February 4, 2020, Agenda - Open Meeting Matter

January 7, 2020 – Public Hearing

November 26, 2019, Agenda – Open Meeting Matter

September 17, 2019, Agenda – Open Meeting Matter

To:

The Board

From: Christopher M. Hammer CML

Date: January 24, 2020

Re:

Board Rules Chapter 3: Affiliated Not-for-Profit Organizations

As directed by the Board at its November 2019 meeting (Exhibit 1), Staff submitted the

proposed amendments to Board Rules Chapter 3 for publication in the City Record (Exhibit 2).

Publication occurred on December 5, 2019, in advance of the public hearing held on January 7,

2020. The Board received no written comments in advance of the public hearing and received oral

comments from one attendee at the public hearing, Tom Speaker, Policy Advisor at Reinvent

Albany. Mr. Speaker also provided written comments (Exhibit 3). Having considered these

comments and as discussed below, Staff does not recommend any substantive changes to the text

of the rule or the Statement of Basis and Purpose but proposes conforming edits to reflect that the

rule would be a final rule (Exhibit 4).

With the Board's adoption of the final rule, Staff will publish the Notice of Adoption in

the <u>City Record</u>, and the rule will take effect 30 days after publication. See City Charter § 1043(f).

Analysis & Discussion

Reinvent Albany's comment does not address the text of the proposed rule. Instead, it

makes two specific requests:

First, Reinvent Albany requests that the Board establish and publish a formula by which

Chapter 9 organizations calculate the percentage of expenses used for elected official

communications. However, the Administrative Code already establishes such a formula: Chapter 9 organizations become subject to additional reporting requirements (as well as restrictions on accepting donations) if they spent in the previous year or expect to spend this year "at least 10% of their expenditures on the production or dissemination of elected official communications." Administrative Code § 3-902(a). An "elected official communication" is "a communication in the form of: (i) radio, television, cable or satellite broadcast; (ii) printed material such as advertisements, pamphlets, circulars, flyers, brochures or letters; (iii) telephone communication; or (iv) paid internet advertising; which includes the name, voice or likeness of the person holding office as mayor, comptroller, public advocate, borough president or member of the council with whom the entity making such communication is affiliated." Administrative Code § 3-901. Because this definition and formula is stated in Chapter 9, there is no need to reiterate this standard in the Board Rules implementing Chapter 9.

Second, Reinvent Albany requests that the Board release in the City's Open Data Portal a list of Chapter 9 organizations, their affiliated agency or elected official, and information about expenditures on elected official communications, arguing that such data is required to be released to the Open Data Portal pursuant to Local Law 11 of 2012. See Administrative Code § 23-501 et seq. Staff agrees that Chapter 9 disclosures fall within the ambit of Local Law 11 and accordingly has submitted to the Open Data Portal the available public information about Chapter 9 organizations' reported donations. The Board does not have data regarding elected official communications; Chapter 9 requires only restricted organizations to disclose expenditures on elected official communications, and all registered affiliated organizations have certified that they are unrestricted. See Administrative Code § 3-902(a)(8) and § 3-902(b).

No change to the proposed rule is needed in response to Reinvent Albany's comment.

Minutes of the Open Meeting of the New York City Conflicts of Interest Board

Date: November 26, 2019

Location: Conflicts of Interest Board, 2 Lafayette Street, Suite 1010, New York, New York

Present:

Board Members: Chair Richard Briffault and Members Fernando A. Bohorquez, Jr., Anthony Crowell, Jeffrey D. Friedlander, and Erika Thomas.

Board Staff: Ethan Carrier, Chad Gholizadeh, Ana Gross, Christopher Hammer, Gavin Kendall, Julia Lee, Carolyn Miller, Katherine Miller, Ari Mulgay, Yasong Niu, Jeffrey Tremblay, Michele Weinstat, Clare Wiseman, and Juliya Ziskina.

Guests: None

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at approximately 9:37 a.m. The Chair stated that the meeting was being conducted pursuant to the New York State Open Meetings Law and designated the undersigned as the Recording Secretary for purposes of the meeting.

The Chair stated that the meeting was called to discuss proposed amendments to Board Rules § 4-05, §1-13(e), and Chapter 3.

Board Rules § 4-05:

After a brief introduction, the Chair asked for any comments by the Board or Staff.

There were no comments. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously voted to approve the proposed amendments as the final rule.

Board Rules § 1-13(e):

After a brief introduction, the Chair asked for any comments by the Board or Staff.

There were no comments. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously voted to approve the proposed amendments as the final rule.

Board Rules Chapter 3:

After a brief introduction, the Chair asked for any comments by the Board or Staff.

There were no comments. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously voted to approve the proposed amendments as the final rule.

The open meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Lee Recording Secretary

New York City Conflicts of Interest Board

Notice of Public Hearing and Opportunity to Comment on Proposed Rule Regarding Notfor-Profit Organizations Affiliated with Elected Officials

What are we proposing? The Conflicts of Interest Board proposes to amend its rules regarding not-for-profit organizations affiliated with elected officials to reflect recent legislative changes to the New York City Administrative Code.

When and where is the hearing? The Conflicts of Interest Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed rule. The public hearing will take place at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 7, 2020. The hearing will be at Spector Hall, 22 Reade Street, New York, New York 10007.

This location has the following accessibility option(s) available: Wheelchair Accessible

How do I comment on the proposed rules? Anyone can comment on the proposed rules by:

- Website. You can submit comments to the Conflicts of Interest Board through the NYC rules website at http://rules.cityofnewyork.us.
- Email. You can email comments to rules@coib.nvc.gov.
- Mail. You can mail comments to Christopher M. Hammer, Deputy General Counsel, Conflicts of Interest Board, 2 Lafayette Street, Suite 1010, New York, New York 10007.
- Fax. You can fax comments to the Conflicts of Interest Board at (212) 437-0705.
- By speaking at the hearing. Anyone who wants to comment on the proposed rule at the public hearing must sign up to speak. You can sign up before the hearing by calling (212) 437-0730. You can also sign up in the hearing room before the hearing begins on January 7, 2020. You can speak for up to three minutes.

Is there a deadline to submit comments? Yes; you must submit written comments by Tuesday. January 7, 2020.

Do you need assistance to participate in the hearing? You must tell the Conflicts of Interest Board if you need a reasonable accommodation of a disability at the hearing. You must tell us if you need a sign language interpreter. You can tell us by mail at the address given above. You may also tell us by telephone at (212) 437-0730. You must tell us by January 6, 2020.

Can I review the comments made on the proposed rules? You can review the comments made online on the proposed rules by going to the website at http://rules.cityofnewyork.us/. A few days after the hearing, copies of all comments submitted online, copies of all written comments, and a summary of oral comments concerning the proposed rule will be available to the public at the Conflicts of Interest Board, 2 Lafayette Street, Suite 1010, New York, New York 10007.

What authorizes the Conflicts of Interest Board to make this rule? Section 1043 of the City Charter and Section 3-907 of the Administrative Code authorize the Conflicts of Interest Board to make this proposed rule. This proposed rule was not included in the Conflicts of Interest Board's regulatory agenda for this Fiscal Year because it was not contemplated when the Conflicts of Interest Board published the agenda.

Where can I find the Conflicts of Interest Board's rules? The Conflicts of Interest Board's rules are in Title 53 of the Rules of the City of New York.

What rules govern the rulemaking process? The Conflicts of Interest Board must meet the requirements of Section 1043 of the City Charter when creating or changing rules. This notice is made according to the requirements of Section 1043 of the City Charter.

Statement of Basis and Purpose of the Proposed Rule

Chapter 9 of Title 3 of the New York City Administrative Code ("Chapter 9") regulates not-for-profit organizations affiliated with elected officials by, among other things, requiring such organizations to report certain donations. Local Law 153 of 2019 amended Chapter 9 by:

- (1) clarifying that a donor's donations are aggregated throughout the calendar year to trigger the donation reporting thresholds;
- (2) relaxing the reporting requirements on unrestricted organizations (as defined in Board Rules § 3-01(k)); and
- (3) permitting donors to unrestricted organizations to request anonymity from the organizations themselves instead of the unrestricted organizations requesting permission from the Conflicts of Interest Board to offer their donors anonymity when reporting their donations.

The proposed amendments to Board Rules § 3-04 would implement these legislative changes and omit duplicative rule language that is now contained in Chapter 9.

Text of the Proposed Rule

New material is underlined.

[Deleted material is in brackets.]

Section 3-04 of Title 53 of the Rules of the City of New York is amended to read as follows:

§ 3-04. Annual Reporting by Organizations Affiliated with an Elected Official.

Pursuant to Administrative Code § 3-902, all organizations affiliated with an elected official must submit the reporting required pursuant to Administrative Code § 3-902(a) on the Board's website, no later than August 1 for the previous calendar year, as follows.

(a) Reporting Requirements for Restricted Organizations

- (2) [To comply with] <u>In addition to the reporting requirements of Administrative Code §§</u> 3-902(a)(6) and 3-902(a)(7), a restricted organization must report for each donation received during the previous calendar year:
 - [(i) the name of any donor who, as of the date of such donation, was either listed in the City's Doing Business Database or who was a household member of a person listed in the City's Doing Business Database;
 - (ii) the name of any donor who was added to the City's Doing Business Database within 180 days after the receipt of such donation or who was a household member of a person added to the City's Doing Business Database within 180 days after receipt of such donation;
 - (iii)] (i) if the donor was the household member of a person listed in the City's Doing Business Database as of the date of such donation, or added to the City's Doing Business Database within 180 days after the receipt of such donation, the name of the person listed in the City's Doing Business Database;
 - [(iv) the name of any donor who made a donation with a reasonable value of \$1,000 or more;
 - (v) the city and state of residence of the donor;
 - (vi) the date of each donation;
 - (vii) the value of each donation;
 - (viii)] (ii) the value of any excess donation refunded pursuant to Administrative Code §§ 3-903(a) or 3-903(b); and

- [(ix)](iii) the date of any excess donation refunded pursuant to Administrative Code §§ 3-903(a) or 3-903(b).
- (3) Multiple donations made by a person listed in the City's Doing Business Database and that person's household members in the same calendar year are considered in the aggregate for purposes of Administrative Code §§ 3-903(a), and 3-903(b). Multiple donations made by an individual in the same calendar year are considered in the aggregate [for purposes of Administrative Code § 3-902(a)(7) and] for purposes of obtaining the individual donor's written submission pursuant to Administrative Code § 3-903(d).

- (b) Reporting Requirements for Unrestricted Organizations.
 - [(1)] An unrestricted organization must submit the information listed in Administrative Code §§ 3-902[(a)(1) to (a)(9)] (b)(1) to (b)(8).
 - [(2) To comply with the reporting requirement of Administrative Code § 3-902(a)(6), an unrestricted organization must take the following steps to determine whether a donor was listed in the City's Doing Business Database or was a household member of a person listed in the City's Doing Business Database, either on the date of the donation or within 180 days after the date of the donation:
 - (i) check the name of the donor against the City's Doing Business Database both at the time of the donation and as of 180 days after the date of the donation;
 - (ii) consult the organization's records, including but not limited to donors' written submissions collected pursuant to Administrative Code § 3-903(d), to determine whether the donor was a household member of a person listed in the City's Doing Business Database; and
 - (iii) if an organization believes that a donor, a donor's spouse or domestic partner (or, if a donor is an unemancipated child, his or her parent), is not a person with business dealings with the City, despite such person's name matching the name of an individual in the Doing Business Database, the organization must submit information supporting that conclusion to the Board. The Board will review the submission and determine whether the donation must be reported pursuant to Administrative Code § 3-902(a)(6).
 - (3) To comply with the reporting requirement of Administrative Code § 3-902(a)(7), an unrestricted organization must submit to the Board the names of any individuals who or entities that made a donation with a reasonable value of \$1,000 or more, whether in a single donation or in multiple donations. If an unrestricted organization receives multiple donations from the same individual or entity, the aggregate value of which has

- a reasonable value of \$1,000 or more, the organization must report the date and value of every donation from that individual or entity.
- (4) To comply with the reporting requirement of Administrative Code § 3-902(a)(8), an unrestricted organization must submit to the Board a list of each elected official communication created or distributed, which list must include a description, the date, and the total cost of each such communication. In calculating the total cost of an elected official communication, an unrestricted organization must include the value of all goods and services paid by the organization to create and distribute the elected official communication, including without limitation the value of the time of its employees and the value of all goods and services donated by a non-governmental source for the communication's creation or distribution.
- (5) To comply with the reporting requirement of Administrative Code § 3-902(a)(9), an unrestricted organization must report its total expenditures for the previous calendar year and, for the current calendar year, both total budgeted expenditures and budgeted expenditures for elected official communications.]
- (c) Privacy, Safety, and Security Requests
 - (1) Pursuant to Administrative Code § 3-902[(b)](c), [an] a restricted organization [affiliated with an elected official] may submit a request to the Board that disclosure of one or more of its donors and/or the amount of donation not be made public. The organization must make such a request in writing no later than April I for the previous calendar year and must explain why the release of such information to the public may cause harm, threats, harassment, or reprisals to the donor, or to individuals or property affiliated with the donor.

NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT DIVISION OF LEGAL COUNSEL 100 CHURCH STREET NEW YORK, NY 10007 212-356-4028

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO

CHARTER §1043(d)

RULE TITLE: Amendment of Rules Governing Not-for-Profit Organizations Affiliated with Elected Officials

REFERENCE NUMBER: 2019 RG 081

RULEMAKING AGENCY: Conflicts of Interest Board

I certify that this office has reviewed the above-referenced proposed rule as required by section 1043(d) of the New York City Charter, and that the above-referenced proposed rule:

- (i) is drafted so as to accomplish the purpose of the authorizing provisions of law;
- (ii) is not in conflict with other applicable rules;
- (iii) to the extent practicable and appropriate, is narrowly drawn to achieve its stated purpose; and
- (iv) to the extent practicable and appropriate, contains a statement of basis and purpose that provides a clear explanation of the rule and the requirements imposed by the rule.

Date: October 8, 2019

/s/ STEVEN GOULDEN
Acting Corporation Counsel

NEW YORK CITY MAYOR'S OFFICE OF OPERATIONS 253 BROADWAY, 10th FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10007 212-788-1400

CERTIFICATION / ANALYSIS PURSUANT TO CHARTER SECTION 1043(d)

RULE TITLE: Amendment of Rules Governing Not-for-Profit Organizations Affiliated with Elected Officials

REFERENCE NUMBER: COIB-12

RULEMAKING AGENCY: Conflicts of Interest Board

I certify that this office has analyzed the proposed rule referenced above as required by Section 1043(d) of the New York City Charter, and that the proposed rule referenced above:

- (i) Is understandable and written in plain language for the discrete regulated community or communities;
- (ii) Minimizes compliance costs for the discrete regulated community or communities consistent with achieving the stated purpose of the rule; and
- (iii) Does not provide a cure period because it does not establish a violation, modification of a violation, or modification of the penalties associated with a violation.

/s/ Francisco X. Navarro	October 8, 2019
Mayor's Office of Operations	Date



Testimony to the New York City Conflicts of Interest Board (COIB) on Proposed Rules Regarding Disclosure of City-Affiliated Nonprofits

January 7, 2020

Good afternoon Chair Briffault and members of the Conflicts of Interest Board. My name is Tom Speaker, and I am a Policy Analyst for Reinvent Albany. Reinvent Albany is a government watchdog organization that advocates for open and accountable government. While we largely focus on Albany, we have an interest in strengthening ethics in New York City because the City serves as a model for better ethics laws and practices.

Local Law 153 of 2019 requires COIB to maintain and publish a list of individuals who have donated to city-affiliated nonprofits since 2018. While the law requires that COIB publish this list on its website in a machine-readable format, it should also be downloadable in a machine-readable format and linked to or published in the City's Open Data portal as mandated by Local Law 11 of 2012.

We additionally request that COIB:

- establish and publish the formula city-affiliated nonprofits must use to calculate the percentage of expenses used to promote an elected official.
- release in the city's Open Data portal a list of city-affiliated nonprofits, their affiliated agency or elected official, and information about expenditures promoting elected officials.

We believe COIB has authority to establish a formula and release more information about organizational expenditures, particularly given the conflicts that can arise from city-affiliated nonprofits (by "city-affiliated nonprofits" we mean "not-for-profits affiliated with elected officials" as defined in the law). Prior to the passage of Council legislation, COIB previously issued two Advisory Opinions establishing disclosure requirements for city-affiliated nonprofits.

www.reinventalbany.org
OPEN, ACCOUNTABLE, EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT
148 Lafayette 12th Floor New York, NY 10013

Reinvent Albany calls on COIB to establish a formula that city-affiliated nonprofits should use to determine what percentage of an organization's communications promote an elected official. Currently, the public has no way of knowing how city-affiliated nonprofits calculate such costs, and formulas may differ between organizations. In a New York Daily News article in August, Eric Adams's staff said that One Brooklyn, the nonprofit affiliated with the Brooklyn Borough President's office, spent 5.5% on communications promoting Adams. More recently, in the New York Post, it was reported that One Brooklyn has raised over \$2 million to help cover its events, which promote Adams and call the 5.5% number into question. But with the lack of information currently available, the public can only take Adams's office at its word. COIB can remedy the gap by establishing and publishing the formula.

COIB should also publish in the City's Open Data portal a separate list from the one required in law identifying each nonprofit affiliated with an elected official, including the affiliated elected official or agency. The list should also include the percentage of individual nonprofits' expenses that have gone to promoting the elected official(s), the dollar amount, and which elected official(s) the organization promoted.

Despite repeated requests from Reinvent Albany, there is no list simply identifying all of the nonprofits in the City affiliated with elected officials. The example of One Brooklyn also demonstrates the need for more information about nonprofit spending — it's possible that over 100 such nonprofits exist in the city, but little is known about their spending on communications promoting elected officials.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I welcome any questions you may have.

¹*Brooklyn BP Eric Adams uses nonprofit to raise from donors with business before city – skirting campaign finance rules in quest for City Hall." New York Daily News. August 11, 2019. https://www.nydailynews.com/

news/politics/ny-eric-adams-nonprofit-donors-business-before-city-campaign-finances-20190811-ifhehr ejurbi7l3pswqza6hjua-story.html

² "Mayoral hopeful Eric Adams breaks ethics rules again while hitting up donors." New York Post. September 29, 2019. https://nypost.com/2019/09/29/mayoral-hopeful-eric-adams-breaks-ethics-rules-again-while-hitting-up-donors/

New York City Conflicts of Interest Board

Notice of Adoption of Final Rules

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN THE NEW YORK CITY CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BOARD by Section 1043 of the New York City Charter and Section 3-907 of the New York City Administrative Code, that the Conflicts of Interest Board has adopted Board Rules that amend Board Rules Section 3-04 in light of recent legislative changes to Chapter 9 of Title 3 of the New York City Administrative Code.

The proposed Rules were published in the <u>City Record</u> on December 5, 2019, and a public hearing was held on January 7, 2020. After consideration of the testimony and written comment received, the Conflicts of Interest Board now adopts the following Rules.

Statement of Basis and Purpose

Chapter 9 of Title 3 of the New York City Administrative Code ("Chapter 9") regulates not-for-profit organizations affiliated with elected officials by, among other things, requiring such organizations to report certain donations. Local Law 153 of 2019 amended Chapter 9 by:

- (1) clarifying that a donor's donations are aggregated throughout the calendar year to trigger the donation reporting thresholds;
- (2) relaxing the reporting requirements on unrestricted organizations (as defined in Board Rules § 3-01(k)); and
- (3) permitting donors to unrestricted organizations to request anonymity from the organizations themselves instead of the unrestricted organizations requesting permission from the Conflicts of Interest Board to offer their donors anonymity when reporting their donations.

The amendments to Board Rules § 3-04 implement these legislative changes and omit duplicative rule language that is now contained in Chapter 9.

Text of the Proposed Rule

New material is underlined.

[Deleted material is in brackets.]

Section 3-04 of Title 53 of the Rules of the City of New York is amended to read as follows:

§ 3-04. Annual Reporting by Organizations Affiliated with an Elected Official.

Pursuant to Administrative Code § 3-902, all organizations affiliated with an elected official must submit the reporting required pursuant to Administrative Code § 3-902(a) on the Board's website, no later than August 1 for the previous calendar year, as follows.

(a) Reporting Requirements for Restricted Organizations

- (2) [To comply with] In addition to the reporting requirements of Administrative Code §§ 3-902(a)(6) and 3-902(a)(7), a restricted organization must report for each donation received during the previous calendar year:
 - [(i) the name of any donor who, as of the date of such donation, was either listed in the City's Doing Business Database or who was a household member of a person listed in the City's Doing Business Database;
 - (ii) the name of any donor who was added to the City's Doing Business Database within 180 days after the receipt of such donation or who was a household member of a person added to the City's Doing Business Database within 180 days after receipt of such donation;
 - (iii)] (i) if the donor was the household member of a person listed in the City's Doing Business Database as of the date of such donation, or added to the City's Doing Business Database within 180 days after the receipt of such donation, the name of the person listed in the City's Doing Business Database;
 - [(iv) the name of any donor who made a donation with a reasonable value of \$1,000 or more:
 - (v) the city and state of residence of the donor;
 - (vi) the date of each donation;
 - (vii) the value of each donation;
 - (viii)] (ii) the value of any excess donation refunded pursuant to Administrative Code §§ 3-903(a) or 3-903(b); and
 - [(ix)](iii) the date of any excess donation refunded pursuant to Administrative Code §§ 3-903(a) or 3-903(b).
- (3) Multiple donations made by a person listed in the City's Doing Business Database and that person's household members in the same calendar year are considered in the aggregate for purposes of Administrative Code §§ 3-903(a), and 3-903(b). Multiple donations made by an individual in the same calendar year are considered in the aggregate [for purposes of Administrative Code § 3-902(a)(7) and] for purposes of

obtaining the individual donor's written submission pursuant to Administrative Code § 3-903(d).

- (b) Reporting Requirements for Unrestricted Organizations.
 - [(1)] An unrestricted organization must submit the information listed in Administrative Code §§ 3-902[(a)(1) to (a)(9)] (b)(1) to (b)(8).
 - [(2) To comply with the reporting requirement of Administrative Code § 3-902(a)(6), an unrestricted organization must take the following steps to determine whether a donor was listed in the City's Doing Business Database or was a household member of a person listed in the City's Doing Business Database, either on the date of the donation or within 180 days after the date of the donation:
 - (i) check the name of the donor against the City's Doing Business Database both at the time of the donation and as of 180 days after the date of the donation;
 - (ii) consult the organization's records, including but not limited to donors' written submissions collected pursuant to Administrative Code § 3-903(d), to determine whether the donor was a household member of a person listed in the City's Doing Business Database; and
 - (iii)if an organization believes that a donor, a donor's spouse or domestic partner (or, if a donor is an unemancipated child, his or her parent), is not a person with business dealings with the City, despite such person's name matching the name of an individual in the Doing Business Database, the organization must submit information supporting that conclusion to the Board. The Board will review the submission and determine whether the donation must be reported pursuant to Administrative Code § 3-902(a)(6).
 - (3) To comply with the reporting requirement of Administrative Code § 3-902(a)(7), an unrestricted organization must submit to the Board the names of any individuals who or entities that made a donation with a reasonable value of \$1,000 or more, whether in a single donation or in multiple donations. If an unrestricted organization receives multiple donations from the same individual or entity, the aggregate value of which has a reasonable value of \$1,000 or more, the organization must report the date and value of every donation from that individual or entity.
 - (4) To comply with the reporting requirement of Administrative Code § 3-902(a)(8), an unrestricted organization must submit to the Board a list of each elected official communication created or distributed, which list must include a description, the date, and the total cost of each such communication. In calculating the total cost of an elected official communication, an unrestricted organization must include the value of all

goods and services paid by the organization to create and distribute the elected official communication, including without limitation the value of the time of its employees and the value of all goods and services donated by a non-governmental source for the communication's creation or distribution.

(5) To comply with the reporting requirement of Administrative Code § 3-902(a)(9), an unrestricted organization must report its total expenditures for the previous calendar year and, for the current calendar year, both total budgeted expenditures and budgeted expenditures for elected official communications.]

(c) Privacy, Safety, and Security Requests

(1) Pursuant to Administrative Code § 3-902[(b)](c), [an] a restricted organization [affiliated with an elected official] may submit a request to the Board that disclosure of one or more of its donors and/or the amount of donation not be made public. The organization must make such a request in writing no later than April 1 for the previous calendar year and must explain why the release of such information to the public may cause harm, threats, harassment, or reprisals to the donor, or to individuals or property affiliated with the donor.