

To the members of the Filipino-American Association of Portland and Vicinity, Inc.

We represent a majority faction (12 out of 15) of the Board of Directors for the Filipino-American Association of Portland and Vicinity, Inc. (Fil-Am).

President Ben Avecilla was suspended due to suspected interference and tampering with the election held in March 28, 2021. The last-minute change to an in-person election was because of ballots, returned by the USPS, were being collected with the only key holders were Lynn Dixon, the interim President, and Ben Avecilla, the building manager at the time. None of the election committee staff had the keys to the office to obtain the returned ballots. This was discovered more than a week before the mail-in election was to take place. In what is believed to be an attempt at ballot-stuffing. This invalidated all the hard work of the election committee.

In the meantime, our interim president is Nila Janson.

There was an investigation as a result of evidence that dozens of membership applications were taken by Lynn Dixon prior to the election. This action was witnessed by our Treasurer Marieta Koskelo and Auditor Ammie Sison. More than ten members came forward and complained that their membership rights were denied by this action by not allowing them to vote.

Tampering with an official election is a violation of Oregon state law and has been brought to the attention of the Department of Justice. The Oregon Department of Justice and a Lawyer hired to help FilAm have both advised us to redo the election. Under their guidance, we are attempting to resolve the matter internally without escalating it to Oregon's Attorney General.

This resulted in Lynn Dixon having her membership revoked. The circumstances of this meeting and its decision we conducted under the supervision of an attorney and have been reviewed and validated by the DoJ.

During the counting, the number of ballots counted exceeded the number of voters who signed in. When Sima Felina and the co-chair and chair of the election committee, Lyra Venaglia asked to recount the ballots to verify that all ballots counted were properly marked by election committee staff, Lynn Dixon refused access to the ballots.

Ben Avecilla, as the president, only counts as one vote of the 15 board members, but he also presides over our monthly board meetings and consistently prevents the rest of us from speaking during these meetings. In the most recent board meeting, he was asked directly but multiple board members if he will allow us to speak. His response was a harsh "No". Since we would not be allowed to speak, there could be no healthy or productive discussion. As a result, several of the board members left the building and no quorum was had.

At our other recent meetings, he informs us what Fil-Am is doing rather than making a motion and allowing the board to vote, as per Robert Rules, set forth in our bylaws. When we raise the subject of election impropriety and the advice provided to us by a DoJ investigator, he instructs the members of the board that "we aren't going to talk about that", and has even shouted at some of us to "sit down" when raised hands are ignored and when topics change. This produces no useful discussion or progress made and

meetings end abruptly with emotions soaring as many of us are not allowed to speak. His actions are extremely inconsiderate and violate both our bylaws and Oregon Statute 65.

The board sought legal counsel who specializes in non-profit law in Oregon to represent the best interest of our organization. This means helping us running the organization in accordance with our bylaws and ORS-65. Since our bylaws contradict the Oregon law in several places, they need to be revised. In the near future, we also intend to consult the same legal resource in revising our bylaws.

We have repeatedly attempted to correct this within our organization to no avail. The president continuously ignored all the efforts of the board. President Avecilla abused his power to prevent board members from speaking, effectively blocking us from confronting the problems and reaching solutions. During membership meetings, the board of directors needed to present evidence before the members. Just as had been happening in the board meetings, he continued to deny their rights, which is violation of FilAm's bylaws and ORS 65. We have been informed by several members of the misinformation he has been spreading with intent to defame and discredit the Board of Directors. FilAm should not have a representative who will use misinformation to sway our members from the truth and instill havoc within the organization.

Some of the events that make these facts evident:

- President renting the Facility without the board's knowledge or approval.
- Refusing to distribute keys to the facility, which are under the board's control.
- Board meetings where the board is deprived of their rights; a violation of ORS 65

In accordance with Oregon law, the board of directors run the organization. The president is one vote. Decisions within the organization are made by majority vote of this governing body who are bound by law and oath to put the members best interest before their own. For these reasons we have sacrificed so much to bring these facts to you in an attempt to correct this situation.

Reason for Removal: "The board is biased"

We, the Board of Directors beg to differ. The present board members have all come to a unanimous conclusion in regards to the events that have taken place. If 12 of 15 board members are in complete agreement, this is not a biased opinion or a conspiracy. This is your leaders working together. One of the duties of the board is to create a path of cohesive decisions to guide the president to run the Association in accordance to the Oregon Statutes and our bylaws, and this is what we have done.

That is why we are here before you asking support to your Board of Directors on August 29, 2021, 3pm-6pm. We are the Boards that will continue to abide and uphold our duties in accordance to the Statutory of ORS Bylaws

Thank you

The Board of Directors
Filipino-American Association of Portland and Vicinity, Inc.

Zoom meeting, Sun Aug 29th at 3:00pm: Meeting ID: 872 4725 7287 Passcode: 141390