



City of East Palo Alto
Office of Councilmember Carlos Romero
City Hall – 2nd Floor 2415 University Avenue
East Palo Alto, CA 94303



July 2, 2025

Re: Rafael Prado Caballero Character Reference

To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Rafael Prado Caballero for four years, dating back to early 2022. Within this period, I worked with him in his capacity as a volunteer at our East Palo Alto COVID-19 vaccination clinics, as a project coordinator and outreach worker for Bay Area Community Health Advisor Council (BACHAC), and as a part-time City of East Palo employee working on community events and outreach activities.

Rafael was unflinching in his commitment to the East Palo Alto community during the dark days of the COVID-19 pandemic, volunteering and working long hours on evenings and weekends in order to inform and persuade our low-income community of color to vaccinate against the COVID-19 virus. Throughout this time, he has remained a trusted friend, whose generosity and honesty I have grown to appreciate.

I was truly astonished to hear that Rafael is accused of a crime involving a minor. During the time I worked closely with him he was constantly engaging with youth volunteers from East Palo Alto as well as with youth from Youth Community Service, an organization that actively works with youth and youth leaders to engage them in public service projects.

Illustrating this last point, as Mayor of East Palo Alto, Rafael and I would go door-to-door with youth assigned to us to canvass the thousands of apartments and homes in EPA. He was routinely tasked and paired with youth to distribute vaccination literature and engage residents in conversation. He was always kind, generous, and caring of the youth assigned to him. Moreover, he took the time to help animate and instruct the youth to be more effective in their outreach efforts. I never witnessed any inappropriate behavior or comments by Rafael when he was in the

presence of the youth volunteers. On the contrary, he was respectful with every youth and adult he came in contact with during our clinics and outreach engagements.

Based on my experience with Rafael as a volunteer and a BACHAC employee, I recommended him for a City of East Palo Alto part-time position in which he was required to interact with the public. Every time I encountered him within the city, he was always cheerful, diligent, and industrious. I have always known Rafael to be meticulous in all the matters in which our lives have touched.

In closing, I note that the allegation, as I understand it, bears no relation or similarity to the fastidious and conscientious person I know Rafael to be over the four years that I have known him. Without reservation, I can vouch for Rafael's character given my past work and interactions with him. I have always found him to be respectful of others and courteous to all. I hope the court will take into consideration all the circumstances surrounding the allegations against him and review carefully the facts.

Sincerely,



Carlos Romero



embarcadero foundation