



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

October 29, 2013

Cynthia Bower
25012 Orchard
Taylor, Michigan 48180

Dear Ms. Bower:

The Department of State (Department) received two formal complaints filed by Angela Croft and Jeff Lamarand 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 certain campaign-related material. Copies of the complaints are 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 their complaints, Ms. Croft and Mr. Lamarand provided a picture of a sign and a copy of a picture of what appears to be the same sign which states "Cynthia BOWER for CITY CLERK [.]". It appears that there is no paid-for-by statement on the sign. Ms. Croft and Mr. Lamarand also included copies of a picture of another sign which bears the disclaimer "PAID FOR BY CTE CYNTHIA A. BOWER FOR TAYLOR CITY CLERK, 25012 ORCHARD TAYLOR, MI 48180 [.]". After reviewing the copies, the Department has determined that the only other ascertainable words on the sign are "for CITY CLERK [.]".

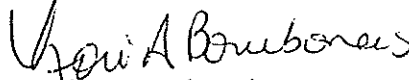
The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the Department's examination of these matters and your right to respond to the allegations before the Department proceeds further. It is important to understand that the Department is neither making this complaint nor accepting the allegations as true.

If you wish to file a written response to these complaints, you are required to do so within 15 business days of the date of this letter. Please send one single answer to both complaints, and 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 complainants.

A copy of your reply will be provided to Ms. Croft and Mr. Lamarand, 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lori A. Bourbonais".

Lori A. Bourbonais
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

c: Angela Croft
Jeff Lamarand

**Michigan Department of State
Campaign Finance Complaint 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:

Section 1. Complainant		
Your Name <i>Jeff Lamarand</i>	Daytime Telephone Number <i>734 552-8318</i>	
Mailing Address <i>PO Box 1972</i>		
City <i>Taylor</i>	State <i>MI</i>	Zip <i>48180</i>
Section 2. Alleged Violator		
Your Name <i>Cynthia Bower</i>		
Mailing Address 		
City <i>Taylor</i>	State <i>MI</i>	Zip <i>48180</i>
Section 3. Alleged Violations (Use additional sheet if more space is needed.)		

Section(s) of the MCFA violated:

Section 47(1) 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.247

Explain how those sections were violated:

No disclaimer on certain campaign signs

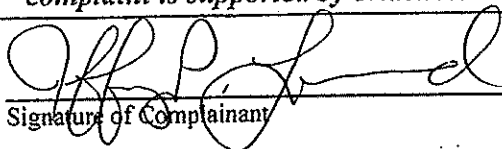
Evidence that supports those allegations (attach copies of pertinent documents and other information):

photo documentation - attached

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


Signature of Complainant

Date

10-17-13

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

Section 15(6) of the MCFA (MCL 169.215) required 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.

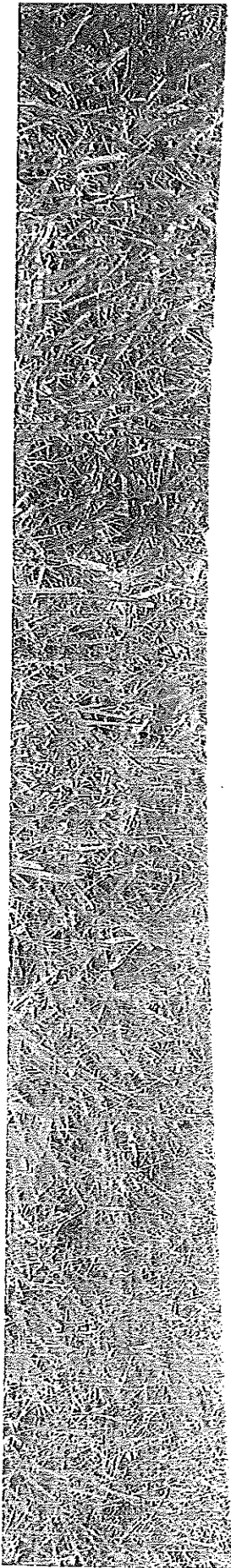
Mail or deliver the completed complaint form and evidence to the following address:

Michigan Department of State
Legal and Regulatory Service Administration
Richard H. Austin Building - 4th Floor
430 West Allegan Street
Lansing, Michigan 48918

Cynthia
BOVIER
for CITY
CLERK

PAD FOR BICYCLISTS A BONUS FOR TAYLOR GUN CLERK 2012 GORDON TAYLOR M. 4110

for CITY CLERK



Michigan Department of State
Campaign Finance Complaint Form

BUREAU OF ELECTIONS
MI DEPT OF STATE

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:

Section 1. Complainant		
Your Name Angela Croft		Daytime Telephone Number 734-576-9585
Mailing Address 10815 Westlake		
City Taylor	State MI	Zip 48180
Section 2. Alleged Violator		
Your Name Cynthia Bower		
Mailing Address 25012 Orchard		
City Taylor	State MI	Zip 48180
Section 3. Alleged Violations (Use additional sheet if more space is needed.)		

Section(s) of the MCFA violated:

Section 47(1), 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.247(1), Section J

Explain how those sections were violated:

Campaign signs do not have contact/paid for info on them

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

Pictures included/attached

One picture shows that Ms. Bower includes the disclosure indicating clearly that she is aware of Michigan law whereas another photo shows she chooses not to follow it.

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 Angela Croft 10-17-13
Signature of Complainant Date

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

Section 15(6) of the MCFA (MCL 169.215) required 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:

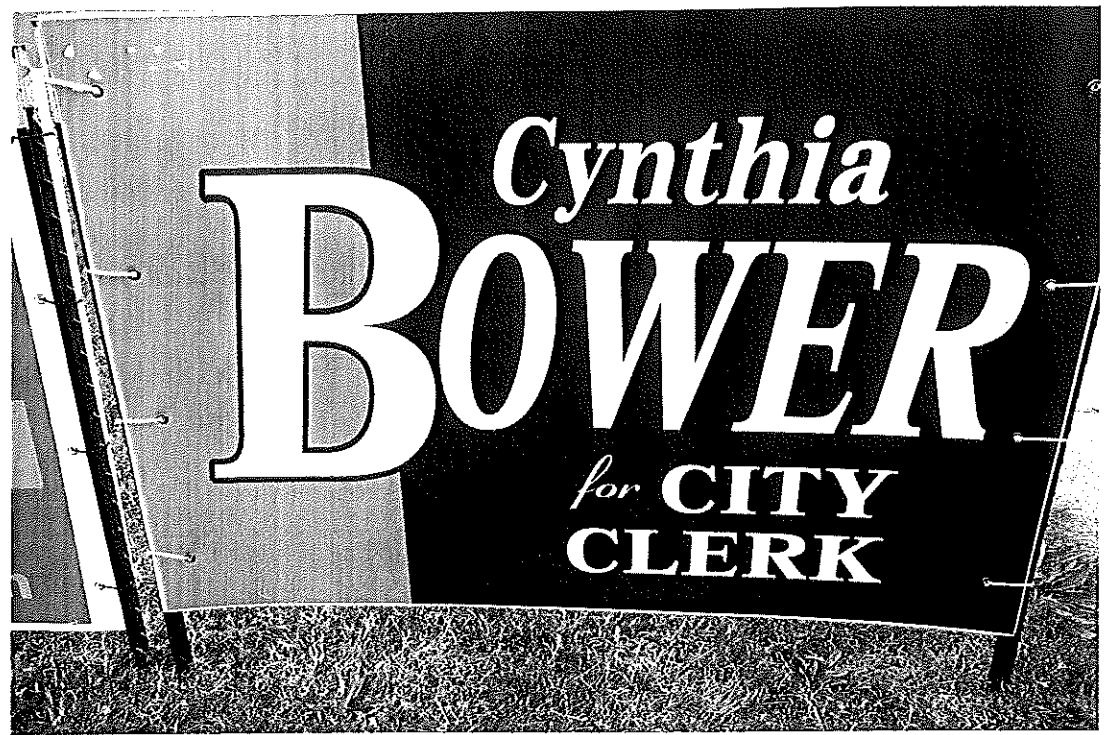
I certify that to the best of my knowledge, information, or belief, there are grounds to conclude that the following specifically identified factual contentions are likely to be supported by evidence after a reasonable opportunity for further inquiry. Those specific contentions are:

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.

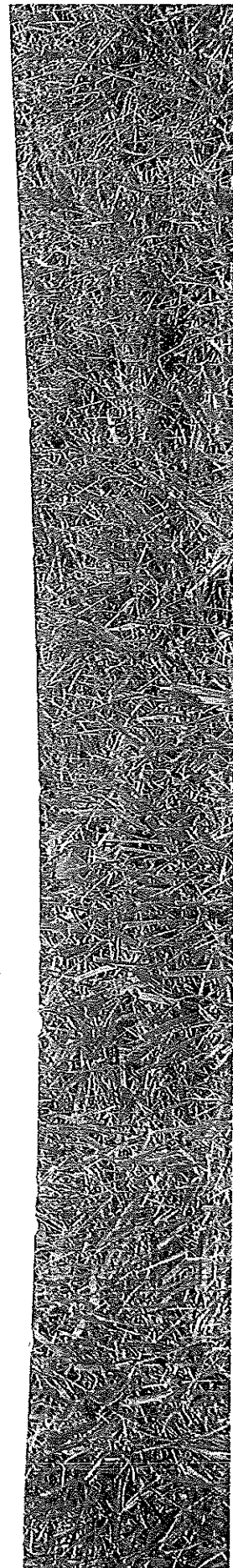
Mail or deliver the completed complaint form and evidence to the following address:

Michigan Department of State
Legal and Regulatory Service Administration
Richard H. Austin Building - 4th Floor
430 West Allegan Street
Lansing, Michigan 48918



for CITY CLERK

PAID FOR BY CTE CYNTHIA A. BOWER FOR TAYLOR CITY CLERK, 25512 ORCHARD TAYLOR MI 48180





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

December 11, 2013

Angela Croft
10815 Westlake
Taylor, Michigan 48180

Jeff Lamarand
P.O. Box 1972
Taylor, Michigan 48180

Dear Ms. Croft and Mr. Lamarand:

The Department of State received a response to the complaints you filed against Cynthia Bower, which concern an alleged violation 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. **Please file only one rebuttal statement signed by both of you.**

Sincerely,

Lori A. Bourbonais
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

c: Cynthia Bower

November 11, 2013

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

Dear Ms. Bourbonais:

Thank you for your letter of October 29, 2013, advising me of the alleged violations of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act. It is my understanding that the complaints claim that a small number of my campaign signs did not identify the name and address of the person paying for the signs. These signs were printed by Mr. Rob Pare' and I am attaching a statement from Mr. Pare' explaining how the printing of these 12 signs came about. The signs were for my re-election campaign for the position of City Clerk.


Please note that the Committee To Elect Cynthia A. Bower For Taylor City Clerk purchased 375 campaign lawn signs from Sawicki and Sons in Detroit, a sign company that specializes in political materials and campaign signs. All of the signs purchased from Sawicki and Sons and all of my campaign literature contained the required disclosure required by MCL 169.247(1). Mr. Pare', who owns a small sign company, agreed to print 12 larger signs for me and mistakenly omitted the necessary identification language. Mr. Pare' advised me that the omission of the disclosure language was entirely accidental and was certainly not intentionally done. I did not realize that the signs printed by Mr. Pare' did not have the necessary disclosure language until I received your letter of October 29, 2013. Had this omission been brought to my attention sooner, I would have taken action sooner. None of the complainants notified me prior to notifying your office.

I hope this adequately responds to your questions. However, should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact me at the following address:

Cynthia (Cindy) Bower
25012 Orchard
Taylor, MI 48180

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia A. Bower". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Cynthia A. Bower

MI Custom Signs
20109 Northline Road
Taylor, MI 48180



Phone: 734-946-7446
www.MIcustomSIGN.com
World Class Service!

11/8/13

To Whom It May Concern,

I attended an open house at the Rick Sollars for Mayor Headquarters in September 2013 and heard that the Committee To Elect Richard Sollars had ordered over 2,000 lawn signs from a sign company in Detroit by the name of Sawicki and Sons. I also learned that the Sollars campaign was in need of some larger signs and a banner. Since I have my own sign company, MI Custom Signs, I knew I could print the larger signs and banner fairly quickly and I decided to do so and to donate the signs to the Sollars' campaign. My company very rarely makes political signs and when making up and printing the signs, I inadvertently omitted the language at the bottom of the signs regarding who had paid for the signs.

My sign company printed a total of 38 signs for the Sollars campaign, 30 that were 40" x 54" and 8 signs that were 60" x 14". I also printed one banner that was 14 inches x 8ft that I placed in front of my shop at 20109 Northline Road in Taylor.

At the same time I was printing signs for the Sollars' campaign, I also printed up 12 large signs for Cindy Bower, the City Clerk who was running for re-election. Like with the Sollars' signs, I omitted the language showing who had paid for the 12 Bower campaign signs.

I apologize for this oversight and I can assure you that it was inadvertent and unintentional. If I print up any campaign signs again in the future, I will make certain that they contain the required language.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'René R. Pare', is written over a white background.

Réne R. Pare
President
MI Enterprises, LLC
734-486-9591 cell
rpere@micustomsigns.com

Indoor Poster
Monument and Information Signs
Golf Course Markings and Temporary Signs
Full Color large format Digital Printing
Vehicle Lettering and Wraps

Banners
Vehicle and Glass Lettering
Large Maps (city-wide)
Dasher Boards for Ice Rinks
LED Message Centers



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

February 14, 2014

Cynthia Bower
25012 Orchard
Taylor, MI 48180

Dear Ms. Bower:

The Department of State (Department) has completed its investigation of the complaints filed against you by Angela Croft and Jeff Lamarand, 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 and correct identification statement on certain campaign-related material. This letter concerns the disposition of Ms. Croft's and Mr. Lamarand's complaints.

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 complaints were filed by Ms. Croft and Mr. Lamarand on October 18, 2013, and you filed a written response on December 11, 2013. Neither Ms. Croft nor Mr. Lamarand filed a rebuttal statement.

Ms. Croft and Mr. Lamarand alleged that your campaign signs did not contain complete and correct paid-for-by statements. In support of their complaints, Ms. Croft and Mr. Lamarand provided a picture of a sign and a copy of a picture of what appears to be that same sign which states "Cynthia BOWER for CITY CLERK [.]". It appears that there is no paid-for-by statement on the sign. Ms. Croft and Mr. Lamarand also included copies of a picture of another sign which bears the disclaimer "PAID FOR BY CTE CYNTHIA A. BOWER FOR TAYLOR CITY CLERK, 25012 ORCHARD TAYLOR, MI 48180 [.]".

In response, you filed a letter which stated that you "did not realize that the signs printed by Mr. Pare' did not have the necessary disclosure language." You also provided a letter from Mr. Pare' explaining his mistake.

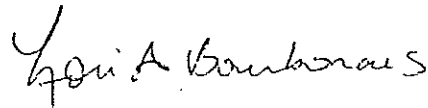
While the Department believes that the evidence tends to show that your campaign material failed to contain a complete paid-for-by statement, section 15(10) of the MCFA requires the Department to "endeavor to correct the violation or prevent a further violation by using informal methods such as a conference, conciliation, or persuasion [.]"

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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lori A. Bourbonais". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Lori Bourbonais
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

c: Angela Croft
Jeff Lamarand