

**BEFORE THE OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND ETHICS
FRANK D. REEVES MUNICIPAL BUILDING
2000-14th STREET, N.W., SUITE 420
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009
(202) 671-0550**

IN THE MATTER OF)	DATE: September 23, 2009
)	
Cameron Poles, Former Candidate)	DOCKET NO.: 09C-023
Committee to Elect Cameron Poles)	
2723 Terrace Road, SE, #318)	
Washington, DC 20020)	

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 the Committee to Elect Cameron Poles (hereinafter respondent PCC), Taliah Givens, Treasurer, failed to timely file a January 31, 2009 Report of Receipts and Expenditures (hereinafter January 31, 2009 Report) as required by D.C. Official Code §1-1102.06(a)(2001 Edition), on or before January 31, 2009, and also failed to file on or before the OCF sanctioned extended filing deadline of February 20, 2009.

By Notices of Hearing, Statements of Violations and Orders of Appearance dated July 16, 2009 and August 5, 2009, OCF ordered Taliah Givens (hereinafter respondent treasurer), to appear at scheduled hearings on July 27, 2009 and August 17, 2009 and show cause why the respondent PCC 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 fined accordingly.

Summary of Evidence

On August 17, 2009, Cameron Poles, former Candidate appeared at the rescheduled hearing and testified that he was advised not to serve as his own treasurer; notwithstanding, he did perform such duties for his campaign. Respondent former candidate admitted that he was a novice to the process, and that he needed guidance to meet OCF's requirement. The Hearing Officer advised the respondent former candidate to seek the guidance of OCF's Audit Division to file the required report properly. The Hearing Officer further granted an extension of time to July 31, 2009 to file the report. On July 31, 2009, the January 31, 2009 Report was filed with OCF electronically.

Findings of Fact

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

1. Respondent PCC was required to file a January 31, 2009 Report of Receipts and Expenditures on or before January 31, 2009 in accordance with D.C. Official Code §1-1102.06(a).
2. Respondent PCC filed the required January 31, 2009 Report with OCF on July 31, 2009.
3. Respondent candidate provided a credible explanation for the filing delinquency in that he was a novice to the process and required guidance in filing the required report.
4. Respondent PCC is currently in compliance with the statute.

Conclusions of Law

Based upon the record provided by OCF, I therefore conclude:

1. Respondent PCC violated D.C. Official Code §1-1102.06(a).
2. The penalty established at D.C. Official Code §1-1103.05(b)(3), 3DCMR §§3711.2(f), 3711.3 and 3711.4 for failure to timely file a January 31, 2009 Report of Receipts and Expenditures required by D.C. 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 D.C. Official Code §1- 1103.05(b)(3), the respondent PCC may be fined a maximum of \$2,000.00 for failing to timely file a January 31, 2009 Report of Receipts and Expenditures.
4. For good cause shown pursuant to 3DCMR §3711.6, the Director of the Office of Campaign Finance (Director) may modify, rescind, dismiss or suspend any fine.
5. Respondent candidate's explanation for the filing delinquency, in that he was a novice to the process and required guidance in filing reports, constitute good cause for suspension of the fine.

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Recommendation

In view of the foregoing and information included in the record, I hereby recommend that the Director suspend the imposition of a fine in this matter.

Date

Jean Scott Diggs
Hearing Officer

Concurrence

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

Date

William O. Sanford
Acting General Counsel

ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR

IT IS ORDERED that a fine in this matter is hereby suspended.

Date

Cecily Collier-Montgomery
Director

This Order may be appealed to the Board of Elections and Ethics within 15 days from the date of issuance.

SERVICE OF ORDER

This is to certify that I have served a true copy of the foregoing Order on the Committee to Elect Cameron Poles, c/o Cameron Poles, former Candidate, by regular mail on September 23, 2009.

NOTICE

Pursuant to 3DCMR §3711.5 (March 2007), any fine imposed by the Director shall become effective on the 16th 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, Suite 420, 2000-14th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.