

**BEFORE THE OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF ELECTIONS
1015 Half Street, S.E., Suite 775
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003
Telephone: (202) 671-0547**

IN THE MATTER OF)	
)	
Ward 5 Democratic Committee)	
)	
Allison Defoe Reese, Treasurer)	Docket No.: 2025-P-003
3149 Hawthorne Drive, NE)	
Washington, D.C. 20017)	
)	
Harry Thomas, Jr., Chairperson)	August 15, 2025
2413 17 th Street, NE)	
Washington, D.C. 20018)	

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, the Ward 5 Democratic Committee (“Committee”), a Political Action Committee; Harry Thomas, Jr. (“Chairperson”) and Allison D. Reese (“Treasurer”) (respectively “Respondents”) failed to timely file the January 31st Report of Receipts and Expenditures (“January 31st Report”), which was due on the extended deadline of February 19, 2025. By *Notice of Hearing, Statement of Violations and Order of Appearance*, dated June 20, 2025, Respondent was ordered to appear by virtual hearing and to show cause why Respondents should not be found in violation of the Campaign Finance Act of 2011, D.C. Official Code § 1-1163.09 et. seq. and 3 D.C.M.R. § 3017.2, and fined accordingly.

Summary of Evidence

On September 29, 1987, the Committee was registered as a Political Action Committee. On February 5, 2025 and February 7, 2025, the Public Information and Records Management (“PIRM”) Division sent Notices of Non-Compliance extending their filing deadline to February 19, 2025. Thereafter, Respondents failed to file the January 31st Report.

Based on Respondents failure to timely file the January 31st Report, the PIRM Division referred Respondents to the Office of General Counsel (“OGC”) for the violation of failure to file the January 31st Report; to address the violation and enforce the appropriate D.C. Code and Municipal Regulations. On June 20, 2025, OGC issued a *Notice of Hearing, Statement of Violations and Order of Appearance* (“Notice”) to Respondent for a virtual hearing to be held on July 10, 2025. Respondents requested an extension, which was granted and the hearing was moved to July 24, 2025. Thereafter, the hearing was again moved to July 30, 2025.

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Respondents also contacted the OGC and indicated that January 31st Report had been filed after a previous hearing to address a similar violation. After reviewing the Committee's records, it was noted that the Committee filed the January 31st Report on June 15, 2025, five (5) days before the Notice had been issued.

Findings of Fact

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

1. On September 29, 1987, Ward 5 Democratic Committee was registered as Political Action Committee.
2. The Chairperson of the Committee is Harry Thomas, Jr.
3. The Treasurer of the Committee is Allison Defoe-Reese.
1. Respondents filed the January 31st Report on June 15, 2025 and cured the alleged violation, before the Notice was filed by OGC on June 20, 2025.

Conclusions of Law

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

2. Respondent violated D.C. Official Code § 1-1163.09 (a)(2)(b) and 3 D.C.M.R. § 3017.2.
3. Pursuant to 3 D.C.M.R. Section 3711.2(f), the Director may fine Respondents for failure to file a Report of Receipts and Expenditures, per day, per violation, not including Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, at fifty dollars (\$50) per day.
4. Pursuant to 3 D.C.M.R. Section 3711.1, the Director may ministerially impose fines upon Respondents in the following manner: for one (1) violation, and the fine shall attach for each day of non-compliance for the violation, which total \$ 4,000, in this matter.
5. Pursuant to 3 D.C.M.R. Section 3711.1, the Director may ministerially impose fines upon the candidate, treasurer, committee, or designated agent.
6. Pursuant to 3 D.C.M.R. Section 3711.8, the Director may modify, rescind, dismiss or suspend any fine, for good cause.
7. At all times pertinent, Respondents were required to file the January 31st Report no later than February 19, 2025.

Recommendations

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In view of the foregoing and information in the Committee’s records, I **HEREBY RECOMMEND** that the Director withdraw the Notice and suspend the fine against Allison Defoe Reese, Treasurer; Harry Thomas, Jr., Chairperson, and the Ward 5 Democratic Committee, in this matter.

8/15/2025
Date

/s/ Nereida Gonzalez
Attorney Advisor

Concurrence

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

8/15/2025
Date

/s/ William SanFord
General Counsel

ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR

IT IS ORDERED that the Notice is withdrawn and the fine is suspended against Allison Defoe Reese, Treasurer; Harry Thomas, Jr., Chairperson, and Ward 5 Democratic Committee, in this matter.

8/15/2025
Date

/s/ Cecily E. Collier Montgomery
Executive Director

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that a true copy of the Order has been served to Allison Defoe Reese, Treasurer, at 3149 Hawthorne Drive, NE, Washington, DC 20017 and areese@anr-cm.com; and Harry Thomas, Jr., Chairperson, at 2413 17th Street, NE, Washington, DC 20017 and hltelitedev@gmail.com.

NOTICE

Pursuant to 3 D.C.M.R. § 3709.11 and § 3709.12, any party adversely affected by any order of the Director may obtain review of the order by filing, with the Board of Elections, a request for a hearing de novo within fifteen (15) days from the date of issuance by the Director of an order, or pursuant to 3 D.C.M.R. § 3709.13, within five (5) days after receipt of an order of the Director, where a fine has been imposed, a respondent may file a (1) file a Motion for Reconsideration (“Motion”) with OCF, to address issues considered mitigating that were not presented during the hearing. The Motion shall not address issues that were not the subject of the alleged violation for which the penalty was assessed. Any fine imposed by the Director, pursuant to 3 D.C.M.R. §§ 3711.2, 3711.3 and 3711.4, shall become effective on the sixteenth (16th) day following the issuance of a decision or order; provided that, 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 issuance of an Order of the Director. Payments made by check or money order, shall be payable to: District of Columbia Treasurer and sent to Office of Campaign Finance, 1015 Half Street S.E., Suite 775, Washington, D.C. 20003.