STATE OF MICHIGAN
RUTH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

August 15, 2012

Constance Stone
5650 Grand Kal road
Fife Lake, Michigan 49633

Dear Ms. Stone:

The Department of State (Department) received a formal complaint filed by Charlotte LaFeve against you, alleging that you violated section 47(1) of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA), 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.247(1), by failing to include a complete and correct identification statement on your campaign signs. A copy of Ms. LaFeve's complaint is provided as an enclosure with this letter.

The MCFA and corresponding administrative rules require a person who produces printed material that relates to an election to include the phrase "Paid for by [name and address of the person who paid for the item]." MCL 169.247(1), R 169.36(2). A knowing violation constitutes a misdemeanor offense punishable by a fine of up to $1,000.00, imprisonment for up to 93 days, or both. MCL 169.247(5).

In support of her complaint, Ms. LaFeve provided a copy of a card which states "Vote For Constance 'Connie' Stone For Treasurer [,]" and a flyer which states "Please vote on Aug 7th [.]" It appears that there is no paid for by statement on the card or flyer.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the Department's examination of these matters and your right to respond to the allegations before the Department proceeds further. It is important to understand that the Department is neither making this complaint nor accepting the allegations as true.

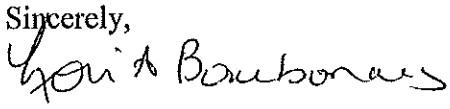
**If you wish to file a written response to this complaint, you are required to do so within 15 business days of the date of this letter. Please include any evidence that reflects any corrective measures you have taken to bring your campaign material into compliance with the MCFA.** Your response may include any written statement or additional documentary evidence you wish to submit. All materials must be sent to the Department of State, Bureau of Elections, Richard H. Austin Building, 1st Floor, 430 West Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan 48918. If you fail to submit a response, the Department will render a decision based on the evidence furnished by the complainant.

A copy of your reply will be provided to Ms. LaFeve, who will have an opportunity to submit a rebuttal statement to the Department. After reviewing all of the statements and materials provided by the parties, the Department will determine whether "there may be reason to believe that a violation of [the MCFA] has occurred [.]" MCL 169.215(10). Note that the Department's

enforcement powers include the possibility of entering a conciliation agreement, conducting an administrative hearing, or referring this matter to the Attorney General for enforcement of the criminal penalty provided in section 47(5) of the Act.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, you may contact me at (517) 241-0395.

Sincerely,



Lori A. Bourbonais
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

c: Charlotte LaFeve

# Michigan Department of State
# Campaign Finance Complaint Form

Reset Form

This complaint form may be used to file a complaint alleging that someone violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (the MCFA, 1976 PA 388, as amended; MCL 169.201 *et seq.*).

**Please print or type all information.**

I allege that the MCFA was violated as follows:

2012 AUG -8 PM 2:33

BUREAU OF ELECTIONS
MI DEPT OF STATE

| **Section 1. Complainant** | | |
|---|---|---|
| Your Name<br>CHARLOTTE LAFEVE | | Daytime Telephone Number<br>231.369-2261 |
| Mailing Address<br>5232 LAKE RD. | | |
| City<br>FIFE LAKE | State<br>MI | Zip<br>49633 |

| **Section 2. Alleged Violator** | | |
|---|---|---|
| Name<br>CONSTANCE STONE | | |
| Mailing Address<br>5650 GRAND KAL RD. | | |
| City<br>FIFE LAKE | State<br>MI | Zip<br>49633 |

**Section 3. Alleged Violations** (Use additional sheet if more space is needed.)

**Section(s) of the MCFA violated:**

**Explain how those sections were violated:**

THERE ARE NO "PAID FOR BY-" ON CARD OR FLYER

**Evidence that supports those allegations** (attach copies of pertinent documents and other information):

COPY OF CAMPAIGN FLYER AND CARD THAT IS PUT IN DOORS WITH THE FLYER

**Section 4. Certification** (Required)

*I certify that to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, formed after a reasonable inquiry under the circumstances, each factual contention of this complaint is supported by evidence.*

X Charlotte LaFeve — August 3, 2012

Signature of Complainant — Date

**Section 5. Certification without Evidence** (Supplemental to Section 4)

**Section 15(6) of the MCFA (MCL 169.215) requires that the signed certification found in section 4 of this form be included in every complaint**. However, if, after a reasonable inquiry under the circumstances, you are unable to certify that certain factual contentions are supported by evidence, you may also make the following certification:

*I certify that to the best of my knowledge, information, or belief, there are grounds to conclude that the following specifically identified factual contentions are likely to be supported by evidence after a reasonable opportunity for further inquiry. Those specific contentions are:*

X _____ _____

Signature of Complainant — Date

**Section 15(8) of the MCFA provides that a person who files a complaint with a false certification is responsible for a civil violation of the MCFA. The person may be required to pay a civil fine of up to $1,000.00 and some or all of the expenses incurred by the Michigan Department of State and the alleged violator as a direct result of the filing of the complaint.**

Mail or deliver the completed complaint form and evidence to the following address:

Michigan Department of State
Bureau of Elections
Richard H. Austin Building – 1st Floor
430 West Allegan Street
Lansing, Michigan 48918

Please vote on Aug 7th

Dear Union Township Voters,

My name is **Constance (Connie) Stone** I am currently a Union Township Trustee and Deputy Clerk. You may have seen me sitting at the Election table when you have come into vote. I have worked every aspect in the elections when I haven't been on the ballot. You may also know me as Jerry the telephone mans wife.

We have lived in Union Township since 1993.We returned to the area after Jerry retired from the USMC. We bought our property on Grand Kal Rd in 1977. While Jerry was in the Marine Corp I worked in various jobs from daily sales entry, accounts receivable/payable at dealerships in California and Traverse City, I worked as teller for Marine Federal Credit Union in NC, customer service manager for Navy Federal Credit Union on Okinawa Japan and as vault teller on Okinawa for the National Bank of Fort Sam Houston where I was responsible for millions of dollars on military paydays. I also managed a Propane and Ice Company in Beaufort SC. All of these jobs required managing money, check books and balancing various accounts.

I am running for **Union Township Treasurer** this year. I see that there needs to be a change in this position. While sitting on the board I see things happening that should not be happening. The current Treasurer has had problems balancing the Tax Account. This has resulted in **"1" NSF** check in April 2011 where we were charged a **$20.00 NSF fee**, the tax account had been zeroed out and there was still an outstanding check on this account. The Clerk had to transfer funds back into the tax account from the general fund. There was a problem with making a deposit on time and writing checks against the account resulting in **"3" NSF** checks. The deposit was made weeks later when trying to balance the tax account at the end of the month. This deposit was given to her daughter who is an employee at the financial institution and who is not bonded by Union Township..The envelope was returned to the Treasurer unopened. She then laid it on her desk and did not bother to open it and look at the deposit slip. Which it did not contain a deposit slip instead it contained her checks that were suppose to be deposited. The Treasurer thought the **NFS** check was because a taxpayers check had bounced in the amount of $24,814.35. Union Township does not have a taxpayer that pays that much in taxes. She should have know this. The financial institution did wave the fees but we felt that this was not the financial institutions fault and we paid the **$75.00** in fees. Then again this year the current Treasurer zeroed out the tax account and there was yet another outstanding check which had not cleared the account and bounced. The financial institution covered the check, charged us with yet another **NSF** fee of **$25.00** but they waived the fee. The Clerk transferred the funds from the General Fund into the Tax Account to cover this check.

There are **two** important jobs that the Treasurer is paid to preform and the current Treasurer is not doing either. One is balancing and printing the tax bills, this is being done by the assessor. Two is the general fund, this is being done by the Clerk. If the current Treasurer can not keep track of her tax account she surely could not work and balance the general fund.

I have attached our minutes of the meetings so you can read this for yourself. If you feel that there needs to be a change then I feel that I am your person. I have the experience in accounting and record keeping. But, as in any new job I will have to learn this job but I feel that I can do this with ease and the assistance of fellow Treasures in Grand Traverse County. I hope that I can count on your vote in the August 7th election.

Thank You

Connie Stone

Constance L (Connie) Stone

Please vote for Doug Mansfield for Township Supervisor.

Mansfield reported on attending the following meetings: Fire Board March 1st and 21st, MTA chapter meeting on March 2nd , BOR meeting March 6th and BOR March 12th, Budget Feb.29th and 20th.

Old Business: a) Road Commission-Closing of Fife Lake Road to Semi's. Must contact Fife Lake Township and get their approval before moving forward.

New Business:

a) Building Repairs-Mansfield had someone come out and look at the roof over the old part of the building where it had been leaking. Once they get us the estimate, we can submit it to Paul at the insurance company.

LaFeve motioned to adjourn, Stone seconded. Carried
Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl Tillitson
Union Township Clerk

Doug Mansfield
Union Township Supervisor

UNION TOWNSHIP
GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY
STATE OF MICHIGAN
April 10, 2012,

The Union Township Board Meeting was called to order by Mansfield at 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Members present, Roll Call: Connie Stone X Doug Mansfield X Sherry Tillitson X Char LaFeve X Nancy Wieland X

The Agenda was approved on a motion by LaFeve, seconded by Stone. Carried

The Minutes of March 13, 2012 were reviewed. Stone motioned to approve the minutes as written, LaFeve seconded. Carried.

No Sheriff Report

County Commissioner, Larry Inman gave a brief update.

Dean Bott, Candidate for County Treasurer was in attendance. Shared his background with the Board.

No Public Comment

Treasurer report. LaFeve provided the Board with a reconciliation report and a BS&A Report on how funds are distributed. She also submitted a letter to the Board to clear up any misunderstandings regarding some returned checks on March 8, 2012 written from the tax account. (Attached) At this time, Mansfield and Tillitson explained to the Board what they found out when they paid a visit to Forest Area Federal Credit Union and spoke to the CEO of the company, Merri Nixon. At that time, it was our clear understanding that our Treasurer was at fault for not making a deposit on time and we agreed to pay the 75.00 in (3) NSF fees. It was taken out of the General Fund Savings (due to the tax account had been zeroed out) and we were given a receipt for it at that time.

Clerk reports that General Funds are in balance with the bank.
Year End written checks:#'s 6527&6528 Total $406.12
Bills to be paid: Ck#'s 6529-6534. Record Eagle (legal notice Annual meeting and Budget Hearing)63.50, Ace communications 35.47, Forest Area Services 59.55, Wilderness Outdoor Services 160.00, Consumers 33.84 and G.T Rural Fire Dept. 2707.25 (2nd Quarter) Payroll for March Ck.# 6517-6526 (2) Direct Deposit TOTAL:$4676.50. 941 taxes paid $344.09, State Withholding paid $154.03 and Michigan UI Tax paid electronically on 3/27/2012-6.42. Wieland motioned to pay bills as presented, LaFeve seconded. Roll Call Vote: All Yeas. Carried.

Tillitson reported she will be attending the Clerk's meeting on April 12, 2012 , at Garfield Town Hall. This meeting will be 3-4 hours long due to putting together the training classes needed for the Election Inspector training that is coming up in July for 2 weeks. Stone and Tillitson will also be attending a class on April 17, 2012 at East Bay. It is a mandatory class by the State Of Michigan Election Bureau for all Clerks and Deputy Clerks.

We received a contract from American Waste for Clean up. We as a Board already passed a motion not to have the Clean up Day every year. Set a letter to Mark stating so.

Tillitson reported that some budget line items needed to be amended before the budget can be balanced. Stone motioned to take $1252.16 from Township Contractual services and put $1060.59 into the Supervisor account, $61.97 into the Clerks account and $129.60 into the Treasurer account. LaFeve seconded. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Mansfield, Stone, Wieland, LaFeve and Tillitson. Carried.

Mansfield reported on attending the following meetings: Fire Board April 18th, Supervisor's April 11th, County Chapter April 5th. Mansfield also presented to the Board His interest in going to the MTA Spring 2012 Regional Meeting being held in Thompsonville. Stone motioned to pay the registration fee. Wieland seconded. Carried

Old Business: A bid was submitted by Lake Ann Exteriors for fixing the leaking roof, installing gutters, installing snow slides stops, caulking the bell tower and sealing all exposed holes with Epoxy Putty. Tillitson motioned to accept the bid in the amount of $3775.00. Stone seconded. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Mansfield, Stone, Wieland, LaFeve and Tillitson. Carried.

New Business: Fife Lake Best 4th in the North Support. After much discussion, Wieland Motioned that we should not contribute any monies for this. Stone Seconded. Carried

LaFeve motioned to adjourn, Stone seconded. Carried
Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl Tillitson

Sheryl Tillitson
Union Township Clerk

Doug Mansfield
Union Township Supervisor

UNION TOWNSHIP
GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY
STATE OF MICHIGAN
May 8, 2012,

DRAFT

The Union Township Board Meeting was called to order by Mansfield at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Members present, Roll Call: Connie Stone X Doug Mansfield X Sherry Tillitson X Char LaFeve X Nancy Wieland X. Sheree Stein, Judy Houts, Cathy Sorrow, Bonnie Scheele, Charlie and Karen Renny, Bob Cooney, Noelle and Mia Moeggenberg were also in attendance.

The Agenda was approved on a motion by LaFeve, seconded by Stone. Carried

The Minutes of April 10, 2012 were reviewed. LaFeve motioned to amend minutes due to a letter she wrote to the Board. Motion failed due to no second. LaFeve submitted a letter written to the Board about a discrepancy with a deposit back in March. The Board decided to attach the letter to accompany the minutes without amending said minutes. LaFeve then made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Wieland seconded. Carried.

Mansfield gave the Sheriff's Report

No County Commissioner

Public Comment- Charlie Renny introduced his self and his wife Karen. He is a candidate for County Commissioner. Bonnie Scheele introduced her self as candidate for County Clerk and Bob Cooney introduced his self as candidate for Prosecuting Attorney. Noelle Moeggenberg showed support for Bob Cooney.

Treasurer report. LaFeve provided the Board with a Bank Statement for the tax account and stated that there is no activity at this time. Mansfield asked if Clerk accepts the report. Tillitson stated that there was activity with this account. LaFeve called me on May 1, 2012 telling me that a check written from the tax account in the amount of $262.35 was returned for NSF due to the tax account being cleared out at year end. Apparently, the check was written to Verizon Wireless on January 22nd and was not cashed until May 1st. LaFeve asked to have the 262.35 transferred back into the tax account. On March 15, 2012, LaFeve gave the Clerk two receipts for deposits made that day. #3721 in the amount of 262.35 (1ml from special assess). # 3722 in the amount of 97.65 (1ml from special assess). Tillitson stated that the outstanding check should have showed on her reconciliation report. This same thing happened last year at year end. The tax account was closed out before all checks cleared. $17.31 had to be put back into the tax account on April 14, 2011 and an overdraft fee of $20.00 was charged to the Township. LaFeve's explanation, "chalk it up to another screw up of mine".

Clerk reports that General Funds are in balance with the bank.
No previously written checks.
Bills to be paid: Ck#'s 6540-6548- Michigan Clerks Association 315.00, Ace 35.47, BS&A Software 730.00, Consumers 28.42, GT County Treasurer 31.71, Lake Ann Exteriors 3775.00, Chuck Erickson 233.33, and Postmaster 45.00 (char's stamps). Payroll for April Ck. #6536-6539 and (3) Direct Deposit TOTAL: $3083.68. 941 taxes paid $151.07, State Withholding paid $102.65 and Michigan UI Tax paid electronically on 4/13/2012 - $4.91. Wieland motioned to pay bills as presented, LaFeve seconded. Roll Call Vote: All Yeas.Carried.
Tillitson reported she will be attending the Clerk's meeting on May 10, 2012 , and the Clerk's Election Training on May 22, 2012 at 10am, both being held at East Bay Township Hall.
The 2011-2012 Budget has been balanced and copies provided to the Board.

Mansfield reported on the repairs done by Lake Ann Exteriors. They repaired the leak in the roof, caulked the bell tower, installed gutters and snow stops on the metal roof. They also gave us a ballpark figure to fix the windows in the main room of the Hall. They offered to do one window at cost to see what it is going to entail. Stone motioned to have them do the one window repair, Wieland seconded.Carried. He also reported on attending the following meetings: County Chapter May 3rd, Septage May 7th, and Fire Board on May 16th. Mansfield received a Proposal for Brining. The price is $3526.88 per brine. Stone motioned to approve (2) brinings at proposed price. LaFeve seconded. Carried.

Old Business: Tillitson asked about the Flag. No news at this time.

New Business: Mia Moeggenberg addressed the Board about her planting flowers around the Town Hall. Everyone was in agreement that she could plant flowers.

Mansfield motioned to adjourn, Stone seconded. Carried
Adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl Tillitson

Sheryl Tillitson
Union Township Clerk

Doug Mansfield
Union Township Supervisor

FOREST AREA
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

638 Boyd Street • Fife Lake, MI 49633
(231) 879-4154

X I HAVE REVIEWED THIS RECEIPT FOR ACCURACY AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRANSACTION IS CORRECT.

| Member Number | Description | Trans. Amount | Balance | Principal | Interest |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| XXX03-000 | TRANSFER FROM | 262.35 | 12928.86 | | |
| XXXX26-001 | TRANSFER TO | 262.35 | | | |

5/01/12 01 14:57 12
XXX03 UNION TOWNSHIP-GENERAL FUND

Check # 2127
Written to
Verizon Wireless
on Jan 22
Cashed May 1st

8:53 AM
05/03/12
Cash Basis

## Union Township
## Transaction Detail By Account
### April 2011 through March 2012

| Type | Date | Num | Name | Memo | Clr | Split | Original Amount | Paid Amount | Balance |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 101-401-000 Tax Levy | | | | | | | | | |
| Check | 4/14/2011 | 6320 | Charlotte LeFeve | money put int... | | FAFCU - Gene... | -17.31 | -17.31 | -17.31 |
| Check | 5/6/2011 | 6321 | Grand Traverse Cou... | Backup for PL... | | FAFCU - Gene... | -149.86 | -149.86 | -167.17 |
| Deposit | 12/5/2011 | | Union Township Tax... | 1 mil | | FAFCU - Gene... | 103.81 | 103.81 | -63.36 |
| Deposit | 12/27/2011 | | Union Township Tra... | Deposit | | FAFCU - Gene... | 3,244.03 | 3,244.03 | 3,180.67 |
| Deposit | 1/11/2012 | | Union Township Tra... | Deposit | | FAFCU - Gene... | 1,629.77 | 1,629.77 | 4,810.44 |
| Deposit | 2/8/2012 | | Union Township Tax... | Deposit | | FAFCU - Gene... | 3,390.88 | 3,390.88 | 8,201.32 |
| Deposit | 2/8/2012 | | Union Township Tax... | Deposit | | FAFCU - Gene... | 617.99 | 617.99 | 8,819.31 |
| Deposit | 2/28/2012 | | Union Township Tax... | 1 ML | | FAFCU - Gene... | 4,993.40 | 4,993.40 | 13,812.71 |
| Deposit | 3/8/2012 | | Union Township Tax... | 1 ml | | FAFCU - Gene... | 338.46 | 338.46 | 14,151.17 |
| Deposit | 3/15/2012 | | Union Township Tax... | 1 ml from spe... | | FAFCU - Gene... | 262.35 | 262.35 | 14,413.52 |
| Deposit | 3/19/2012 | | Union Township Tra... | Deposit | | FAFCU - Gene... | 97.65 | 97.65 | 14,511.17 |
| Total 101-401-000 Tax Levy | | | | | | | | 14,511.17 | 14,511.17 |
| TOTAL | | | | | | | | 14,511.17 | 14,511.17 |

8:52 AM
08/03/12
Cash Basis

## Union Township
## Transactions by Account
### As of March 31, 2012

| Type | Date | Num | Name | Memo | Clr | Split | Original Amount | Paid Amount | Balance |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 101-253-000 Treasurer | | | | | | | | | |
| 101-253-602 Training Fees & Due | | | | | | | | | |
| Check | 4/14/2011 | 6320 | Charlotte LeFeve | overdraft fee ... | | FAFCU - Gene... | 20.00 | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| Check | 6/11/2011 | 6329 | Charlotte LeFeve | BS&A training | | FAFCU - Gene... | 30.00 | 30.00 | 50.00 |
| Check | 7/11/2011 | 6370 | Grand Traverse Cou... | training on ne... | | FAFCU - Gene... | 61.54 | 61.54 | 111.54 |
| Check | 8/10/2011 | 6400 | MTA | Conference-a... | | FAFCU - Gene... | 99.00 | 99.00 | 210.54 |
| Check | 10/12/2011 | 6423 | Charlotte LeFeve | | | FAFCU - Gene... | 75.00 | 75.00 | 285.54 |
| Check | 3/15/2012 | Direct... | Charlotte LeFeve | budget meeting | | FAFCU - Gene... | 30.00 | 30.00 | 315.54 |
| Check | 3/28/2012 | 0044 | FAFCU | (3) overdraft f... | | FAFCU - Gene... | 75.00 | 75.00 | 390.54 |
| Total 101-253-602 Training Fees & Due | | | | | | | | 390.54 | 390.54 |
| Total 101-253-000 Treasurer | | | | | | | | 390.54 | 390.54 |
| TOTAL | | | | | | | | 390.54 | 390.54 |

Union Township, Grand Traverse County

Vote For
Constance "Connie" Stone
For Treasurer

STATE OF MICHIGAN
RUTH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

August 28, 2012

Charlotte LaFeve
5232 Lake Road
Fife Lake, Michigan 49633

Dear Ms. LaFeve:

The Department of State received a response to the complaint you filed against Constance Stone, which concerns alleged violations of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA), 1976 P.A. 388, MCL 169.201 *et seq*. A copy of the response is provided as an enclosure with this letter.

If you elect to file a rebuttal statement, you are required to send it within 10 business days of the date of this letter to the Bureau of Elections, Richard H. Austin Building, 1st Floor, 430 West Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan 48918.

Sincerely,

Lori A. Bourbonais

Lori A. Bourbonais
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

c: Constance Stone

August 20, 2012

Dear Sir or Madam Bureau Of Elections,

This letter is in response to the letter I received on August 18, 2012 where I was informed that I violated the MCFA section 47 (1) of 1976PA388,MCL 169.247 (1). Where it requires a person who produces printed material that relates to an election to include the phrase "Paid for by" This violation was reported by Charlotte LaFeve.
My only response is that it was produced by myself. It was a cover letter that I attached to a copy of our meeting minutes along with my card that I printed myself. I had the paper and ink in my position as also the I had the business card material for many years. I did not solicit or receive funds. I did not know that if I printed this material myself in my home that I had to put "Paid For By". I thought this only had to be used it someone donated funds or materials for your campaign.
It surely was not my intent to violate the campaign finance act as I did not know that I had to put "Paid For By". I also was not aware of this act. Please let me know what I have to do to correct this. I will be calling the phone number provided to see what I can do to clear up this matter. Please find attached your letter that I received.

Thank You
Constance Stone
Constance L Stone
5650 Grand Kal Rd. SW
Fife Lake, Mi 49633

STATE OF MICHIGAN
RUTH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

August 15, 2012

Constance Stone
5650 Grand Kal road
Fife Lake, Michigan 49633

Dear Ms. Stone:

The Department of State (Department) received a formal complaint filed by Charlotte LaFeve against you, alleging that you violated section 47(1) of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA), 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.247(1), by failing to include a complete and correct identification statement on your campaign signs. A copy of Ms. LaFeve's complaint is provided as an enclosure with this letter.

The MCFA and corresponding administrative rules require a person who produces printed material that relates to an election to include the phrase "Paid for by [name and address of the person who paid for the item]." MCL 169.247(1), R 169.36(2). A knowing violation constitutes a misdemeanor offense punishable by a fine of up to $1,000.00, imprisonment for up to 93 days, or both. MCL 169.247(5).

In support of her complaint, Ms. LaFeve provided a copy of a card which states "Vote For Constance 'Connie' Stone For Treasurer [,]" and a flyer which states "Please vote on Aug 7th [.]" It appears that there is no paid for by statement on the card or flyer.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the Department's examination of these matters and your right to respond to the allegations before the Department proceeds further. It is important to understand that the Department is neither making this complaint nor accepting the allegations as true.

**If you wish to file a written response to this complaint, you are required to do so within 15 business days of the date of this letter. Please include any evidence that reflects any corrective measures you have taken to bring your campaign material into compliance with the MCFA.** Your response may include any written statement or additional documentary evidence you wish to submit. All materials must be sent to the Department of State, Bureau of Elections, Richard H. Austin Building, 1st Floor, 430 West Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan 48918. If you fail to submit a response, the Department will render a decision based on the evidence furnished by the complainant.

A copy of your reply will be provided to Ms. LaFeve, who will have an opportunity to submit a rebuttal statement to the Department. After reviewing all of the statements and materials provided by the parties, the Department will determine whether "there may be reason to believe that a violation of [the MCFA] has occurred [.]" MCL 169.215(10). Note that the Department's

enforcement powers include the possibility of entering a conciliation agreement, conducting an administrative hearing, or referring this matter to the Attorney General for enforcement of the criminal penalty provided in section 47(5) of the Act.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, you may contact me at (517) 241-0395.

Sincerely,

Lori A. Bourbonais
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

c: Charlotte LaFeve

STATE OF MICHIGAN
RUTH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

October 11, 2012

Constance Stone
5650 Grand Kal Road SW
Fife Lake, Michigan 49633

Dear Ms. Stone:

The Department of State (Department) has completed its investigation of a complaint filed against you by Charlotte LaFeve, which alleged that you violated section 47(1) of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act), 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.247(1), by failing to include a complete identification statement on your campaign material. This letter concerns the disposition of Ms. LaFeve's complaint.

The MCFA and corresponding administrative rules require a person who produces printed material that relates to an election to include the phrase "Paid for by [name and address of the person who paid for the item]." MCL 169.247(1), R 169.36(2). A knowing violation constitutes a misdemeanor offense punishable by a fine of up to $1,000.00, imprisonment for up to 93 days, or both. MCL 169.247(5).

The Act also requires the Department to "endeavor to correct the violation or prevent a further violation by using informal methods [,]" if it finds that "there may be reason to believe that a violation ... has occurred [.]" MCL 169.215(10). The objective of an informal resolution is "to correct the violation or prevent a further violation [.]" Id.

The complaint was filed by Ms. LaFeve on August 8, 2012, and you filed a written response on August 23, 2012. Ms. LaFeve did not file a rebuttal statement.

Ms. LaFeve alleged that neither your campaign card nor campaign flyer contained a paid-for-by statement. Ms. LaFeve provided as evidence one of your campaign cards which states "vote For Constance 'Connie' Stone For Treasurer [,]" and a copy of a campaign flyer which states "Please vote on Aug 7th [.]" It appears that there is no paid-for-by statement on the card or flyer.

In response, you filed a letter which stated that you produced your campaign material yourself, and that you did not know that "if [you] printed this material [yourself] in [your] home that [you] had to put 'Paid For By'" on the material. You also stated that you did not solicit or receive funds, and that you would take any steps necessary to correct the violation. You indicated in a telephone conversation that although you will appear on the November ballot, you will not be producing any campaign materials.

While the Department believes that the evidence tends to show that your campaign material failed to contain a proper paid-for-by statement, section 15(10) of the MCFA requires the

Department to "endeavor to correct the violation or prevent a further violation by using informal methods such as a conference, conciliation, or persuasion [.]"

In order to comply with the Act, any literature that you distribute that relates to a future election and has already been printed must be remedied by affixing a sticker to it with the appropriate paid-for-by identification statement.

Additionally, the Department is advising you that section 47(1) and R 169.36(2) require you to print a complete and accurate identification statement on all campaign materials, consisting of the phrase "paid for by" followed by the full name and address of your committee. Note that all printed materials that refer to an election or your candidacy produced in the future must include this identification statement.

Please be advised that this notice has served to remind you of your obligation under the Act to identify your printed matter, and may be used in future proceedings as evidence that tends to establish a knowing violation of the Act. A knowing violation is a misdemeanor offense and may merit referral to the Attorney General for enforcement action. MCL 169.247(5), 215(10).

The Department now considers this matter closed and will take no further action against you at this time.

Sincerely,

Lori A Bourbonais

Lori Bourbonais
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

c: Charlotte LaFeve