

City of Hyattsville Ethics Commission
Wednesday, September 13, 2022 5:00 p.m.
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

In attendance: Mark Graham, Michael Horlick (chair), T. Carter Ross, David Sip. Staff: Nate Groenendyk, Nicola Konigkramer, Laura Reams.

1. A quorum was noted and the meeting called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Chair Michael Horlick
2. Minutes for the meetings of August 10, 2022, were approved on a voice vote.

3. Review of Annual Reports

The commission reviewed annual campaign finance reports received by the deadline of September 6, 2022.

- For Council Member McClellan, the commission noted a 33¢ discrepancy on the final cover sheet, but accepted the report.

4. Review of Annual Reports / 2021 Ward 1 Special Elections

The commission reviewed annual campaign finance reports received by the deadline of September 6, 2022.

- For Candidate Abdul Rahman, the commission accepted the report as filed.
- For Council Member Waszczak, the commission noted a math error on the cover sheet and that the candidate's self-loan repayment should be reflected on Schedule D.

In discussion, the question arose about how candidates should best note loan payments and what past practice had been. It was affirmed that prior guidance was that loan payments should be reported on Schedule D. It was noted that the commission should take time to carefully revise the cover sheet and workbook schedules to ease their completion.

5. Review of Annual Reports / 2022 Mayoral Special Elections

The commission reviewed annual campaign finance reports received by the deadline of September 6, 2022.

- For Mayor Croslin, the commission accepted the report as filed.
- For Council Member Schaible, the commission held over consideration of the report so that amended First and Second reports from the 2022 Mayoral Special Election could be reviewed first.

6. Review of 2022 Ward 2 Special Elections Campaign Finance Reports

The commission reviewed annual campaign finance reports received by the deadline of September 13, 2022.

- For Candidate Burrello, the commission noted that no cover sheet was submitted, that contributor addresses were missing for contributions made via PayPal, and PayPal's service fees were not indicated among expenses. In addition, receipts for expenses made were not submitted.
- For Candidate Strab, the commission noted that the in-kind contribution was not also recorded as an expenditure. In-kind contributions must be shown on both Schedule B and on Schedule D as an expense (and in boxes 2 and 4 on the cover sheet) to ensure the candidate's ending balance is correct.

- For Candidate Melendez Rivera, the commission noted that in-kind contributions were not reflected in box 2 of the summary, nor were they included on Schedule D. In-kind contributions must be shown on both Schedule B and Schedule D as an expense (and in boxes 2 and 4 on the cover sheet) to ensure the candidate's ending balance is correct. It was also noted that PayPal's services fees were not included among expenses.

In discussion it was noted this is another item that should be revised in future versions of the form to reduce confusion and potential errors.

7. Action on Annual and Campaign Finance Reports

In cases where the commission noted questions or concerns in the filings, letters were drafted for delivery by the City Clerk's office. The City Clerk will also send letters to those campaigns with open campaign accounts who did not submit annual reports.

8. Finalized Campaign Finance Ordinance

Deputy Clerk Groenendyk noted that final language amending Chapter 8 of the City Code to require a third campaign finance report be filed within 45 days of an election was circulated prior to the meeting. This motion will go before Council on Monday, September 19, as emergency legislation, which Clerk Reams noted would mean it will apply to the current Ward 2 Special Election.

9. New Business

Absent an unanticipated need, the next Ethics Commission meeting will be held at 5 pm on September 27, 2022, to review Initial Campaign Finance Reports for the Ward 2 Special Election.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Horlick adjourned the meeting at 6:09 p.m. on a voice vote.