



**For Immediate Release**

Contact Information: Brian Mayes - 214-208-5842

## **MAYOR RAWLINGS EXCEEDS CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS BY ALMOST \$100,000**

### **City Makes Questionable Claim That Loophole Allows Mayor To Accept Unlimited Contributions**

**DALLAS, TX – February 4, 2015** – Today, **Dallas Mayoral candidate Marcos Ronquillo** called on **Mayor Mike Rawlings** to abide by Dallas’ campaign finance and ethics laws and return almost \$100,000 in campaign contributions that were accepted in violation of **Chapter 15A-2 (Campaign Contribution Limit)** of the city’s election law.

Dallas’ campaign finance law allows a candidate for Mayor to receive no more than \$5,000 from an individual for each election cycle. But during the current election cycle – according to a conservative interpretation of his campaign finance reports – **Mayor Rawlings has accepted just over \$96,000 in excessive donations from numerous contributors** who have already given the maximum amount of \$5,000.

“Dallas’ campaign finance laws were put in place to protect taxpayers against undue influence by special interests over our elected officials,” said the Ronquillo campaign. “While we are confident it was an oversight and not a deliberate act, we urge Mayor Rawlings to do the right thing and return the almost \$100,000 in campaign contributions that were accepted in violation of our longstanding ethics laws.”

While the intent of the city’s laws on campaign contribution limits are clear, **Brylon Franklin, Dallas’ elections manager**, has suggested to the Ronquillo campaign that a loophole may exist that would allow Mayor Rawlings to accept unlimited campaign contributions since he is now an “officeholder” and not a “candidate.”

“We cannot imagine that Mayor Rawlings and his campaign would knowingly and intentionally violate the intent and spirit of ethics laws and try to take advantage of a ‘loophole’ to accept unlimited campaign contributions as a candidate and officeholder,” said the Ronquillo campaign. “To maintain the public’s trust in our election process, we call on the Mayor and Council to show leadership on this issue and quickly strengthen the city’s ethics and campaign rules so there is no ambiguity that unlimited contributions are not allowed.”

The attached spreadsheet details the dates and amounts of the excessive contributions. Also attached are each of Mayor Rawlings’ campaign finance reports for the current election cycle. Dallas’ campaign finance law can be found at this link – due to a glitch on the city’s website, you must copy and paste:  
[http://www.ci.dallas.tx.us/cso/pdf/Elections/candidatePack/3-1\\_DCC\\_Ch15A.PDF](http://www.ci.dallas.tx.us/cso/pdf/Elections/candidatePack/3-1_DCC_Ch15A.PDF)

###