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October 7, 2017

Oxnard City Council
Michelle Ascencion, City Clerk
300 West Third Street
Fourth Floor
Oxnard, CA 93030

Via regular US Mail and email to: cityclerk@oxnard.org

RE: *Notice of Violation* – The City of Oxnard’s methods of conducting elections are violating the California Voting Rights Act of 2001.

Dear City Officials,

I am writing on behalf of my client and the voters of the City of Oxnard who are interested in improving the accountability and responsiveness of future elected officials as well as the election system of the City of Oxnard as a whole. As Oxnard and its government continues to grow, it must adopt positive statewide trends in voting and elections in order to prevent voters from losing the ability to meaningfully engage in elections and community policy making.

One of the growing trends in California is district elections. District elections have been shown to improve voter turnout and help governments respond to community concerns. Districts are the cornerstone of our state and federal legislative systems. Accordingly, they have been adopted by numerous cities, community college districts and school districts. Almost all cities of Oxnard’s size have adopted district elections. We look forward to you coming into compliance.

With regard to the City of Oxnard’s City Council elections, after studying demographics and election results, we have determined that a violation of the California Elections Code sections 14025 *et. seq.*, known as the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 (“CVRA”), may be occurring by polarized voting. A change is mandated in the election system to prevent occurrences of voting patterns that impair the ability of voters to elect candidates of their choice or impair their rights to influence the outcome of an election, particularly as the result of the dilution or abridgment of its rights and privileges under state and federal law.

We therefore respectfully demand that the City of Oxnard change its at-large voting system to a district-based voting system that affords all voters and protected groups the equal

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opportunity to choose elected officials to the Oxnard City Council and, thereby, bring the system into compliance with the CVRA.

Please respond to this correspondence and include the City of Oxnard's plans to calendar a resolution and outline the steps it will take to facilitate the transition along with an estimated timeline. If the City fails to take action within the statutory timeline to effect a change in its election process, we will seek judicial assistance to enforce our remedies at law. Per the CVRA, we will seek equitable relief and other forms of relief, including our costs of litigation (court fees, expert witness fees, etc.) and attorney's fees.

We are hopeful that you will be able to work with us to achieve a timely transition in order to bring the City of Oxnard into compliance with the CVRA. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Dominguez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jason Dominguez
Attorney at law

cc: Greg Nyhoff, City Manager