

**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**

Economic Protection Party  
Margaret Smith, Treasurer  
1211 5<sup>th</sup> Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
Economicprotectionparty@gmail.com

)  
) Date: May 28, 2025  
)  
) Docket No: 2025 P-002  
)  
)  
)  
)  
)

**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: **Margaret Smith, Treasurer** of the Economic Protection Party, Political Action Committee (“committee”), failed to timely file the March 10<sup>th</sup> Report of Receipts and Expenditures that was due on March 11, 2024, in violation of the Campaign Finance Act of 2011, District of Columbia Official Code § 1-1163.09 and the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, 3 DCMR § 3017.2.

By Notice of Hearing, Statement of Violations and Order of Appearance dated April 11, 2025, the Office of the General Counsel (“OGC”) ordered Margaret Smith, Treasurer and/or Asar Mustafa, Chairperson (“Respondents”) to appear at a scheduled virtual hearing on April 30, 2025, and show cause why the Respondents should not be found in violation of the D.C. Official Code § 1-1163.09 and 3 DCMR § 3017.2 and fined accordingly.

**Summary of Evidence**

On April 11, 2025, OGC issued notice to the Respondents to appear at a scheduled virtual hearing on April 30, 2025. In the notice, OGC offered the Respondents the opportunity to submit a written Statement of Explanation (“Statement”) in lieu of appearing at the scheduled hearing on April 30, 2025, that explained the reason(s) for the untimely filing of the December 10<sup>th</sup> Report.

On April 17, 2025, the Respondents provided a type-written Statement, via email to OGC. In the Statement, the Respondents explained that the March 10<sup>th</sup> Report had been prepared and electronically submitted in March 2024. In the Statement, the Respondents further explained that they experienced technical difficulties while using the OCF online filing system, at the time of filing the March 10<sup>th</sup> Report. The Respondents now realized that the technical issues they encountered may interfered with the transmission of the report. However, upon notice from OGC regarding the delinquent report, the Respondents successfully filed the March 10<sup>th</sup> Report filing on April 16, 2025. Therefore, the Respondents and the committee are now compliant with the reporting and disclosure requirements of the March 10<sup>th</sup> Report of Receipts and Expenditures.

**Findings of Fact**

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

1. Margaret Smith is the Treasurer and Asar Mustafa is the Chairperson of the Economic Protection Party Political Action Committee.
2. At all times pertinent, the Respondents were required to file the March 10<sup>th</sup> Report of Receipts and Expenditures by March 11, 2024.
3. The Respondents failed to file the March 10<sup>th</sup> Report on March 11, 2024.
4. By Notice of Hearing, Statement of Violations and Order of Appearance dated April 11, 2025, the OGC ordered the Respondents to appear at a scheduled virtual hearing on April 30, 2025, to answer the alleged violations.
5. On April 17, 2025, the Respondents opted to submit a Statement explaining the reason(s) for the untimely filing of the March 10<sup>th</sup> Report in lieu of appearing at the rescheduled hearing on April 30, 2025.
6. The Respondents explained that the March 10<sup>th</sup> Report was filed in March 2024; however, the Respondents now realized that the technical issues they experienced when attempting to file the report made have not been successfully transmitted as expected.
7. Upon notice of the delinquent filing, the Respondents filed the March 10<sup>th</sup> Report on April 16, 2025.
8. The Respondents and the committee are now compliant with the reporting and disclosure requirements of the March 10<sup>th</sup> Report filing and do not have a significant history of other delinquent report filings.

**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 \$4,000, 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 Respondents were required to file the March 10<sup>th</sup> Report of Receipts and Expenditures on March 11, 2024, but failed to comply.
7. The Respondents provided a credible explanation for the untimely filing of the March 10<sup>th</sup> Report.
8. The March 10<sup>th</sup> Report was filed on April 16, 2025.
9. To date, the Respondents and the committee remain compliant with 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 **SUSPEND** the imposition of any fine against Margaret Smith, Treasurer and the Economic Protection Party Committee in this matter.

May 28, 2025

Date

*/s/ Kalvanetta K. Peete*

**Kalvanetta K. Peete**  
**Hearing Officer**

**Concurrence**

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

May 28, 2025

Date

*/s/ William O. SanFord*

**William O. SanFord**  
**General Counsel**

**ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR**

**IT IS ORDERED** that the imposition of a fine is hereby **SUSPENDED** against Margaret Smith, Treasurer and the Economic Protection Party Committee in this matter.

May 28, 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 Margaret Smith, Treasurer and Asar Mustafa, Chairperson, via electronic mail to: economicprotectionparty@gmail.com on this 28th day of May 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 (16<sup>th</sup>) 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*.