

**BEFORE THE OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF ELECTIONS
1015 HALF STREET, SE SUITE 775
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003
Telephone: (202) 671-0547
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IN THE MATTER OF

Lannette Woodruff for School Board
C/o Lamont Harrell, Treasurer
4513 Clay Street, NE
Washington, DC 20019

)
) Date: January 15, 2019
)
) Docket No: 2018 C-049
)
)

ORDER

Statement of the Case

This matter came before the Office of Campaign Finance ("OCF") Office of the General Counsel following a determination by its Public Information and Records Management Division that Lamont Harrell, Treasurer of the Lannette Woodruff for School Board Principal Campaign Committee ("committee"), failed to timely file the July 31st Report of Receipts and Expenditures that was due by the extended filing date of August 16, 2018; in violation of the Campaign Finance Act of 2011, District of Columbia Official Code § 1-1163.09(b) (2015), and the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, 3 DCMR § 3017.2 (May 2015).

By Notice of Hearing, Statement of Violations and Order of Appearance dated September 5, 2018 and September 25, 2018, OCF ordered Lamont Harrell ("Respondent") to appear at a scheduled hearing on Thursday September 20, 2018 and Wednesday October 10, 2018 and show cause why the Respondent should not be found in violation of the D.C. Official Code § 1-1163.09(b) (2015) and 3 DCMR § 3017.2 (May 2015), and fined accordingly.

Summary of Evidence

On July 17, 2018, the Public Information and Records Management ("PIRM") Division mailed a letter to the Respondent that reminded the Respondent to file the July 31st Report of Receipts and Expenditures ("July 31st Report") on or before July 31, 2018. Respondent failed to comply. Thus, on August 6, 2018, PIRM mailed a non-compliance letter to the Respondent that informed the Respondent to file the July 31st Report by the extended filing date of August 17, 2018. Again, the Respondent failed to comply. Accordingly, the matter was referred to the Office of the General Counsel for enforcement of the filing violation.

On September 5, 2018, OCF served a *Notice of Hearing, Statement of Violations and Order of Appearance* ("Notice") upon the Respondent, via regular mail that ordered the Respondent to appear at a scheduled hearing on Thursday September 20, 2018. Respondent failed to appear at the hearing. On September 25, 2018, OCF mailed a second *Notice* to the Respondent, via regular mail and certified mail that ordered the Respondent to appear for a rescheduled hearing on Wednesday October 10, 2018. Again, the Respondent failed to appear and had not filed the July 31st Report of Receipts and Expenditures. As of October 10, 2018, the Respondent had not filed the July 31st Report, which became 37 business days past due.

Findings of Fact

Having reviewed the allegations and the record herein, I find:

1. Respondent is the Treasurer of the Lannette Woodruff for School Board Principal Campaign Committee.
2. Respondent was required to file the July 31st Report of Receipts and Expenditures by the extended filing date of August 16, 2018.
3. Respondent failed to file the July 31st Report by August 16, 2018.
4. Respondent failed to appear at either scheduled hearing on Thursday September 20, 2018 or Wednesday October 10, 2018.
5. None of the notices sent via regular or certified mail was returned to OCF marked "unclaimed".
6. As of October 10, 2018, the Respondent had not filed the July 31st Report, which became thirty-seven (37) business days past due.
7. Respondent has a history of delinquent and failed filings and currently remains in noncompliance of the reporting and disclosure requirements under the Campaign Finance Laws.

Conclusions of Law

Based on the record provided by OCF, I therefore conclude:

1. Respondent violated D.C. Official Code § 1-1163.09) (b) (2015) and 3 DCMR § 3017.2 (May 2015).
2. 3 DCMR § 3711.2(f) establishes a fifty dollar (\$50) a day fine for failure to timely file a Report of Receipts and Expenditures.
3. 3 DCMR § 3711.1 maintains that a fine shall attach for each day of noncompliance; up to a maximum of **\$1850.00**, pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 1-1163.35(a) (3).
4. The Director may ministerially impose fines upon the treasurer, candidate, committee, or designated agent, pursuant to 3 DCMR § 3711.1.
5. For good cause shown pursuant to 3 DCMR § 3711.7, the Director of Campaign Finance (Director) may modify, rescind, dismiss or suspend any fine.
6. Respondent was required to file the July 31st Report of Receipts and Expenditures by the extended filing date of August 16, 2017.
7. Respondent failed to file the July 31st Report by August 16, 2017.
8. Respondent failed to appear at either scheduled hearing on September 20, 2018 or October 10, 2018.

9. As of October 3, 2017, the Respondent had not filed the July 31st Report, which became thirty-seven (37) business days past due.
10. Respondent is found in violation of the campaign finance law by default judgment.
11. Respondent has a history of delinquent and failed filings and currently remains in noncompliance of the reporting and disclosure requirements under the Campaign Finance Laws.

Recommendation

In view of the foregoing and information included in the record, I **HEREBY RECOMMEND** that the Director **IMPOSE** a fine in the amount of \$1,850.00 against the Lannette Woodruff for School Board Committee in this matter.

Date

January 15, 2019

Leonard Muhammad
Leonard Muhammad
Attorney-Advisor

Concurrence

In view of the foregoing, I hereby **CONCUR** with the Recommendation.

Date

January 15, 2019

William O. SanFord
William O. SanFord
General Counsel

ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR

IT IS ORDERED that the imposition of a fine in the amount of \$1,850.00 **SHALL BE IMPOSED** against the Lannette Woodruff for School Board Committee in this matter.

Date

January 15, 2019

Cecily E. Collier-Montgomery
Cecily E. Collier-Montgomery
Director

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that a true copy of the **ORDER** has been served on Lamont Harrell via regular mail and certified mail at 4513 Clay Street, NE Washington, DC 20019 on this 15th day of January 2019.



Notice

Any party adversely affected by an Order of the Director may: (1) file a Motion for Reconsideration (Motion) with the OCF within five (5) days after receipt of an Order, provided that, relevant evidence was omitted from consideration at the hearing (3 DCMR § 3709.13); or (2) obtain review of the Order by filing a request for a hearing *de novo* with the Board of Elections within fifteen (15) days from the date of issuance of an Order. Any fine imposed by the Director, pursuant to § 3711.2 shall become effective on the sixteenth (16th) day following the issuance of a decision or Order; provided that, the Respondent does not request a hearing *de novo* with the Board of Elections. Fines imposed shall be paid within ten (10) days of the effective date of the issued Order of the Director. Make payment by check or money order, payable to: District of Columbia Treasurer. Send payment to the *Office of Campaign Finance, 1015 Half Street, SE Suite 775 Washington, DC 20003*.