

**BEFORE THE OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF ELECTIONS
1015 HALF STREET, SE SUITE 775
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003
Telephone: (202) 671-0547
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IN THE MATTER OF)
)
Re-Elect Trayon White 2024) Docket No: 2025 R-003
Antioniese Ruffin, Treasurer)
4135 Wheeler Road, SE)
Washington, D.C. 20032)

**RESPONSE TO RESPONDENT’S MOTION TO STAY
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS**

Statement of the Case:

This matter came before the Office of Campaign Finance (hereinafter OCF), Office of the General Counsel following a Motion to Stay by Trayon White (hereinafter Respondent and Councilmember Elect) from an Order of the Director dated July 31, 2025, in which Respondent was ordered to appear for a virtual teleconference hearing scheduled for August 20, 2025, and SHOW CAUSE why he should not be found in violation of the Campaign Finance Act of 2011, 3 DCMR § 3017.2 and the D.C. Official Code §1-1163.09(b) for failure to adequately respond to the Audit staff’s request for documentation based on the Preliminary Draft Report.

Respondent by and through counsel moves to stay the administrative proceedings pending the resolution of a federal criminal bribery trial against the Trayon White and the Re-Elect Trayon White 2024 campaign committee. Respondent asserts that “the current Administrative Hearing overlaps with the time period and subject matter pending in the federal criminal bribery trial against the Respondent and Re-Elect Trayon White 2024. Moreover, being ordered to testify violates Respondent’s protection against self-incrimination under the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution. Therefore, Respondent requests that OCF temporarily stay all administrative proceedings before OCF related to the Councilmember-Elect until the conclusion of the federal criminal bribery trial”.

Fifth Amendment Concerns:

Respondent further asserts that the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution protects individuals from being compelled to be a witness against themselves in any criminal case. To require the Respondent to participate in the OCF proceedings while the federal criminal case is pending would force him to waive his Fifth Amendment rights or face potential adverse consequences in the administrative proceedings for invoking those rights. Allowing the administrative proceedings to continue while the federal criminal trial is pending could undermine Respondent's Fifth Amendment privilege. *SEC v. Dresser Industries, Inc.*, 628 F.2d 1376.

Difference Between Continuance and a Stay

In deciding whether to grant or deny a motion for continuance or stays the courts may exercise broad discretion. *Chevon Corp. v. Donziger*, 970 F. Supp. 2d 214, *Williams v. Johanns*, 518 F. Supp.2d 205.

Legally, a motion for Continuance delays a scheduled court event such as a hearing or trial, to a new, specific date. “[I]t is typically sought for practical reasons, such as scheduling conflicts, a postponement of a specific event or hearing. *Doe v. United States Dist. Court (In re Doe)*, 50 F.4th 1247.

While a stay is a broader procedural mechanism that temporarily halts all or part of the legal proceeding without setting a specific date, often until a condition is met or a higher court rules. “It is often used to preserve the status quo, such as in bankruptcy cases.” *Ritzen Grp., Inc. v. Jackson Masonry, LLC*, 589 U.S. 35, § 2200.63 Stay of proceedings.

During the administrative hearing before the OCF held on August 20, 2025, the Respondent through legal counsel represented that on July 25, 2025, a Motion to Stay Administrative Proceedings was filed, in which Respondent invoked his fifth amendment privilege.

Respondent's trial in the federal criminal case is scheduled to be conducted during the second week of January 2026. The OCF agrees with the Respondent and respects his right to exercise his Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Administrative Hearing regarding the committee Re-Elect Trayon White 2024 be continued until after the conclusion of the federal criminal trial scheduled for January 12, 2026.

September 10, 2025

Date

/s/ Leonard Muhammad

Leonard Muhammad
OCF, Attorney-Advisor

Concurrence:

In view of the foregoing, I hereby concur with the Recommendation.

September 10, 2025

Date

/s/ William O. SanFord

William O. SanFord
General Counsel

ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR

WHEREFORE, it is hereby **ORDERED** that the Motion To Stay Administrative Proceedings is **denied**. The motion to stay is treated as a Motion To Continue Administrative Proceedings with said motion **Granted** until the conclusion of the federal criminal matter with trial date January 12, 2026.

September 10, 2025

Date

/s/ Cecily E. Collier-Montgomery

Cecily E. Collier-Montgomery
Director
Office of Campaign Finance

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 10th day of September 2025, a copy of the foregoing Response To Respondent's Motion To Stay Administrative Proceedings was served via electronic mail on Aristotle Theresa, Esquire at: actheresa@stooplaw.com, Antoniese Ruffin at: antoniese@yahoo.com, and Trayon White at: TrayonWhite2011@gmail.com .

/s/Leonard Muhammad

