



MEET AMERICA’S FAVORITE MAYOR: ANTONIO VILLARAIGOSA

In 2011, Villaraigosa Was Forced To Pay Over \$40,000 In Fines For Accepting Free Tickets To A Spice Girls Concert, American Idol, And Other Events:

The California Fair Political Practices Commission Recommended Villaraigosa Pay A Fine Of More Than \$40,000 For Failing To Disclose Free Tickets To Lakers Games, American Idol, And Other Events. “California's political watchdog on Friday recommended the largest combined ethics fine in the agency's history – more than \$40,000 – against Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, saying he failed to disclose free tickets to Los Angeles Lakers games, the finals of ‘American Idol’ and more than two dozen other sports and entertainment events. The recommendation by the California Fair Political Practices Commission was a result of a joint investigation with the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission.” (Don Thompson and Michael Blood, “Villaraigosa Ethics Fine: Record Punishment Recommended After Mayor Accepts Free Tickets,” [The Associated Press](#), 4/1/11)

- **The Recommended Fines Would Be \$21,000 For The State, And Over \$20,000 For Los Angeles.** “Each agency recommended fines of roughly an equal amount – \$21,000 by the state commission for 21 counts for ethics violations, and \$20,849 for the remaining 12 counts by the Los Angeles regulators.” (Don Thompson and Michael Blood, “Villaraigosa Ethics Fine: Record Punishment Recommended After Mayor Accepts Free Tickets,” [The Associated Press](#), 4/1/11)

Villaraigosa Tried To Claim That The Tickets Weren’t Gifts Because He Attended The Events In An Official Capacity As Mayor. “In a statement, Villaraigosa said the violations were unintentional and that he did not consider the tickets as gifts. Rather, the mayor said he attended the events in his official capacity as mayor.” (Don Thompson and Michael Blood, “Villaraigosa Ethics Fine: Record Punishment Recommended After Mayor Accepts Free Tickets,” [The Associated Press](#), 4/1/11)

Events That Villaraigosa Attended Included A Spice Girls Concert, Academy Awards, Lakers And Dodgers Games, And American Idol. That action came after Villaraigosa acknowledged he had accepted tickets to events such as the Academy Awards, ‘American Idol’ finals, a Spice Girls concert and Los Angeles Lakers and Dodgers games.” (Don Thompson and Michael Blood,

“Villaraigosa Ethics Fine: Record Punishment Recommended After Mayor Accepts Free Tickets,” [The Associated Press](#), 4/1/11)

Villaraigosa Raised Over \$123,000 For Three Legal Defense Funds To Pay Off His Legal Fees And Fines. “According to fund-raising reports submitted this week, Villaraigosa raised \$123,500 for his three legal defense funds -- money he then used to pay fines and attorney fees. One fund is devoted to the Ethics Commission's ticket probe, a second deals with a district attorney's inquiry and a third addresses the bills racked up from an investigation by the state Fair Political Practices Commission.” (“Villaraigosa Raises \$123,500 To Pay Costs In Free-Ticket Scandal,” *Los Angeles Times*’ [L.A. Now](#)” Blog, 8/2/11)

During His 2009 Campaign, Villaraigosa Received Illegal Contributions From A Koreatown RealEstate Developer After The Mayor Promoted One Of His Properties:

Alexander Hugh, A Real Estate Developer From Koreatown, Was Forced To Pay Almost \$184,000 In Fines For Making Illegal Contributions To Villaraigosa’s 2009 Reelection Campaign. “A Koreatown real estate developer faces nearly \$184,000 in fines for allegedly making illegal contributions to the 2009 reelection campaign of L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. The city Ethics Commission meets Tuesday to decide how large a fine to hand Alexander Hugh, who was indicted by a grandjury earlier this year on charges that he conspired to circumvent campaign contribution limits, procured false documents and committed forgery.” (David Zahniser, “Villaraigosa Donor Faces Fines Up To \$184,000,” [Los Angeles Times](#), 10/11/11)

- **“Prosecutors Said They Have No Evidence That Villaraigosa Knew Of Hugh's Activities.”** (David Zahniser, “Villaraigosa Donor Faces Fines Up To \$184,000,” [Los Angeles Times](#), 10/11/11)

While On A Trade Mission To Asia In 2006, Villaraigosa Promoted One Of Hugh’s Development Projects. “Hugh traveled with Villaraigosa to Korea during the mayor's 2006 trade mission to Asia. During that trip, Villaraigosa held an event promoting the Emhurst Hotel, a development project planned by Hugh's company in Koreatown that was never completed.” (David Zahniser, “Villaraigosa Donor Faces Fines Up To \$184,000,” [Los Angeles Times](#), 10/11/11)

After Hugh’s Development Project Was Approved, He Held A Fundraiser For Villaraigosa And Asked 18 Donors To Contribute \$18,000, Then Hugh Reimbursed Them. “The project was approved in 2007 and a year later, Hugh hosted a fundraiser for Villaraigosa's reelection campaign. Hugh asked 18 donors to give a combined \$18,000 to Villaraigosa and then reimbursed each of them, according to Ethics Commission reports.” (David Zahniser, “Villaraigosa Donor Faces Fines Up To \$184,000,” [Los Angeles Times](#), 10/11/11)

- **“That Violated City Law, Which Limits Contributions In Mayoral Campaigns To \$1,000 Per Donor Per Election Cycle.”** (David Zahniser, “Villaraigosa Donor Faces Fines Up To \$184,000,” [Los Angeles Times](#), 10/11/11)

Villaraigosa Came Under Fire For The City’s Yacht:

Despite The City’s Financial Woes, Los Angeles Owns A Million-Dollar Yacht. “With the city going broke you may be surprised to find out that Los Angeles is the proud owner of a million dollar yacht and it is about to undergo hundreds of thousands of dollars in renovations at taxpayer expense.” (David Goldstein, “Taxpayer Money Used To Maintain Million-Dollar Yacht,” [CBS Los Angeles](#), 2/6/12)

Villaraigosa In Denial Over City Yacht. “‘It’s not a yacht. It’s a boat,’ Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa said.” (David Goldstein, “Taxpayer Money Used To Maintain Million-Dollar Yacht,” [CBS Los Angeles](#), 2/6/12)

The “Boat” Is “73 Feet Long And Worth About A Million Bucks.” “But whatever you call it, the Angelena II is 73 feet long and worth about a million bucks — according to a boat broker we contacted — and it is all your money.” (David Goldstein, “Taxpayer Money Used To Maintain Million-Dollar Yacht,” [CBS Los Angeles](#), 2/6/12)

Villaraigosa’s Marriage Ended Because Of An Affair With A Telemundo Reporter Who Was Assigned To Cover The Mayor:

After Filing For Divorce In 2007, It Became Public That Villaraigosa Was Engaged In An Affair With Telemundo Reporter Mirthala Salinas Who Was Assigned To Cover Local Politics And The Mayor. “Two hours later, Telemundo television anchor Mirthala Salinas delivered the story to her Spanish-language viewers on the Friday evening news. ... What Salinas, 35, did not say in the newscast was that she was the other woman. She and Villaraigosa, 54, had been in a relationship even though she had previously been the political reporter assigned to cover local politics and the mayor.” (Duke Helfand and Steve Hymon, “Mayor Reveals Romantic Link With TV Newscaster,” [Los Angeles Times](#), 7/4/07)

Villaraigosa’s Wife Had Previously Filed For Divorce In 1994 And His Two Adult Daughters Were Born Out Of Wedlock. “Villaraigosa's admission cast a fresh shadow over his own personal conduct: He has two adult daughters born out of wedlock and his wife filed for divorce in 1994 over a separate affair for which he later publicly apologized. They eventually reconciled.” (Duke Helfand and Steve Hymon, “Mayor Reveals Romantic Link With TV Newscaster,” [Los Angeles Times](#), 7/4/07)

There Are Ethical Questions About Villaraigosa’s Involvement With A Political Reporter Who Was Assigned To Cover Him. “The revelation also raised ethical questions about Salinas' decision to become involved with a politician she was covering as a journalist. Several media analysts condemned

the relationship as a conflict for her and the mayor and suggested that Salinas' bosses should have taken immediate action to remove her from handling any Villaraigosa coverage." (Duke Helfand and Steve Hyman, "Mayor Reveals Romantic Link With TV Newscaster," [Los Angeles Times](#), 7/4/07)

The Earliest Evidence Of A Relationship Dates Back To November 2005. "In November 2005 -- four months after he was sworn into office -- Villaraigosa was seen one evening by a resident of the Sherman Oaks condominium complex where Salinas lived at the time." (Duke Helfand and Steve Hyman, "Mayor Reveals Romantic Link With TV Newscaster," [Los Angeles Times](#), 7/4/07)