

BEFORE THE OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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IN THE MATTER OF)
Ward 5 Democratic Committee)
Harry Thomas Jr., Chairperson)
2413 17th St. NE)
Washington, DC 20018)
Allison D. Reese, Treasurer)
3149 Hawthorne Drive, NE)
Washington, DC 20017)

Docket No.:2026 P-001
April 7, 2026

ORDER

Statement of the Case

This matter came before the Office of Campaign Finance (“OCF”) Office of the General Counsel (“OGC”) following a determination by its Public Information and Records Management Division (PIRM) that Harry Thomas Jr., Chairperson and Allison D. Reese, Treasurer, of the Ward 5 Democratic Committee, Political Action Committee (“Committee”), (“Respondents”) failed to timely file the January 31, 2026, Report of Receipts and Expenditures (“January 31, 2026, Report”) that was due by the extended date of February 13, 2026, in violation of the Campaign Finance Act of 2011, District of Columbia Official Code § 1-1163.09(a) and (b) and the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, 3 DCMR § 3017.2. By Notice of Hearing, Statement of Violations and Order of Appearance dated March 4, 2026, OCF ordered Respondents to show cause why they should not be found in violation of the D.C. Official Code § 1-1163.09(a) and (b) and 3 DCMR § 3017.2 and fined accordingly.

Summary of Evidence

Respondents failed to timely file the January 31, 2026, Report. Based upon Respondents’ failure to timely file the required January 31, 2026, Report, PIRM referred the violation to the OCF’s Office of the General Counsel for enforcement. On March 4, 2026, OGC issued a Notice of Hearing, Statement of Violations and Order of Appearance to Respondents, via electronic mail, and regular mail ordering Respondents to show cause why they should not be found in violation of the D.C. Official Code § 1-1163.09(a) and (b) and fined accordingly. A hearing on this matter was scheduled for April 1, 2026.

April 1, 2026, virtual show cause hearing was held by OGC Attorney Advisor, Belinda Kittles Perry, with Laura McQueen present as a witness for PRIM, and Respondent, Chairperson Harry Thomas Jr., as a witness for the Committee. The Committee's Treasurer, Allison D. Reese, was not present.

1. Respondent, Harry Thomas Jr, testified that Ms. Reese, who did not attend an Entrance Conference with the OCF, was no longer the Treasurer, due to the expiration of her term, pursuant to the bylaws of the Committee and that he will ensure the completion of the withdrawal of position as treasurer form, with OCF.
2. Respondent, Thomas Jr. further testified that the position of treasurer has not been filled because no one has run for this elected position, which resulted in an oversight regarding the timely filing of January 31, 2026, Report. He also stated that he will contact Ms. Key, following the hearing to resolve the delinquent filing and completion of the withdrawal form of Treasurer, with the OCF, which he did.
3. Respondent, Thomas Jr. appeared remorseful and apologetic throughout the hearing and requested leniency in the imposition of a fine, which would result in financial hardship to the Committee.

Findings of Fact

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

1. Respondent Thomas Jr. is the Chairman of the Ward 5 Democratic Committee, Political Action Committee.
2. At all times pertinent, Respondents were required to file the January 31, 2026, Report by the extended filing date, February 13, 2026. The Committee undertook instant remedial action and came into compliance by filing the delinquent report immediately following the hearing.
3. At present, Respondents are not compliant with the filing of January 31, 2026, Report.
4. Respondent Treasurer did not attend the OCF Mandatory Entrance Conference.
5. Respondent Committee file the extant report on March 1, 2026.

Conclusions of Law

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

1. Respondents violated D.C. Official Code § 1-1163.09)(a) and (b) and 3 DCMR § 3017.2.
2. 3 DCMR § 3711.2(f) established a Fifty (\$50.00) Dollar fine, per day, for failure to timely file a Report of Receipts and Expenditures.
3. 3 DCMR § 3711.1(b) maintains that a fine shall attach for each day of noncompliance; up to a maximum of One Thousand Six Hundred (\$1,600.00) Dollars, in this matter.
4. The Director of Campaign Finance (“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 may modify, rescind, dismiss, or suspend any fine.
6. At all times pertinent, Respondents were required to file the January 31, 2026, Report by the extended filing date on, February 13, 2026.
7. The Director may impose a civil penalty in the maximum amount of One Thousand Six Hundred (\$1,600.00) Dollars, which is equal to 32 days of noncompliance.

Recommendation

In view of the foregoing information included in the record, and for good cause shown I HEREBY RECOMMEND that the Director impose a fine in the amount of One Thousand Six Hundred (\$1,600.00) Dollars against the Ward 5 Democratic Committee, Political Action Committee in this matter and that the imposition of the fine be suspended.

April 7, 2026

/s/ Belinda Kittles Perry

Date

Belinda Kittles

Perry, Attorney Advisor

Concurrence

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

April 7, 2026

/s/ William O. SanFord

Date

William O. SanFord, General Counsel

ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR

IT IS ORDERED that, for good cause shown, a fine, in the amount of One Thousand Six Hundred (\$1,600.00) Dollars, in this matter SHALL BE imposed against Ward 5 Democratic Committee, Political Action Committee and it is

FURTHERED ORDERED that

the imposition of the fine, in the amount of One Thousand Six Hundred (\$1,600.00) Dollars, SHALL BE suspended.

April 7, 2026

/s/ Cecily E. Collier Montgomery

Date

Cecily E. Collier-Montgomery
Director

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that a true copy of the **ORDER** has been served on Allison D. Reese Treasurer, and Harry Thomas Jr., Chairperson, for the Ward 5 Democratic Committee, Political Action Committee, by certified mail at 3149 Hawthorne Drive, NE, Washington DC 20017 and 2413 17th St., NE, Washington DC, 20018, respectively, this 7th day of April 2026.

/s/ Belinda Kittles Perry

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 2003*.