

**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

Ward Seven Democrats
Victor Horton, Treasurer
5123 A Street SE
Washington, DC 20019
Victor.horton@gmail.com

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) Date: April 9, 2025
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) Docket No: 2024 P-043
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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: **Victor Horton, Treasurer** of the Ward Seven Democrats, political action committee (“committee”), failed to timely file the December 10th Report of Receipts and Expenditures that was due on December 10, 2024, in violation of the Campaign Finance Act of 2011, District of Columbia Official Code § 1-1163.09 et. seq. and the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, 3 DCMR § 3017.2 et. seq.

By Notice of Hearing, Statement of Violations and Order of Appearance dated January 22, 2025, the Office of the General Counsel (“OGC”) ordered Victor Horton, (“Respondent”) to appear at a scheduled virtual hearing on February 4, 2025, and show cause why the Respondent should not be found in violation of the D.C. Official Code § 1-1163.09 et. seq. and 3 DCMR § 3017.2 et. seq. and fined accordingly.

Summary of Evidence

On February 4, 2025, Victor Horton (“Respondent”) appeared pro se to answer the alleged filing violation. Laura McQueen, Legal Instruments Examiner, appeared on behalf of the Office of Campaign Finance (“OCF”). Ms. McQueen testified that the Respondent failed to timely file the December 10th Report of Receipts and Expenditures that was due on December 10, 2024, in violation of the Campaign Finance Act of 2011, District of Columbia Official Code § 1-1163.09 et. seq. and the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, 3 DCMR § 3017.2, et. seq.

The Respondent explained that he inadvertently missed the filing deadline date due personal travel plans. The Respondent further explained that he traveled out of the country during the months of December 2024 and January 2025. After the Respondent’s return home, the Respondent discovered that he had missed the December 10th Report filing date. The Respondent filed the December 10th Report on January 24, 2025. Thus, the Respondent and the committee are now in compliance with the December 10th Report of Receipts and Expenditures filing requirements under the Campaign Finance Laws.

Findings of Fact

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

1. The Respondent is the Treasurer of the Ward Seven Democrats Political Action Committee.
2. At all times pertinent, the Respondent was required to file the December 10th Report of Receipts and Expenditures by December 10, 2024.
3. The Respondent failed to file the December 10th Report on December 10, 2024.
4. By Notice of Hearing, Statement of Violations and Order of Appearance dated January 22, 2025, the OGC ordered the Respondent to appear at a scheduled virtual hearing on February 4, 2025, to respond to the alleged violations.
5. The Respondent appeared at the scheduled hearing on February 4, 2025, and provided a credible explanation for the untimely filing of the December 10th Report.
6. Respondent filed the December 10th Report on January 24, 2025.
7. To date, the Respondent and the committee remain compliant with the filing and reporting requirements under the Campaign Finance Laws.

Conclusions of Law

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

1. The Respondent violated D.C. Official Code § 1-1163.09 (a)(1)(b) and 3 DCMR § 3017.2.
2. 3 DCMR § 3711.2(f) established a fifty-dollar (\$50) fine, per day, 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 **\$1,600.00**, pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 1-1163.35(a)(3).
4. The Director may ministerially impose fines upon the candidate, treasurer, committee, or designated agent, pursuant to 3 DCMR § 3711.1.
5. For good cause shown pursuant to 3 DCMR § 3711.8, the Director of Campaign Finance (Director) may modify, rescind, dismiss, or suspend any fine.
6. At all times pertinent, the Respondent was required to file the December 10th Report of Receipts and Expenditures on December 10, 2024, but failed to comply.

7. The Respondent appeared at the scheduled hearing on February 4, 2025, and provided a credible explanation for the untimely filing of the December 10th Report.
8. Respondent filed the December 10th Report on January 24, 2025.
9. To date, the Respondent and the committee remain compliant with the filing and reporting requirements under the Campaign Finance Laws.

Recommendation

In view of the foregoing and information included in the record, **I HEREBY RECOMMEND** that the Director **SUSPEND** the imposition of any fine against Victor Horton, Treasurer and the Ward Seven Democrats Committee in this matter.

April 9, 2025

Date

/s/ Kalvanetta K. Peete

Kalvanetta K. Peete
Hearing Officer

Concurrence

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

April 9, 2025

Date

/s/ William O. Sanford

William O. Sanford
General Counsel

ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR

IT IS ORDERED that the imposition of any fine is hereby **SUSPENDED** against Victor Horton, Treasurer and the Ward Seven Democrats Committee in this matter.

April 9, 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 on Victor Horton, Treasurer, via electronic mail to: victor.horton@gmail.com on this 9th day of April 2025.

/Kalvanetta K. Peete/

Kalvanetta K. Peete

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 S.E., Suite 775, Washington, DC 20003*.