

**BEFORE THE OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
FRANK D. REEVES MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
2000 14<sup>th</sup> STREET, NW SUITE 420  
WASHINGTON, DC 20009  
(202) 671-0550**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**Committee to Re-Elect Trayon White SBOE  
Trayon White, Candidate  
1109 Whaler Place, SE  
Washington, DC 20032**

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**Docket No: 013 EI -001  
Date: March 15, 2013**

**ORDER**

This matter came before the Office of Campaign Finance (hereafter OCF) Office of the General Counsel following receipt of an allegation in the Public Information and Records Management Division that pursuant to The Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Establishment and Comprehensive Ethics Reform and Amendment Act (The Act), codified in DC Official Code 1-1163.02 (c), Trayon White, candidate for State Board of Education (SBOE) in appropriately used government property in his campaign for re-election and the dissemination of campaign literature in the November 6, 2012 general election.

Specifically, it was alleged that Trayon White used “a DC government mailing list” to send election materials to a DC government employee in violation of DC Official Code §1-1163.36.

WHEREAS on November 26, 2012 OCF received via email from Officer Marinos M. Marinos, Shop Steward for the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD)/Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Labor Committee, in which he alleges that an MPD/FOP member received two (2) emails in his departmental email soliciting his support and vote for Trayon White.

WHEREAS OCF conducted an assessment of the matter and initiated an investigation of the allegations. The allegations were made by Officer Marinos M. Marinos (MPD), a third party complainant. Initially, Officer Marinos failed to identify the person who received the emails from Trayon White. Moreover, Officer Marinos failed to provide sufficient substantive information in support of the allegations, and he redacted the recipient’s identity citing privacy concerns.

WHEREAS OCF requested from Officer Marinos (1) a copy of the substantive materials sent from Trayon White’s email address; (2) the name, address, and contact telephone number of the alleged recipient of the materials along with the identity of any other persons who received the email, and (3) requested that Officer Marinos inform all persons who received the email from Mr. White to file complaints with OCF.

WHEREAS OCF only received from Officer Marinos the name of the recipient (James Lafranchise) of the emails. It was determined that Mr. Lafranchise received two (2) emails sent approximately three (3) hours apart on November 1, 2012.

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WHEREAS OCF has not received a formal complaint from James Lafranchise or from any other person alleging that Trayon White used a government mailing list to send them campaign materials.

WHEREAS OCF has not received any other complaints from other DC government employees alleging that they received campaign materials in their DC government email box from Trayon White.

WHEREAS OCF interviewed the candidate Trayon White and Pho Palmer, Communications Coordinator for his campaign regarding the allegations and the alleged use of a DC government mailing list to send campaign material to James Lafranchise (MPD).

Mr. White and Ms. Palmer stated that they did not use a DC government mailing list to transmit the emails to the recipient. Mr. White stated that he has a data base of approximately 5,000 email addresses. Mr. White stated that these addresses were collected over the past ten years that he has worked as a community activist in Ward 8. Mr. White stated that he has worked with Assistant Chief Grooms (MPD), and the East of the River Clergy, Police, and Community Partnership. Mr. White also stated that he has worked with MPD in the Violence Intervention Program (VIP) and served on the critical response team. Mr. White further stated that he does not know James Lafranchise and that he might have acquired Mr. Lafranchise's email address after meeting him at a community or city wide meeting. Ms. Palmer stated that when she sent out the emails it was done using an email "blast." Meaning that hundreds of emails were sent out simultaneously. The email from Trayon White appeared to come from a private email account known as "gmail.com."

Mr. White additionally stated that he neither authorized nor condoned the use of DC government e-mail and assured OCF there will be no future incidents if he chooses to engage in campaigns for elective office in the future.

WHEREFORE, OCF concludes that the evidence received in this matter does not support the allegation that Trayon White used a government mailing list to transmit campaign materials.

**Recommendation**

In view of the foregoing and information included in the record, I hereby recommend that the Director dismiss this matter.

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Date

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Hearing Officer

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**Concurrence**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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William O. SanFord  
General Counsel

**ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR**

**IT IS ORDERED** that the matter be hereby DISMISSED.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Cecily E. Collier-Montgomery  
Director