BEFORE THE SEATTLE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMISSION

In the matter of	)	No. 11-1216-1
	)	
	)	
RICHARD RIOS	)	CHARGING DOCUMENT
	)	
	)	

Pursuant to Seattle Municipal Code ("SMC") §§ 4.16.090.F and 3.70.100.D, and Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission Administrative Rule 3.H, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Executive Director of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission has reasonable cause to believe that Mr. Richard Rios has committed a material violation of the Seattle Ethics Code. The Executive Director hereby charges as follows:

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Mr. Rios violated SMC 4.16.070.2.a, when, as an employee of Seattle City Light, he used his official position for a purpose that was, or would appear to a reasonable person to be, primarily for his private benefit rather than primarily for the benefit of the City.

In support of this charge, the Executive Director further states the following:

1. Rios works in the Meter Technology branch of the Seattle City Light (SCL) Customer Service Division, where he supervises meter readers in South Seattle.

2. Rios owns two adjacent residential properties in South Seattle, both served by SCL.

3. SCL has a "Hard to Access" program aimed at replacing 7,000 aging or hard to access electrical meters throughout Seattle with remotely read meters known as RF Meters.

4. One benefit of an RF meter is that a meter reader can read it from a distance, eliminating the need to enter onto a customer's property. In addition, it is not possible for a meter reader to misread an RF meter.

5. Customers, meter electricians or meter readers can request installation of an RF meter.

6. SCL's Electrical Service Representative (ESR) group handles customer requests for RF meters. If ESR approves the installation, they generate a work order and send it to Meter Technology. The installing electrical worker fills out a Field Meter Card, which includes the reason for the RF meter install, the installation date and time, and the meter number.

7. If a meter electrician or meter reader requests an RF meter, a senior meter reader will approve the request and generate an installation request. A crew chief schedules the installation. The installing electrical worker fills out a Field Meter Card, which includes the reason for the RF meter install, the installation date and time, and the meter number.

8. In a conversation with SCL ESR employees, Rios expressed an interest in having RF meters installed on property that he owns.

9. Despite the fact that neither the meter reader for Rios's properties, nor a meter electrician, nor Rios in his capacity as a property owner, requested that ESR approve RF meter for Rios's properties, SCL installed RF meters on both of Rios's properties.

10. There is no documentation indicating that anyone at SCL ever approved the installation of RF meters on Rios's properties.

This notice is hereby given on this 2nd day of April, 2013.

Wayne Barnett, Executive Director