 anyone has. 10 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. Thank you, Tom. 11 Does anyone -- any Member of the Commission 12 have any questions for Tom? 13 (No response.) 14 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Just for the record, is 15 Mr. Jaramillo present or any of -- or one of his 16 representatives present? 17 (No response.) 18 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. So is there a motion 19 from some Member of the Commission to vacate the 20 repayment order? 21 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: I move to vacate the 22 repayment order that was issued in March of 2025. 23 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, 24 Commissioner Werther. 25 Is there a second?</p>	<p>1 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I would. Again, 2 I just -- I want to outline what we're talking about 3 here so we -- everybody understands what I'm -- what 4 I'm asking for, what I'm recommending, and what I think 5 the right thing to do here is. 6 So our rules for enforcement provide for 7 essentially an order of proceedings where, when we go 8 to impose a fine, we first make a -- or, we -- the 9 Executive Director first asks the Commission if you 10 will make a determination that there's reason to 11 believe a violation may have occurred. 12 This is -- for those of you worked -- and 13 there are, I think, a couple of you at least -- have 14 worked on a -- on the -- in a city or county or state, 15 Secretary of State, campaign finance context, this is 16 the equivalent of the reasonable cause determination 17 that a -- that a Secretary of State's Office makes, and 18 then they advance -- and then that advances in that 19 context to the AG or the County Attorney. In our 20 context it advances to the -- to the -- to a briefing 21 phase and then essentially a penalty phase. 22 So as I said earlier, you know, we made -- I 23 made a decision early on this year to pursue the 24 repayment order first in the hopes of, you know, making 25 sure we got a handle on where this money was. We were</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 14</p> <p>1 in a position where we were proceeding in a way that we 2 thought we would be able to wrap all this up in one 3 package. We had the August meeting mishap. And so now 4 I think in order to ensure that the Commission has an 5 opportunity to review this case and draw -- ultimately, 6 you know -- you know, put us in a position where we can 7 resolve this case certainly, you know, we're asking you 8 to approve the -- the memo, essentially, and the 9 reasonable cause -- the reason to believe determination 10 that's in there. 11 Again, the issues here are principally 12 filing. So this is a candidate who, once they, you 13 know, sort of got their -- they received funding from 14 the Commission, they stopped filing reports, they 15 weren't responsive to efforts by our auditors and staff 16 to get ahold of them, to respond to our questions, to 17 respond to the basic audit they were required to submit 18 to, and that -- and as you can see outlined in the 19 document, you know, that meant that these reports were 20 substantially late and, additionally, that -- you know, 21 that the candidate, you know, was not responsive to 22 questions from Commission staff or auditors, as they're 23 both required to by rule and statute and by the 24 agreement that they sign in order to be a participating 25 candidate.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 16</p> <p>1 we have a meeting in November, I mean, I would like to 2 do that. 3 In the -- in the -- in the event that that's 4 not the case, we would -- what the next step would be 5 would be what's called a probable cause to believe 6 process. And that's really more -- that's in the 7 nature of where the Commission makes a determination, 8 to a preponderance of the evidence standard, that there 9 has, in fact, been a violation. And that can -- you 10 know, there's a -- there's a compliance period and the 11 notice period and then there's a response to that 12 brief. 13 So, you know, I would say the soonest, that 14 would probably be November just -- it might be a little 15 difficult to make that happen by the end of the month 16 if we end up there. But I think -- I think -- by the 17 back-of-the-envelope math I'm doing, I think we -- the 18 soonest would be November. And certainly our goal, as 19 staff, has been to -- we would like to get all of 20 these, if we can, done before 2026. The -- 21 So that's -- that's -- that's where -- that's 22 where we are. So I think the best guess would be -- I 23 would say just my best guess would probably be November 24 either way. My hope would be October if we are in a 25 position where we have something that we are</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 15</p> <p>1 So those are the basic facts. So we -- you 2 know, we're not -- you know, we're not at a place where 3 we're asking you to sort of -- this is not a judgment 4 yet. This is a, you know, reason to believe a 5 violation may have occurred. We do believe we meet 6 that standard. And so, you know, we would ask that the 7 Commission, you know, make that determination. 8 And I think that concludes what I -- what I 9 wanted to make sure that I put on the record, 10 Mr. Chairman. 11 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. Thank you, Tom. 12 Is there any discussion or questions from the 13 Commission? 14 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: I have a question. 15 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Yes, Mr. Crump. 16 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Tom, if we were to 17 approve this today, when would we expect to have this 18 matter back in front of us? 19 MR. COLLINS: Sure. Mr. Chairman, 20 Commissioner Crump, that's a good question. So there's 21 a couple of different avenues. As -- one is, if we're 22 able to be in a position where there's a -- where we 23 have an agreement that I can recommend to the 24 Commission with respect to Mr. Jaramillo, I mean, we 25 have another meeting at the end of the month and then</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p> <p>1 comfortable recommending to you in the form of a -- of 2 an administrative settlement. 3 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Crump, did 4 that answer your question? 5 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Yep. Great. Thank you. 6 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Any other questions or 7 discussion from Members of the Commission? 8 (No response.) 9 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Hearing none, is there a 10 motion to determine there is reason to believe the 11 violations identified in the memo may have occurred? 12 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: So I move to approve 13 the Executive Director's recommendation of the reason 14 to believe violation or violations has occurred by 15 Hector Jaramillo. 16 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, 17 Commissioner Werther. 18 Is there a second? 19 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: I'll second. 20 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Was that 21 Commissioner Crump? 22 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Yes. 23 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. Thank you. 24 It's been moved and seconded that we're going 25 to determine there's reason to believe the violations</p>

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<p>1 identified in the memo may have occurred. I will call 2 the roll. 3 Commissioner Werther. 4 (No response.) 5 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Werther, can 6 you hear me? 7 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Yes. Aye. 8 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you. 9 Commissioner Crump. 10 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Aye. 11 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Paton. 12 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye. 13 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Titla. 14 (No response.) 15 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Titla, are you 16 with us? 17 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye. 18 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, Commissioner 19 Titla. 20 Chair votes aye. The motion is approved 21 5-to-nothing. 22 Thank you, Tom. 23 MR. COLLINS: Thank you. 24 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Item IV, public comment. 25 This is the time for consideration of comments and</p>	<p>1 Commissioner Werther. 2 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Aye. 3 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Crump. 4 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Aye. 5 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Paton. 6 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye. 7 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Titla. 8 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye. 9 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Chair votes aye. We are 10 adjourned. Thank you very much. 11 (The meeting concluded at 1:53 p.m.) 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p>
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<p>1 suggestions from the public. Action taken as a result 2 of public comment will be limited to directing staff to 3 study the matter, rescheduling it for further 4 consideration, or responding to criticism. Please 5 limit your comments to no more than two minutes. 6 Does any member of the public wish to make 7 comments at this time, anyone on Zoom wish to make 8 comments? 9 (No response.) 10 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Cathy, no one raising a 11 hand? 12 MS. HERRING: Correct. 13 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. Thank you. 14 The public may also submit comments by e-mail 15 at ccec@azcleanelections.gov. 16 Item V is adjournment. At this time, I would 17 entertain a motion to adjourn. 18 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: I move to adjourn. 19 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, 20 Commissioner Werther. 21 Is there a second? 22 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: I'll second. 23 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, 24 Commissioner Crump. 25 It's been moved and seconded that we adjourn.</p>	<p>1 STATE OF ARIZONA )  ) ss. 2 COUNTY OF MARICOPA ) 3 4 BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings 5 were taken by me; that I was then and there a Certified 6 Reporter of the State of Arizona; that the proceedings 7 were taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter 8 transcribed into typewriting under my direction; that 9 the foregoing pages are a full, true, and accurate 10 transcript of all proceedings had and adduced upon the 11 taking of said proceedings, all to the best of my skill 12 and ability. 13 14 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am in no way related 15 to nor employed by any of the parties hereto nor am I 16 in any way interested in the outcome hereof. 17 18 DATED at Tempe, Arizona, this 8th day of 19 October, 2025. 20 21  22 Kathryn A. Blackwelder, RPR 23 Certified Reporter #50666 24 25</p>

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