



February 10, 2026

Honorable Mayor Norie Garza
City Manager Andy Garcia
Members of the Mission City Council
City of Mission
1201 E. 8th Street
Mission, Texas 78572

Re: Formal Complaint and Notice of Charter Violations by Councilwoman Jessica Ortega

Dear Mayor Garza, City Manager Garcia, and Members of the Mission City Council,

This correspondence serves as a **formal complaint and demand for corrective action** regarding repeated and improper interference by Councilwoman Jessica Ortega in the internal operations of the Texas Citrus Fiesta (TCF). The conduct described below constitutes a **direct and material violation** of Section 3.08 of the City of Mission Charter and has caused significant disruption to our organization and its community-facing activities.

Section 3.08 of the City Charter expressly provides:

“Neither the City Council nor any of its members shall direct the appointment of any person to office by the City Manager or by any of his subordinates. Except for the purpose of inquiry, the City Council and its members shall deal with the administrative services solely through the City Manager, and neither the City Council nor any member thereof shall give orders to any subordinates of the City Manager either publicly or privately.”

The intent of this provision is unambiguous: **City Council members are prohibited from exerting influence, pressure, or direction upon administrative personnel or affiliated organizations through any channel other than the City Manager.**

Despite this clear legal restriction, Councilwoman Ortega has engaged in a pattern of conduct that violates both the letter and spirit of the Charter, including but not limited to:

- **Repeated attempts to influence TCF operations** by directly contacting the Board President regarding organizational decisions and activities.
- **Direct communication with the TCF Director**, witnessed by board members who were physically present in the director’s office at the time, in an effort to influence or interfere with administrative matters.

- **Actively encouraging former board members and private citizens to participate in online discussions promoting false allegations** circulated by the Facebook page “TT of the RGV,” with the apparent intent of discrediting the outcome of the competition and undermining the integrity of the Texas Citrus Fiesta. This conduct has directly contributed to the **public dissemination of patently false claims involving underage teenage participants**, exposing minors to online harassment and enabling the slandering of their accomplishments. Such actions are reckless, harmful, and wholly inconsistent with the standards of conduct expected of an elected official. They further compound the seriousness of her violations under Section 3.08 of the City Charter by fostering public misinformation and encouraging third parties to engage in defamatory commentary targeting minors and TCF personnel. To be clear, these third parties include, but are not limited to, **Kristina Silva and Norma Sanchez**. It is also widely believed within the community that the “TT of the RGV” Facebook page is administered by **Ms. Silva’s stepsister, Marina Salinas**, further underscoring the coordinated nature of these efforts.
- **Following the resignation of board member Kristina Silva, Councilwoman Ortega contacted the Board President and explicitly stated, “This is not over,”** a remark that can reasonably be interpreted as an attempt to exert pressure, intimidate, or influence the organization’s internal governance. Such conduct is wholly inappropriate for an elected official and further demonstrates a pattern of interference inconsistent with the limitations imposed by Section 3.08 of the City Charter.

In light of these allegations, it is also important to clarify that **all potential conflicts of interest involving board members whose daughters participated in the pageant were proactively, transparently, and professionally managed**. Extra precautions were implemented to ensure that no contestant received any competitive advantage due to a parent’s service on the board. Board members with a potential conflict were **restricted from involvement in any aspect of judging, scoring, or decision-making**, and their participation in pageant-related activities was carefully limited to prevent even the appearance of impropriety. These safeguards were rigorously followed, and at no point did any board member’s relationship to a contestant influence the administration, scoring, or outcome of the competition.

Ironically, while Councilwoman Ortega has repeatedly claimed that it is “unfair” for a board member’s daughter to participate in the pageant, **her own daughter competed in the Texas Citrus Fiesta pageant while Ms. Ortega herself was both a sitting board member and an elected City Councilwoman**. At that time, Councilwoman Ortega raised no concerns regarding fairness, conflict of interest, or the integrity of the competition. Her current objections therefore appear selective, inconsistent, and strategically deployed to undermine the present administration of the pageant rather than to uphold any genuine standard of fairness.

These actions by Councilwoman Ortega constitute **improper interference, abuse of authority, and a clear breach of Section 3.08**. They undermine the independence of the Texas Citrus Fiesta, disrupt our ability to operate effectively, and create confusion and distrust within the community we serve.

Texas Citrus Fiesta has maintained a longstanding and cooperative relationship with the City of Mission. We value that partnership and expect that all elected officials will adhere to the legal and ethical standards required of their office. However, we cannot and will not permit continued violations of the City Charter or interference in our operations.

Accordingly, we hereby issue the following formal notice and request for corrective action:

- 1. All City Council members must immediately cease any direct communication with TCF staff, board members, volunteers, participants, or affiliates regarding operational, administrative, or programmatic matters.**
- 2. All future inquiries, concerns, or communications from City Council members must be routed exclusively through the City Manager, as mandated by Section 3.08 of the City Charter.**
- 3. We request written confirmation from the City Manager affirming the communication protocol required by the Charter and outlining the steps the City will take to ensure compliance by all elected officials.**
- 4. We request that the City take appropriate internal action to address Councilwoman Ortega's violations and prevent further interference.**

Furthermore, it must be emphasized that **Section 3.08 of the City of Mission Charter prohibits not only direct interference with administrative personnel, but also any conduct that burdens, pressures, or disrupts the City Manager's ability to perform official duties**. While the Charter permits council members to make inquiries, it does **not** authorize repeated, excessive, or strategically burdensome requests intended to influence administrative action or impede the normal operations of outside organizations such as the Texas Citrus Fiesta. Under widely recognized council-manager governance standards, including those established by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), excessive demands upon the City Manager are considered a form of **councilmanic interference**, as they divert administrative resources, create undue pressure, and attempt to weaponize the City Manager's office for personal or political purposes. We expect that all requests made by the city manager moving forward be ethical, necessary, well-founded, and of a legal nature.

This letter shall serve as a formal record of our complaint and our expectation that the City of Mission will uphold its own governing laws. Failure to enforce the Charter not only harms our organization but sets a concerning precedent for all entities that partner with the City.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and look forward to receiving written confirmation of corrective measures.

Respectfully,

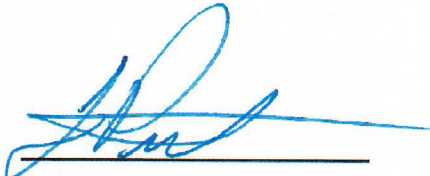
The Texas Citrus Fiesta Board of Directors

Amanda Ocana

Amanda Ocana



Scott Gerlach



Ted Prukop



Jennifer Longoria

Oscar Martinez

Oscar Martinez

April Flowers

April Flowers

Kellye Ortega

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Ted Venencia (Feb 10, 2026 19:52:24 CST)

Ted Venencia