



NMDOJ Complaint/Tip Submission

Submission Detail

ECS Reference Number	NMDOJ-ECS-20240412-da0d
Final Submit Date	4/12/2024 12:30:58 PM

Disclosure of your complaint/tip: A copy of this complaint/tip may be sent to the business/entity/agency against whom I am filing this complaint/tip. This complaint/tip is a public record, thus available under provisions of the NM Inspection of Public Records Act.

Disclosure to other entities: This complaint/tip, its content, and other information may be disclosed to other law enforcement and regulatory agencies.

I understand disclosure statements.

DECLARATION: By submitting this form, I attest that the information in this complaint/tip is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I further understand that by submitting this form I may be called to testify as a witness in this matter.

I understand declaration statement.

The State of New Mexico Department of Justice cannot give legal advice regarding this complaint/tip and will not act as your personal attorney. If you have questions regarding your rights please contact a private attorney.

Submission of this complaint/tip is not confirmation that an investigation will be initiated.

State of New Mexico Department of Justice
201 Third St. NW, Suite 300 | Albuquerque, NM 87102 | (505) 717-3500 | NMDOJ.GOV

Complaint/Tip Detail

Complaint Type	Charitable Organization Complaint
Retained Attorney	<input type="checkbox"/>
Description of Complaint/Tip	<p>I am writing to formally file a complaint against the Rio Grande Foundation, a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, for what I believe to be a violation of the Internal Revenue Code which governs nonprofit organizations. As a concerned citizen of New Mexico, I feel it is my duty to report actions that potentially undermine the integrity of our nonprofit sector and electoral process. According to IRS regulations, 501(c)(3) organizations are strictly prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office. Compliance with these regulations is a condition of maintaining their tax-exempt status. On Sunday, April 7th, Paul Gessing, President of the Rio Grande Foundation, appeared to have endorsed a political candidate, Mr. Larry Scott, in an opinion article published in the Hobbs News-Sun. The endorsement of a candidate for the New Mexico Senate by a leader of a nonprofit charitable organization is a clear violation of the stipulations set by the IRS for 501(c)(3) organizations. The specific details of the endorsement can be found in the opinion article titled "In Freedom Index Scott is Conservative" where Mr. Gessing praises and supports Mr. Scott's candidacy. This action could potentially jeopardize the nonprofit's tax-exempt status and mislead the public about the permissible activities of a charitable institution. I urge your office to investigate this matter thoroughly to ensure that nonprofit organizations within our state operate within the legal frameworks designed to preserve their charitable purposes. It is vital to maintain public trust in our nonprofit institutions and ensure that they adhere strictly to legal and ethical standards.</p>

Parties

Complainant/Tip Submitter

Gina George

Person

Address

4260 Northrise Dr
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88011

Contact information

canderson.7th@gmail.com
(575) 644-5297

Complaint/Tip against

Rio Grande Foundation - Paul Gessing

Organization

Address

400 Gold Ave SW, Suite 909
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

Contact information

pgessing@riograndefoundation.org
(505) 264-6090
riograndefoundation.org

Complaint/Tip Specifics

Is this a complaint against a registration status of a charity? Yes

Have charitable funds or other assets been lost, wasted or diverted from proper charitable purposes? Or, is there a danger that such a loss will soon occur? Yes

Have you submitted your complaint or inquiry to the organization? No

Have you submitted your complaint or inquiry to any other government agency? No

Is a court action pending? No

Transaction

Documents



07_News-Sun__A__6.pdf

Newspaper endorsement

Comments

*** END OF COMPLAINT/TIP ***