

I respectfully take issue with your blog post of November 27, "Veteran Dem Consultant Neri Holguin Predicts Nichole Rogers Victory Over Jeff Hoehn In ABQ City Council Run-off." Of course Neri Holguin is predicting that Nichole Rogers will beat me in the December 12 runoff election. Nichole is her candidate, through and through. Yet Neri Holguin's opinions are presented in the post as if she is simply a wise and neutral political professional. This is not accurate.

Neri Holguin was instrumental in getting the mayor elected, and Tim Keller continues to rely on her implicitly. Neri Holguin was the very person who called me in April to convey the mayor's message that I should not run for City Council. The blog post states, Neri Holguin "briefly consulted the Rogers campaign at the start of the regular election [but] she is not involved in the run-off." In fact she is involved in the runoff, albeit now on behalf of a PAC. Neri Holguin is openly raising money for the Real New Mexican Leadership PAC, one of five (5) PACs that are currently helping Nichole try to get elected to City Council. Neri Holguin is working hard to ensure that my opponent gets elected, in order to smooth the way for the mayor's plans for the rest of his second term and, they hope, his third term.

Nichole Rogers has repeatedly touted the fact that she is publicly financed, and yet she is willing to accept PAC money all day long. No wonder people are turned off by politics. I am supported by a single PAC, HELP NM. This PAC has chosen to support me, having assessed Nichole Rogers as being hostile to commercial and real estate development. I myself do see a role for real estate development in District 6, particularly in the economically distressed areas east of San Mateo. I also see a role for development in addressing our city's affordable housing crisis. But I am the only candidate pushing to eliminate the "in lieu of" rule that currently allows developers to essentially avoid building affordable housing for a nominal one-time fee.

Those who know me from the Nob Hill Neighborhood Association and from my longtime career in the nonprofit community can attest that I have the highest reputation for integrity and honesty. I will not be 'in the pocket' of developers, Republicans, the mayor or anyone else but my District 6 constituents.

Your November 27 post alludes to the fact that Nichole Rogers is struggling with a simmering ethics fiasco involving her one-person nonprofit, Welstand Foundation. This story was covered in both the Albuquerque Journal and the New Mexico Sun. Your post states, "Rogers has come under fire for failing to comply with state

registration regulations for a nonprofit she founded but Holguin says the mistake lacks sting and she does not expect Rogers to be upended by any more ethics charges.” The issue is about more than mere regulation compliance though. Welstand Foundation’s failure to file Form 990s with the IRS means that no one can know where any of the nonprofit’s money was spent.

On Monday Nov. 27 at a campaign forum hosted by the South San Pedro Neighborhood Association, Nichole Rogers said that she would have financial documents for Welstand Foundation up on her website by the end of the week, which didn’t happen. Let’s all keep her honest in following up on that promise.

Contrary to Neri Holguin’s prediction, more ethics charges have arisen for Nichole Rogers. Another political blog has asserted, with evidence, that Nichole Rogers lied about not having multiple misdemeanor charges, and about having lived in District 6 for six years, when by all accounts she reclaimed her home from a tenant in January in order to run for City Council. Voters should do their research about both candidates before this very important City Council runoff election.

I have specific, detailed information on my website jeff4d6.com about policy positions and my experience, as well as two letters dated Oct. 24 and Nov. 3 responding to criticisms regarding private financing and the HELP PAC. I am a pro-choice, progressive Democrat and the only honest, qualified candidate in this race. Neri Holguin, Tim Keller and Nichole Rogers are working hard to mischaracterize me and my campaign in order to get a safe vote for the mayor on Council. Voters should decide for themselves and vote for an independent voice for District 6, for the change we need to get our city back on track.

Thanks for letting me contribute to your blog to set the record straight.

Jeff Hoehn