



For Immediate Release  
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## **TEXVAC Files Complaint with Texas Ethics Commission Regarding Rep. Linda Harper Brown**

Dallas—Today the Texas Values in Action Coalition (TEXVAC) filed a complaint with the Texas Ethics Commission regarding Rep. Linda Harper Brown's failure to report the gifts of two Mercedes Sedans and a Chevy Tahoe on her personal financial statements as required by Texas law.

"The Law is very clear that gifts in value of over \$250 must be reported on the Personal Financial Statement of a member of the Legislature," said Ed Cloutman, attorney representing TEXVAC. "A Mercedes Sedan and a Chevy Tahoe are certainly worth more than \$250, and Harper Brown should have reported them on her PFS."

TEXVAC has uncovered disturbing evidence that Linda Harper Brown is using her position in the Texas House to improperly benefit Paradigm and Durable Enterprises, two sister companies that are highway contractors for the state of Texas. Records from the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles show that Paradigm and Durable provide Harper Brown with a Mercedes and a Chevy Tahoe that she does not disclose in any official filing. In exchange it appears that Harper Brown helped secure millions in state and local transportation contracts for these companies.

In various press reports, Harper Brown and her husband, William E. Brown, III, have contended that the vehicles were compensation to her husband's accounting firm, and that Mr. Brown allowed her to use the Mercedes. Additionally, a recent Dallas Morning News article shows clearly that Linda Harper Brown does have financial control over her husband's business activities as "Harper-Brown told *The Dallas Morning News* that she was **directing her husband to rework his compensation** package from the company to exclude the cars. In theory, Brown would instead receive cash and then buy vehicles on his own. He said he could end up with the cars, but they would be in his name."  
(DMN, 6/29/10)

"Even though Linda Harper Brown claims these vehicles were compensation to her husband's accounting firm, she still would have been required to report these vehicles as gifts on her personal financial statement," said Ed Cloutman. "The law requires you to report the business activities of spouses over which you have actual control and gifts

from business entities. Harper Brown triggers both requirements and should have reported the cars.”

“This is far beyond election year politics,” said Cloutman. “During the course of conducting standard research TEXVAC became so alarmed at these findings that we felt it was necessary to refer this case to the proper authorities. Unless there are facts that we could not uncover from the public record, it appears that Harper Brown has engaged in a systematic and ongoing violation of the public trust where she has used her position on powerful committees in the Texas House to enrich herself and her friends.”

Linda Harper Brown is a member of the Texas House representing District 105 in Irving. Immediately upon taking office in 2003, she secured a change in state law that directly benefited Paradigm and Durable Enterprises by allowing them to sell ‘red light cameras’ to Texas municipalities. Since 2003 Harper Brown has been provided with a total of three vehicles by Durable Enterprises—including two Mercedes E-Class sedans—none of which were reported or disclosed on her personal financial statements or campaign finance reports. TEXVAC has already referred this matter to the Travis County District Attorney and the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Texas.

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*Paid for by TEXVAC*