

**BEFORE THE OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF ELECTIONS
1015 HALF STREET, S.E., SUITE 775
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003**

IN THE MATTER OF

Marquell Merlin Washington
ANC Candidate, ANC 6D01
950 Maine Avenue, SW – Apt. E-710
Washington, D.C. 20024
marquell.washington@udc.edu

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Date: August 21, 2025
Docket No: 2025-A-015

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: Marquell Merlin Washington, Candidate for ANC 6D01 in the General Election 2024 failed to timely file the ANC Financial Summary Statement that was due on February 3, 2025 in violation of the Campaign Finance Act of 2011, and the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, 3 DCMR §§ 3002.6 and 3002.7 (July 2019).

By Notice of Hearing, Statement of Violations and Order of Appearance dated July 3, 2025, the Office of the General Counsel ordered Marquell Merlin Washington (“Respondent”) to appear at a scheduled hearing on July 18, 2025, and show cause why the Respondent should not be found in violation of District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, 3 DCMR §§ 3002.6 and 3002.7 (July 2019) and fined accordingly.

Summary of Evidence

On December 24, 2024, the Public Information and Records Management (“PIRM”) Division emailed a Reminder Notice to the Respondent to file the ANC Financial Summary Statement. Initial Notices of Non-Compliance were emailed to the Respondent on March 6, 2025, March 19, 2025, and April 9, 2025, extending the deadline to April 18, 2025. However, the Respondent failed to comply after the afore-mentioned Notices. Consequently, the Respondent’s apparent disregard to adhere to the filing requirements under the Campaign Finance Laws demonstrated sufficient cause to refer the alleged violation to the Office of the General Counsel (“OGC”) for possible enforcement.

On July 3, 2025, OGC issued a Notice of Hearing and Statement of Violations via email and U.S. regular mail to the Respondent. The Notice explained that the Respondent had to file the ANC Financial Summary Statement by July 11, 2025, and attend the hearing on July 18, 2025, to show cause why Respondent should not be fined for failing to file the ANC Financial Summary Statement by the deadline.

Findings of Fact

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

1. The Respondent was an ANC Candidate for ANC 6D01.
2. Initial Notices of Non-Compliance were emailed to the Respondent on March 6, 2025, March 19, 2025, and April 9, 2025, extending the deadline to April 18, 2025.
3. Respondent did not comply.
4. By a Notice of Hearing and Statement of Violations dated July 3, 2025, OGC ordered the Respondent to file the ANC Financial Summary Statement by July 11, 2025, and appear at a virtual hearing on July 18, 2025, to show cause why Respondent had not timely filed the ANC Financial Summary Statement and should not be fined accordingly.
5. Respondent appeared at the virtual hearing.
6. Respondent testified that he experienced an unforeseen significant medical condition, and was seen by medical professional.
7. Respondent testified that he did not raise any funds nor did he spend any money on the campaign.
8. Respondent testified that he needs disability assistance to file and would like a waiver.
9. Respondent testified that he would work with OCF to complete and submit the ANC Statement.
10. Respondent filed the ANC Statement on August 20, 2025, and is now compliant.

Conclusions of Law

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

1. Respondent violated 3 D.C.M.R. §§ 3002.6 and 3002.7 (July 2019).
2. 3 DCMR §§ 3711.2(s), 3711.5, and 3711.6, established a fifty-dollar (\$50) fine per day, not including Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, for non-compliance up to a maximum of \$4000.
3. The Director may ministerially impose fines upon the candidate, Treasurer/Candidate, committee, or designated agent pursuant to 3 DCMR § 3711.1.
4. For good cause shown pursuant to 3 DCMR § 3711.8, the Director of the Office of Campaign Finance (Director) may modify, rescind, dismiss, or suspend any fine.
5. At all times pertinent, the Respondent was required to file the ANC Financial Summary Statement by the extended filing date of April 18, 2025, but failed to comply.

6. Respondent filed the ANC Financial Summary Statement on August 20, 2025, and can be fined up to eighty-five (85) days for a total fine of \$ 4,000, in this matter.

Recommendation

In view of the foregoing and information included in the record, I HEREBY RECOMMEND that the Director suspend the \$ 4,000 fine against Marquell Merlin Washington, ANC Candidate, in this matter.

August 21, 2025
Date

/s/ Nereida Gonzalez
Nereida Gonzalez
Attorney Advisor

Concurrence

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

August 21, 2025
Date

/s/ William O. SanFord
William O. SanFord
General Counsel

ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR

IT IS ORDERED that the fine for \$ 4,000 against Marquell Merlin Washington, ANC Candidate, shall be suspended in this matter.

August 21, 2025
Date

/s/ 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 to Marquell Merlin Washington, Candidate ANC 6D01 via certified mail at 950 Maine Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20024, and electronic mail at marquell.washington@udc.edu on this 21st day of August, 2025.

/s/ Nereida Gonzalez
Nereida Gonzalez

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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/Candidate. Send payment to the *Office of Campaign Finance, 1015 Half Street S.E., Suite 775, Washington, DC 20003*.