

Local Briefs

PRPR HEAD DEFENDS PARTY'S ENDORSEMENTS

The head of the fledgling party Puerto Ricans for Puerto Rico said Saturday that the organization has not committed fraud in the collection of signatures to register the party with the State Elections Commission, after it was reported that the SEC is investigating an alleged pattern of problem endorsements.

Rogelio Figueroa confirmed that there are around 1,000 questionable signatures, but said the investigation stems from the SEC's efforts to try to block the certification of a new party.

"Some people within the SEC are very worried by the fact that we are about to reach 60,000 signatures, which will put us just 37,8000 signatures from being a new party," he said in a statement.

According to Figueroa, it was party Secretary Maximiliano Pérez who detected 11 irregular endorsements last week and notified the SEC. The signatures were collected last month in Yauco.

The notary public who was in charge of verifying the endorsements has been disqualified from the process, he said.