

BEFORE THE OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF ELECTIONS
1015 Half Street, SE Suite 775
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003
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IN THE MATTER OF)	
)	
Fred Hill 4 Council At-Large)	
Fred Hill, Candidate)	
PO Box 44264)	
Ft. Washington, Maryland, 20749)	
)	Docket No.:2024 C-018
Janice Vieira, Treasurer)	April 2, 2025
4506 14th Street, NW)	
Washington, DC 20011)	

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 (PIRM) that Fred Hill, Candidate and Janice Vieira, Treasurer, of the Principal Campaign Committee, Fred Hill for Council At-Large (“Committee”), (“Respondents”) failed to timely file the July 31, 2024, Report of Receipts and Expenditures (“July 31st, 2024, Report”) that was due by Wednesday July 31, 2024, 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 September 4, 2024, October 15, 2024, and December 3, 2024, OCF ordered Respondents to show cause why they should not be found in violation of the District of Columbia 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 July 31st, 2024, Report, by July 31, 2024. Based upon Respondents’ failure to timely file the required July 31st, 2024, Report, the PIRM Division referred the violation to the OCF’s Office of the General Counsel (“OGC”) for enforcement.

On September 4, 2024, October 15, 2024, and December 3, 2024, OGC issued a Notice of Hearing, Statement of Violations and Order of Appearance (Notices) to Respondents, via regular and certified 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 3 DCMR § 3017.2 and fined accordingly. Show cause hearings in this matter were scheduled for October 16, and 30, and December 18, 2024. Respondents failed to appear at the first two scheduled hearings, but Fred Hill appeared at the December 18, 2024, OCF virtual hearing, on behalf of the Committee. Ms. Laura McQueen was present as a witness on behalf of the PIRM at all the scheduled hearings.

Respondent Fred Hill's Summary of Testimony

The following is a summary of Respondent Fred Hill's testimony at the scheduled hearing on December 18, 2024: Mr. Hill testified that he closed out his campaign account and email on December 30, 2022, and he moved from the DC jurisdiction out of the country, to Belize. In addition, he testified that the OCF electronic system was not working in December of 2022, when he first attempted to file his termination report, and the system did not reflect the filing. He further testified that in January 2023, he mistakenly thought he had filed the necessary reports with OCF. He also testified that on October 30, 2024, he filed a Termination Report for the Committee and that his contact information has been updated as follows: PO Box 44264, Ft. Washington, Maryland 20749, and by email at: fredhill@gotta-gonow.comgmail.com. Mr. Hill expressed remorse and his eagerness to resolve his outstanding matters with OCF. Lastly, he testified that Janice Vieira is no longer Treasurer, for the Committee.

OGC's Representations

OGC advised Mr. Hill that the October 30, 2024, Termination Report the Committee submitted recorded a zero cash balance, however, it reflected outstanding loans in the amount of Twenty-Four Thousand and Five Hundred and Seventy-Eight (\$24,578.07) Dollars and seven (.07) cents. He was further informed that the instant hearing would be held in abeyance until the accounting for this matter is resolved with the Report Analysis and Audit Division. He was further advised that pursuant to instructions from Renee Coleman, Audit Manager, for OCF, he could submit a signed "letter of forgiveness" of the loan to himself, as a candidate.

Findings of Fact

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

1. Respondent Hill is the Candidate and Vieira is the Treasurer, (until such time that she completes the required OCF forms to withdraw), of the Principal Campaign Committee, Fred Hill 4 Council At-Large.
2. Respondents were required to file the July 31st, 2024, Report, with OCF, by the deadline of July 31, 2024, and failed to file timely.
3. The Director may impose a civil penalty in the maximum amount of Two Thousand and Eight Hundred and Fifty (\$2,850.00) Dollars, equal to Fifty-Seven (57) days of noncompliance, as of July 31, 2023, to October 29, 2024, in this matter.
4. On October 5, 2021, Respondent Hill attended the Entrance Conference on behalf of the Committee.
5. Respondent Vieira accepted the position of Treasurer on August 31, 2021, but did not attend the Entrance Conference on behalf of the Committee.
6. Respondents have prior OCF orders resulting in the issuance of a fine, in Docket Nos: 2022 R-001, 2023 C-015 and 2023 C-027.

Conclusions of Law

Based on the record, I therefore conclude:

- 1 Respondent violated D.C. Official Code § 1-1163.09(a) and (b) and 3 DCMR § 3017.2.
2. DCMR § 3711.2(f) establishes a Fifty (\$50.00) Dollar fine, per day, excluding weekends and holidays, for failure to timely file a Report of Receipts and Expenditures.
3. DCMR § 3711.1(b) maintains that a fine shall attach for each day of noncompliance for a period of Fifty-Seven (57) days of noncompliance.
4. 3 DCMR § 3711.5 provides that the aggregate of the penalties imposed under the Director's authority under 3 DCMR § 3711.2 may not exceed Four Thousand (\$4,000.00) Dollars for each violation.

5. The Director of Campaign Finance (“Director”) may ministerially impose fines upon the candidate, treasurer, committee, or designated agent, pursuant to 3 DCMR § 3711.1.
6. For good cause shown, pursuant to 3 DCMR § 3711.8, the Director may modify, rescind, dismiss, or suspend any fine.

Recommendations

In view of the foregoing information included in the record, I hereby recommend the following:

That the Director impose a fine in the maximum allowable amount of Two Thousand and Eight Hundred and Fifty (\$2,850.00) Dollars, for a period of Fifty-Seven (57) days of noncompliance, in this matter, against Respondents Fred Hill, Candidate and the Principal Campaign Committee, Fred Hill 4 Council At-Large.

That for good cause shown, the fine in the amount of Two Thousand and Eight Hundred and Fifty (\$2,850.00) Dollars SHALL BE suspended in its entirety conditioned upon Respondent Hill amending the October 30, 2024, Termination Report filed with OCF, which amendment shall reflect a zero balance for outstanding loans, in the amount of Twenty-Four Thousand and Five Hundred and Seventy-Eight (\$24,578.07) Dollars and seven (.07) cents, on or before July 15, 2025.

That the instant hearing would be held in abeyance until the accounting for this matter is resolved with the Report Analysis and Audit Division and that pursuant to instructions from Renee Coleman, Audit Manager, for OCF, this matter may be resolved by Mr. Hill submitting a signed “letter of forgiveness” for the loan, for the amount of Twenty-Four Thousand and Five Hundred and Seventy-Eight (\$24,578.07) Dollars and seven (.07) cents, to himself, as a candidate.

April 2, 2025
Date

/s/ Belinda Kittles Perry
Belinda Kittles Perry

Concurrence

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

April 2, 2025
Date

/s/ William O. SanFord
William O. SanFord
General Counsel

ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR

IT IS ORDERED that a fine, in the maximum allowable amount of Two Thousand and Eight Hundred and Fifty (\$2,850.00) Dollars SHALL BE imposed against Respondents Fred Hill, Candidate and the Principal Campaign Committee, Fred Hill 4 Council At-Large. And it is.

FURTHER ORDERED that for good cause shown, the fine in the amount of Two Thousand and Eight Hundred and Fifty (\$2,850.00) Dollars SHALL BE suspended in its entirety conditioned upon Respondent Hill amending the October 30, 2024, Termination Report filed with OCF to reflect a zero balance for outstanding loans, in the amount of Twenty -Four Thousand Five Hundred Seventy-Eight (\$24,578.07) Dollars and seven (.07) cents, on or before July 15, 2025.

April 2, 2025 _____ /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, Fred Hill, Candidate and Janice Vieira, Treasurer of the Principal Campaign Committee, Fred Hill for Council At-Large by certified mail at PO Box 44264, Ft. Washington, Maryland 20749, and by email at: fredhill@gotta-gonow.com; and vieirajdosinternational.com, on this 2nd day of April 2025.

/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*.

