

**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

Sherice for SBOE
Lanette Preston, Treasurer
5404 Kansas Ave NW
Washington, DC 20011
Lanetteb.preston@gmail.com

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) Date: April 8, 2025
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) Docket No: 2024 C-052
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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: **Lanette Preston, Treasurer** of the Sherice for SBOE, principal campaign committee (“committee”), failed to timely file the December 10th Report of Receipts and Expenditures that was due on December 10, 2024, in violation of the Campaign Finance Act of 2011, District of Columbia Official Code § 1-1163.09 et. seq. and the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, 3 DCMR § 3017.2 et. seq.

By Notice of Hearing, Statement of Violations and Order of Appearance dated January 15, 2025, the Office of the General Counsel (“OGC”) ordered Lanette Preston, (“Respondent”) to appear at a scheduled virtual hearing on January 28, 2025, and show cause why the Respondent should not be found in violation of the D.C. Official Code § 1-1163.09 et. seq. and 3 DCMR § 3017.2 et. seq. and fined accordingly.

Summary of Evidence

On January 28, 2024, Lanette Preston (“Respondent”) appeared pro se to answer the alleged filing violation. Laura McQueen, Legal Instruments Examiner, appeared on behalf of the Office of Campaign Finance (“OCF”). Ms. McQueen testified that the Respondent failed to timely file the December 10th Report of Receipts and Expenditures that was due on December 10, 2024, in violation of the Campaign Finance Act of 2011, District of Columbia Official Code § 1-1163.09 et. seq. and the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, 3 DCMR § 3017.2, et. seq.

The Respondent testified that during the reporting period for the December 10th Report, the committee had not accepted any donations or expended any funds; therefore, the Respondent mistakenly assumed that the committee was not required to file a report. On the contrary, OCF explained to the Respondent that reports of receipts and expenditures must continue to be filed whether there are expenses to report or not. The Respondent asserted that the December 10th Report would be filed by the next business day. On January 29, 2025, the Respondent filed the December 10th Report. The Respondent and committee are now compliant with the filing requirement for the December 10th Report.

Findings of Fact

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

1. The Respondent is the Treasurer of the Sherice for SBOE Principal Campaign Committee.
2. At all times pertinent, the Respondent was required to file the December 10th Report of Receipts and Expenditures by December 10, 2024.
3. The Respondent failed to file the December 10th Report on December 10, 2024.
4. By Notice of Hearing, Statement of Violations and Order of Appearance dated January 15, 2025, the OGC ordered the Respondent to appear at a scheduled virtual hearing on January 28, 2025, to respond to the alleged violations.
5. The Respondent appeared at the scheduled hearing on January 28, 2025, and provided a credible explanation for the untimely filing of the December 10th Report.
6. Respondent filed the December 10th Report on January 29, 2025, which had accrued thirty-five (35) days of delinquency.
7. The Respondent and committee are now complaint with the filing of the December 10th Report and does 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 **\$1,750.00**, 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 Respondent was required to file the December 10th Report of Receipts and Expenditures on December 10, 2024, but failed to comply.
7. The Respondent appeared at the scheduled hearing and provided a credible explanation for the untimely filing of the December 10th Report.
8. The Respondent appeared at the scheduled hearing on January 28, 2025, and provided a credible explanation for the late filing of the December 10th Report.
9. The December 10th Report was filed on January 29, 2025.
10. The Respondent and committee are now complaint with the filing of the December 10th Report and does not have a significant history of other delinquent filings.

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 Lanette Preston, Treasurer and the Sherice for SBOE Committee in this matter.

April 8, 2025

Date

/s/ Kalvanetta K. Peete

Kalvanetta K. Peete
Hearing Officer

Concurrence

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

April 8, 2025

Date

/s/ William O. SanFord

William O. SanFord
General Counsel

ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR

IT IS ORDERED that the imposition of any fine is hereby **SUSPENDED** against Lanette Preston, Treasurer and the Sherice for SBOE Committee in this matter.

April 8, 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 Lanette Preston, Treasurer, via electronic mail to: lanetteb.preston@gmail.com on this 8th day of April 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 (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 20003*.