

DISCLOSURE DIVISION

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- ☒ WAIVER REQUEST
☐ ANSWER
☐ RECONSIDERATION REQUEST
☐ UNTIMELY

DATE: 6/14/2021

DOCKET #: 2021-507

Ashley Wimberley, Director
Disclosure Division



FILER INFORMATION

Name: Nancy Gomez, PhD
Address: 1008 South College Road, Apt #113, Lafayette, LA 70503
Office/Position: Lafayette Charter Foundation
of Disclosures/Amendments Filed with Agency: 5
Years Covered: 2018-2020
Final Report: No

REPORT INFORMATION

Name of Report: Tier 3 Annual Personal Financial Disclosure covering calendar year 2018 - Amendment
Report ID: PFD19011225
Original Due Date: 5/15/2019
Initial PFD Filed on: 11/26/2019
NOD-amend Received: 7/22/2020 - Signed by Post Office Mail Carrier - C-19
Amendment/Answer Due Date based on NOD: 7/31/2020
Amendment/Answer Filed: 11/2/2020

LATE FEE INFORMATION

Amount of Late Fee: \$1500
Days late from receipt of NOD: 94
Total days late from initial due date: 537
Late Fee Order Received: 2/4/2021
Payment/Waiver Request Due Date: 2/24/2021
Waiver Request Received: 2/24/2021

COMMENTS:

Ms. Gomez is requesting a waiver because her life this past year have been difficult. Her boyfriend of 14 years passed away, after being hospitalized and then catching Covid during his hospital stay. On July 28, 2020, she was faced with the difficult and horrible task of having to decide to take him off of life support. On August 25, 2020 she fell down and shattered her right wrist; She could barely work with just one hand, so she had to start physical therapy in September 2020. During her boyfriend's illness, then death, her accident, she lost 14 pounds and was depressed. She began to neglect daily task, and bills and housework started to accumulate. She recently had cataract surgery and is slowly recovery and struggling to continue. Ms. Gomez stated paying the late fee assessment would make her financial situation more difficult as her only means of income right now is her job as a Portuguese Phone Translator/Interpreter.

OTHER LATE FEE INFORMATION

Disclosure Statements:

- Other Outstanding Statements: No
- Other Outstanding Late Fees: Yes 2019 \$1500
- Prior Late Fees: No
- Reassessed Late Fees: No

Campaign Finance:

- Outstanding Late Fees: No
- Prior Late Fees: No

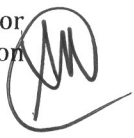
DISCLOSURE DIVISION

- ☒ **WAIVER REQUEST**
☐ **ANSWER**
☐ **RECONSIDERATION REQUEST**
☐ **UNTIMELY**

DATE: 6/14/2021

DOCKET #:

Ashley Wimberley, Director
Disclosure Division



FILER INFORMATION

Name: Nancy Gomez, PhD
Address: 1008 South College Road, Apt #113, Lafayette, LA 70503
Office/Position: Lafayette Charter Foundation
of Disclosures/Amendments Filed with Agency: 5
Years Covered: 2018-2020
Final Report: No

REPORT INFORMATION

Name of Report: Tier 3 Annual Personal Financial Disclosure covering calendar year 2019 - Amendment
Report ID: PFD20006684
Original Due Date: 7/6/2020
Initial PFD Filed on: 5/15/2020
NOD-amend Received: 7/22/2020 - Signed by Post Office Mail Carrier - C-19
Amendment/Answer Due Date based on NOD: 7/31/2020
Amendment/Answer Filed: 11/2/2020

LATE FEE INFORMATION

Amount of Late Fee: \$1500
Days late from receipt of NOD: 94
Total days late from initial due date: 119
Late Fee Order Received: 2/4/2021
Payment/Waiver Request Due Date: 2/24/2021
Waiver Request Received: 2/24/2021

COMMENTS:

Ms. Gomez is requesting a waiver because her life this past year have been difficult. Her boyfriend of 14 years passed away, after being hospitalized and then catching Covid during his hospital stay. On July 28, 2020, she was faced with the difficult and horrible task of having to decide to take him off of life support. On August 25, 2020 she fell down and shattered her right wrist; She could barely work with just one hand, so she had to start physical therapy in September 2020. During her boyfriend's illness, then death, her accident, she lost 14 pounds and was depressed. She began to neglect daily task, and bills and housework started to accumulate. She recently had cataract surgery and is slowly recovery and struggling to continue. Ms. Gomez stated paying the late fee assessment would make her financial situation more difficult as her only means of income right now is her job as a Portuguese Phone Translator/Interpreter.

OTHER LATE FEE INFORMATION

Disclosure Statements:

- Other Outstanding Statements: No
- Other Outstanding Late Fees: Yes - 2018 \$1500
- Prior Late Fees: No
- Reassessed Late Fees: No

Campaign Finance:

- Outstanding Late Fees: No
- Prior Late Fees: No

February 24, 2021

Ms. Ashley Wimberley, Director
Disclosure Division

Ms. Wimberley,

Having written an uncountable number of papers and thesis, besides a dissertation, it had never been so difficult to sit down and start writing this letter or this waiver? All because it is so personal and painful to try to describe part of my life I have had to go through last year – 2020- starting little after Covid 19 in March. I don't want to blame anybody in particular, just let's say the 'establishment' or as some say, it is part of life. But, this time for me has been more than excruciating and never expected to live something like this, as many of the 500.000 families who have lost lives in their circle.

My dear boyfriend Steve Allen, with whom we met each other 14 and a half years before, exactly on April 30 of the year 2006 for the Festival International de Lafayette and beautifully, it became something special right from the beginning, 'at first sight' connected with the Cajun and Zydeco music. And also, fascinated with our understanding of the way of dancing and then, the love for literature, for traveling and for the simple life spent with friends. All this brought us closer together and time passed by so fast.

After all these years, all the tragic events connected with Covid 19 came in by last March 2020. They evolved in front of us as well as for the rest of the world. Supporting each other, we tried to keep assertive, confident in ourselves and with a positive attitude, being quite tactful and respectful of the rest of the people. We committed to take care of ourselves in all possible ways. i.e. eating healthy, talking about the news without becoming obsessive and continue going to our venues or places with music, as long as the possibilities existed.

Nevertheless, jobs began to slow down for Steve that meant longer hours for him at home, more thinking process, more drinking – a weakness in him when facing difficult situations and sleeping difficulties. In my case, I went on working as an Interpreter/Translator for Portuguese over the phone as my other job as a Testing Specialist at the BRCC began to disappear for the lack of students. Later on, it was finally over. That meant more mental concern about Steve and I every day, wondering about our financial situations. I tried to go, see him, visit with him and be there and tried to create some activities together to distract him of the depression he was falling into. Meanwhile, my levels of tiredness and tension began to accumulate from May on. I could feel my lack of energy, my forgetfulness of simple daily chores, my lack of concentration. For example, just after a few hours of working on the phone, I was terribly exhausted. On the other hand, life began to be more complicated to absorb, events in the world and here were changing so fast. In my specific case, as I have family abroad, I could feel that big dark cloud was covering us and more spaces around the whole world, day after day.

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Many times, watching the news, I was crying quietly and suddenly, the day they announced we had got to the 100,000 deaths here in the USA, I began to sob and my crying was so loud and non-stopping that myself could not believe it was me. I felt I was combining the most profound feeling of sadness and the impotence and anger for what was happening,

We were sharing these feelings but moving on to arts related topics, as fast as possible, so as to avoid those profoundly sad moments in life. Nowadays, I remember so well those conversations. Days went by in a mixture of strangely fast pace and simultaneously, enervating slow motion.

We got to June and I felt that something healthy wise was not working well with Steve. Like around the middle of the month, finally he accepted to go to the doctor. I sensed quite well there was something else, as he became more introverted, introspected, secluded and just immersed in himself. We went out a few times, but he did not have the same energy. That led me to become more and more worried and thoughtful about everything and between work, cooking, and housework, I began to see the accumulation of paper, letters, rapid notes about Covid 19 and constant scattered, loose thoughts connected with was going on. Necessary to point out that just after the New Year, I am getting better organized as I used to be before.

Every day, my point or goal was to be ready by 6:00 PM, after the News programs to go and be with him. He did not want to eat very much, there were less and less places to enjoy the music or a good conversation with friends.

Finally, July came in and that whole first week, I struggled with him to go to the doctor and the Hospital. Early afternoon, on Friday 3rd of July, I took him to the Emergency Room as he, then told me he had blood in his urine. After a long wait, he was admitted and taken to the ICU for a number of tests. That was the last time I saw him walking and looking very weak and ready to stay there.

Later on that evening, I started the race to go and see Steve's beautiful and loving two cats, feed and pamper them for a while. Every day I was going morning and evening. The rest of July was just a survival time to the extreme as now, I don't either remember or know exactly how I was doing everything, considering I had to continue working myself to pay the bills. Every morning and evening, I was allowed to call the Hospital to know about his condition. I was always the closest person to him in Lafayette, LA as his family lives in upstate New York and they did not come because of the fear of Covid 19. Some days, news were optimistic some others, quite difficult to accept. In the middle of July, I learnt Steve had caught Covid 19 in the Hospital what made me nearly drown in desperation. But, I tried to see a little light of hope in the horizon and went on and expected for the best. He was placed in the respirator and from there on, I felt so much lost in the air.

Then, on Tuesday, July 28th, 2020, after 1:00 PM, I was called by one of the doctors – the neurologist to tell me he had performed a profound check on him to discover that practically 80% of his brain was gone. He asked me to decide if I thought it was better to disconnect him as his brain functions were not there anymore. Little to say this has been one of the most horrible, difficult decisions to make in my life. I tried to think and asked some questions knowing Steve so well, what could have happened with him later. He explained to me in a quite intelligent and respectful way different details. Then, he told me had already spoken with one of his sisters and they were waiting for my answer. So, crying and crying as I understood there was no other solution, I accepted. I felt the world under my feet was opening and swallowing me. Then, quietly he asked me if I wanted to come to the hospital and say good bye to him. I immediately accepted as I had never had the possibility to visit him. So, that was the last time I saw him and I talked to him. Needless to say my state of mind and spirit from then on. I know many people, families, friends, lovers we have had to go through this terrible experience and the pain, solitude and emptiness is so immense that is unsourmountable in certain moments. In my case, the memories have helped me out up to a certain point and to have to continue working to sustain myself

Starting on the following days, many of those days and facts that happened are involved by a gray cloud that was around everything. I had to start emptying his apartment as it was rented and the landlord needed it. I gave away all I could to charities and many of his belongings, mostly his precious tools for work were stolen by his neighbours. I tried to collect all his treasures: books, photographs, CD's, souvenirs, writings of his and took them home in boxes which stayed there until November as I had compromised with his family to send them all this in boxes. I was able to finish that part just before Thanksgiving so as they could have with them all this to have a part of his 16 years in Lafayette, LA and understand many situations. They are eternally grateful for this. At the same time, on the 25th of August, 2020, as clumsy as I was, I fell down at home and shattered my right wrist. Stayed at the hospital for three days and all with cast, returned home where I could barely work with one hand over the phone. At the end of September, I started going to Physical Therapy, situation that I still continue. The pain, added to all the rest has been quite excruciating. Hopefully I shall recover all the strength and functions in my right hand. Needless to say, my apartment, normally following an acceptable orderly organization, began to be more and more messy, with boxes all around, papers and letters without being opened all around. Then, close to Thanksgiving and thinking about Christmas coming, one day I sat down to definitely separate the envelopes. Many of them were quite behind in time, others accumulated bills that I am still trying to see and take care of, the only ones up to date were the regular bills we pay every month that I continued paying. My pantry was getting empty and the closet was all messed around. Consequently, just then I began to pay attention to all these details. Now, in retrospection and not remembering very well what happened exactly all those months, only knowing that many times I was falling asleep on the sofa in the living room, next to the working table and just woke up by the ringing phone from work. I lost about 14 pounds in those months after July and I was feeling weaker and weaker.

I went to my PCP and she gave me a number of advices, some followed, some others, I have not been able to. For instance, she specifically recommended me to go to a Grief Group. I tried to find out, but all are interrupted because of the pandemia. I have tried to become more physically active going for long walks around the neighbourhood and do some gym at home. Then, Christmas and Mardi Gras have come and they have been again deeply sad times, sad days when I have to deal with the solitude, the emptiness, the difficult explanation life for life and death. Now, I have just had the first surgery for cataracts in one eye, situation postponed from last year as my body was not ready for that. It is being a slow recovery and struggling to continue. I have written this letter with all my open heart, crying many times because I know it is the wish of many people around the country and in the world to try to express our feelings so the rest of the people can try to understand us. And, it is so important for the respect of the ones who left us behind not to be forgotten and for ourselves.

I know the letters from you all were not seeing in the reality, in those mounts of papers until the end of November, and I sent what I had to send just at the beginning of December. I did not comment or talk about this with nobody in the group as I always felt it was so personal and confidential. Besides, I always believe everybody is so overwhelmed today with everything going on that nobody else wants to hear problems or sad situations coming from others. To conclude, with this letter I absolutely need to request a waiver of the late fee accumulated for the years 2018 and 2019 because my Annual Personal Financial Disclosure Statement for the years 2018 and 2019 were not presented in a timely manner.

My good cause to request this waiver is all the personal ordeal lived along the year 2020, explained as profoundly and kindheartedly as possible on this letter. Besides, quite important to mention is my current economic situation has become quite difficult as my only job right now is as an Interpreter / Translator for Portuguese language over the phone.

I am ready to appear before the Board of Ethics in connection with my request. I would be waiting for this appearance and to be notified of the place and time prior to the meeting.

Sincerely,

Nancy Gomez, Ph.D.

SENDER COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

Nancy Gomez, PhD
1008 South College Road, Apt #113
Lafayette, LA 70503



1710



9590 9402 5218 9122 6370 19

2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)

7019 2970 0001 6313 1710

PS Form 3811, July 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9053

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature

X

C 19

☒ Agent

☒ Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name)

0304

C. Date of Delivery

7/22/2020

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes

If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

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3. Service Type

- ☐ Adult Signature
- ☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery
- ☒ Certified Mail
- ☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Collect on Delivery
- ☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Registered Mail
- ☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Registered Mail Express®
- ☐ Registered Mail™
- ☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise
- ☐ Signature Confirmation™
- ☐ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery

ail
ail Restricted Delivery

(over 3000)

7.17 TF

Domestic Return Receipt

Ashley Wimberley

From: nancy gomez <nancyg24@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 10:30 PM
To: Ashley Wimberley
Subject: RE: LA Board of Ethics: Waiver/Appeal Request
Attachments: BOARD ETHICS 2021.odt

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please do not click on links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Ms. Ashley,

I did all this with my heart and as profoundly as possible.

I have just finished it and my only hope and prayer is that it will absolutely help me, as all this was an involuntary lack of response or responsibility.

I shall call you to know you have received it.

Sincerely appreciate the support,

Nancy Gomez, Ph.D.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: Ashley Wimberley
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 3:12 PM
To: nancyg24@hotmail.com
Subject: LA Board of Ethics: Waiver/Appeal Request

Good afternoon Dr. Gomez,

This is a reminder to submit your Waiver Request or Appeal by midnight of Wednesday, February 24, 2020. Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Thank you and have a great day!

Ashley Wimberley

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