

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF</b>	:	
	:	
<b>District of Columbia Young Democrats</b>	:	<b>Date: July 5, 2011</b>
<b>Ayawna Chase, Treasurer</b>	:	<b>Docket No: 011 P-017</b>
<b>3923 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NE</b>	:	
<b>Washington, DC 20018</b>	:	

**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 Public Information and Records Management Division, that pursuant to D.C. Official Code §1-1102.06 (2001 Edition), Ayawna Chase, Treasurer, DC Young Democrats failed to timely file, the 8 Day Pre-Special Election Receipt and Expenditure Report (hereinafter R&E) on or before April 18, 2011 as required by D.C. Official Code §1-1102.06.

By Notice of Hearing, Statement of Violations and Order of Appearance dated May 11, 2011 sent via regular mail and June 9, 2011 sent via registered certified mail, OCF ordered Ayawna Chase (hereinafter Respondent), to appear at a scheduled hearing on May 27, 2011 and the rescheduled hearing for June 21, 2011, and show cause why she should not be found in violation of the D.C. Campaign Finance Reform and Conflict of Interest Act of 1974, as amended by D.C. Official Code §1-1101.01 et seq., and filed accordingly.

**Summary of Evidence**

The Respondent treasurer appeared for the hearing held on June 21, 2011. She stated that she failed to submit the R&E Report because she had no idea of the filing requirement. She stated that she assumed the role of treasurer but the organization is neither a campaign committee nor a political action committee. She described the organization as a "537" spin off committee from the National Democratic Committee. The Respondent further stated that the DC Young Democrats did not support a candidate in the April special election.

The Respondent treasurer filed the Notification of Non-Support and submitted it during the hearing.

**Findings of Fact**

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

1. Respondent is the treasurer for the PAC DC Young Democrats.

2. Respondent treasurer was required to file the 8 Day Pre-Special election R&E Report on or before April 18, 2011 in accordance with D.C. Official Code § 1-1102.06(a).
3. Respondent treasurer's explanation for failing to timely file the R&E Report is that she was unaware that there were filing requirements because the election was a special election, and that they did not support a candidate in the special election. Furthermore, the Respondent stated that DC Young Democrats is a "537" organization, and is not required to file R&E Reports.
4. The Respondent treasurer stated that the organization is the official youth arm of the National Democratic Party and stated that the designation of DC Young Democrats as a "537" organization is erroneous.
5. The Respondent organization is a "527" organization which is named after Section 527 of the Internal Revenue Service Code. That code is applicable to organizations created to primarily support and influence the selection, nomination, election, appointment or defeat of candidates for local, state and federal public office.
6. DC Young Democrats is registered as a PAC with OCF. Therefore, they are subject to the filing requirements as stated in DC Official Code 1-1101 et seq., and Chapter 30 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations. The Respondent treasurer was informed of this requirement prior to the conclusion of the hearing.
7. Respondent treasurer filed the Notification of Non-Support immediately following the hearing held on June 21, 2011.
8. Respondent treasurer has a history of filing delinquencies with OCF.

### **Conclusions of Law**

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

1. Respondent PAC violated DC Official Code §1-1102.06(a).
2. The penalty established at DC Official Code §1-1103.05 (b)(3), 3 DCMR §§3711.2(f), 3711.3 and 3711.4 for failure to timely file the 8 Day Pre-Special Election R&E Report required by DC Official Code 1-1102.06 is a fine of \$50.00 per day for each business day subsequent to the due date.

3. In accordance with DC Official Code 1-1103.05(b) (3), the respondent PAC may be fined a maximum of \$2000.00 for failing to timely file the 8 Day Pre-Special Election R&E Report.
4. For good cause shown pursuant to 3 DCMR 3711.6, the Director of the Office of Campaign Finance (Director) may modify, rescind, dismiss or suspend any fine.
5. Respondent treasurer's compliance warrants favorable consideration, but however, it does not completely absolve her of the filing delinquency given her history.

**Recommendation**

In view of the foregoing and information included in the record, I hereby recommend that the Director impose a reduced fine of \$200 in this matter.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

**Concurrence**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
William O. SanFord  
General Counsel

**ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR**

**IT IS ORDERED** that the fine in this matter be hereby suspended.

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 Ayawna Chase by regular mail, on \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_

**NOTICE**

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, 2000 Fourteenth Street, N.W., Suite 433 Washington, DC 20009.