

**BEFORE THE OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND ETHICS  
1015 Half Street, SE Suite 775  
WASHINGTON, DC 20003  
(202) 671-0550**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**Jacque 4 DC  
Cassie Zeledon, Treasurer  
3521\_21<sup>st</sup> Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20020**

:  
:  
:  
:  
:  
:  
:  
:

**Docket No: 2025 R-001**

**ORDER**

**Statement of the Case**

This matter came before the Office of Campaign Finance (hereinafter OCF) Office of the General Counsel following a determination by its Reports Analysis and Audit Division (RAAD) to conduct a full field audit of the campaign committee Jacque 4 DC. The DC Official Code 1-1163.04(8) authorizes the Director of the Office of Campaign Finance (OCF) to conduct audits of the committee's R&E Reports as well as of the statements concerning political campaigns, initiatives, referendums, recalls, constituent services, inaugural committees, transition committees, and legal defense funds. The Director's authority includes conducting full field audits for the campaigns of newly elected officials.

On February 3, 2025, OCF notified Cassi Zeledon, treasurer, that the campaign committee Jacque 4 DC was to undergo a full field audit. The audit covered the period March 2024 through January 2025. The committee was instructed to provide financial records, inclusive of bank statements, and records, cancelled checks, copies of donor checks and contribution cards, deposit slips, invoices sales receipts, etc. The documents and records were due on Monday March 3, 2025. The committee failed to properly respond to the audit notice.

**Summary of Evidence**

The Audit Manager (Ms. Renee Coleman-Rollins) represented the OCF in this matter. On February 3, 2025, the audit division issued an Audit Notification Letter requesting that the campaign committee produce the financial information to the RAAD pursuant to the D.C. Official Code Section 1-1163.04 (8). The auditor manager stated that the Respondent failed to comply with the initial deadline, dated March 2, 2025. A reminder (request) was sent on March 4, 2025, requesting that the campaign committee submit the financial records on or before March 7, 2025. The Respondent has an extensive history of failure to adhere to campaign finance laws and regulations. Having knowledge of the committee's prior pattern of behavior when asked to respond to a request for data and/or records the matter was also referred to the Office of the General Counsel.

On May 29, 2025, Respondent candidate (Jacque Patterson) appeared for the show cause hearing responding to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Notice of Hearing issued on May 14, 2025. Respondents were notified on two (2) prior occasions. As of May 29, 2025, the campaign committee had not complied with the request to produce their financial records.

Respondent stated the reason for his committee's failure to timely submit the financial information and complete the audit was a result of his campaign committee being inefficiently managed and poorly administered by his former treasurer of record. The respondent stated that before the conclusion of the election he had to take over the responsibilities of treasurer. He further stated that his former treasurer maintained financial records at two (2) financial institutions (TD Bank and PNC Bank). He stated that he had to obtain records from both banks, and reviewed them to ensure that the financial information was accurate.

To accommodate Respondent, the auditor gave the Respondent an additional extension of time to obtain the financial records and to organize the information for presentation. The extension of time expired on June 9, 2025.

### **Findings of Fact**

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

1. Cassie Zeledon is the treasurer of record for the Jacque 4 DC 2024 Principal Campaign Committee and Jacque Patterson is the candidate.
2. That RAAD Division issued an Audit Notification Letter, dated February 3, 2025, to the Respondent treasurer and candidate that instructed the Respondents to provide all financial records and supporting documentation by Monday March 3, 2025, with a second notice sent on March 4, 2025.
3. The Respondents failed to comply with the deadlines set in both notices. The matter was referred to the Office of the General Counsel (OGC) on March 7, 2025.
4. The OGC issued a Notice of Hearing, Statement of Violations and Order of Appearance on March 14, 2025, April 4, 2025, and a third notice dated May 14, 2025. The Respondent (Candidate) appeared for the hearing on May 29, 2025.
5. Respondent's explanation for failing to provide the financial records and timely participation in the audit is incredible in that Respondent stated that his former treasurer was not skilled and knowledgeable to function as the campaign treasurer. The respondent candidate states that he was immersed in his campaign for election to be elected to the office of DC State Board of Education At-Large. Respondent states that he was unaware of how badly the treasurer was handling the duties and responsibilities until after the election was over. Respondent further stated upon learning that the campaign committee did not properly respond to the audit request he took immediate steps to address the matter (i.e. find the records, statements, and other requested financial information). Respondent candidate stated that when he took over as "treasurer", he found that the campaign finances were in two different banks (TD Bank and PNC Bank). The respondent candidate stated that he takes full responsibility for the committee's failure to timely provide the records requested for the audit.

6. Respondent requested an extension of the deadline from OCF to submit the documents. The extension was granted, and the parties agreed to submit the documents on or before June 9, 2025.
7. The Respondent committee is currently in compliance with the statute.
8. A review of the committee's campaign records does not indicate that the treasurer withdrew from the committee.

### **Conclusions of Law**

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

1. Respondent PCC violated DC Official Code §1-1163.03(a)(1)(A).
2. The Respondents failed to comply with the RAAD request to conduct an audit for newly elected officials as authorized pursuant to the D.C. Official Code Section 1-1163.04(8).
3. According to 3 DCMR 3711.2(q), establishes a fifty-dollar (\$50) fine, per day for "failure to file additional information..." and failure to disclose/amend required information on reports."
4. The Respondent candidate failed to comply with the RAAD audit request dated February 3, 2025. The documentation and information were due on March 3, 2025.
5. The respondent candidate appeared at the scheduled hearing on Thursday May 29, 2025. The respondent stated that his response to the audit request was delayed because he was consumed with his election campaign and he was of the belief that his campaign treasurer was competent enough to handle their duties. The respondent stated that after the election he learned that the treasurer was incompetent to handle the treasurer's post. The respondent stated that he learned the campaign committee had accounts at two banking institutions (TD Bank and PNC Bank), and that they (candidate and treasurer) severed their relationship shortly after the conclusion of the election.
6. Under 3 DCMR 3711.1, "The Director may ministerially impose fines upon the candidate, treasurer, committee..."
7. 3 DCMR 3711.1(b) maintains that "[a] fine shall attach for each day of non-compliance for each violation."

8. Respondent submitted the requested documents on June 9, 2025. At the date of submission, the financial records and information was sixty-six (66) business days past due.
9. The penalty established at DC Official Code §1-1163.35, 3 DCMR §§3709.2(k), 3711.2(u) and 3711.4 (p) for failure to submit the requested financial documents and information required by March 3, 2025, is a fine of \$50.00 per day for each business day after the due date.
10. In accordance with DC Official Code 1-1163.35 the respondent PCC may be fined a maximum of \$4,000.00 for failing to timely file the financial documents and records for the post-election audit.
11. For good cause shown pursuant to 3 DCMR 3711.8, the Director of the Office of Campaign Finance (Director) may modify, rescind, dismiss or suspend any fine.
12. RAAD received the financial documents and the proper response to the Audit Request on June 9, 2025. This is seventy-two (72) business days past due.

### **Recommendation**

I hereby recommend that the Director impose a penalty on the Respondent candidate and campaign committee treasurer. The respondent candidate has a lengthy history with the Office of Campaign Finance that began in this millennium (2000's). The most recent encounter with the Respondent and his committee (Jacque 4 DC 2024) occurred in November 2024. The committee was found in violation of Failure to Timely Respond to Request For Additional Information; Docket # 2024 R-011. It was recommended that the committee be given a fine and the fine was suspended.

In the case at bar, Respondent represented that he had the responsibility to gather the financial documents and records and respond to the audit request following the treasurer's departure. Respondent stated that he accepts full responsibility for the untimely submission of records and untimely compliance with the audit.

In view of the foregoing information included in the record I recommend that the Director impose a fine in the amount of Three Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$3,600).

July 30, 2025

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

/s/ Leonard Muhammad

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hearing Officer

**Concurrence**

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

July 30, 2025

/s/ William O. SanFord

Date

William O. Sanford  
General Counsel

**ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR**

**IT IS ORDERED** that a fine in the amount of Three Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$3,600) is imposed for failure to comply with the D.C. Official Code 1-1163.03(a)(1)(A). Respondent Candidate, Jacque Patterson, Cassie Zeledon, Treasurer, and the committee Jacque 4 DC are severally and separately liable.

July 30, 2025

/s/ Cecily E. Collier -Montgomery

Date

Cecily E. Collier-Montgomery  
Director

**SERVICE OF ORDER**

This is to certify that I have served a true copy of the foregoing Order on Jacque Patterson at: [jacquedpatterson@yahoo.com](mailto:jacquedpatterson@yahoo.com) , Cassie Zeledon at: [mrseledon@gmail.com](mailto:mrseledon@gmail.com) and to Cassie Zeledon 3521 \_21<sup>st</sup> Steet, SE Washington, DC 20020 by electronic mail, on July 30, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_LM\_\_\_\_\_

**NOTICE**

Any party adversely affected by an order of the Director may obtain review of the order by filing with the Board of Elections and Ethics, a request for a hearing *de novo*. Pursuant to 3 DCMR §3711.5, any fine imposed by the Director shall become effective on the 16<sup>th</sup> day following the issuance of a decision and order, if the respondent does not request an appeal of this matter. If applicable, within 10 days of the effective date of this order, please make a check or money order payable to the D.C. Treasurer, c/o Office of Campaign Finance, 1015 Half Street, SE Suite 775 Washington, DC 20003.