

Local Briefs



STAR FILE PHOTO

Rogelio Figueroa

FIGUEROA: 3 ELECTORAL CHIEFS TARGETING HIS FLEDGLING PRPR PARTY

Puerto Ricans for Puerto Rico President Rogelio Figueroa charged Wednesday that his upstart party is being targeted by the electoral commissioners from the island's three official political parties.

Figueroa claimed political persecution after a radio broadcast in which the electoral commissioners allegedly said they had launched a "deep investigation into the Puerto Ricans for Puerto Rico inscription process."

"Faced with our imminent inscription, the electoral commissioners are again acting in concert to try to maintain their monopoly on the voting options in Puerto Rico," Figueroa said in a statement.

He was referring to the electoral commissioners from the Popular Democratic Party, New Progressive Party and Puerto Rican Independence Party — the three political parties recognized and funded by the State Elections Commission.

Puerto Ricans for Puerto Rico has turned in 55,580 of the 97,960 signatures needed to win SEC certification as a political party and get a spot on the ballot in 2008.

"We are delivering nearly 8,000 endorsements per month, which leaves us just months away from having a voice and vote within the SEC," Figueroa said.

According to reports, the SEC is investigating an alleged pattern of irregularities in the endorsement signatures.

Figueroa complained that the three electoral commissioners will be "judge and plaintiff" in the probe.

The number of signatures under scrutiny could reach 1,000, according to Figueroa.