



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

May 11, 2016

Susan Brockmann  
223 East Gates Street  
Romeo, Michigan 48065

Dear Ms. Brockmann:

The Department of State (Department) received a formal complaint filed by Deborah Obrecht against you, alleging that you violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act), 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.201 *et seq.* The investigation and resolution of this complaint is governed by section 15 of the Act and the corresponding administrative rules, R 169.51 *et seq.* A copy of the complaint and supporting documentation is enclosed with this letter.

In Michigan it is unlawful for a public body or an individual acting on its behalf to use or authorize the use of "funds, personnel, office space, computer hardware or software, property, stationery, postage, vehicles, equipment, supplies, or other public resources to make a contribution or expenditure [.]” MCL 169.257(1). A knowing violation of section 57 is a misdemeanor offense. MCL 169.257(4).

Ms. Obrecht alleges that you improperly used public funds by displaying your campaign sign in the township office.

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.** 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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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 answer will be provided to Ms. Obrecht, 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

Susan Brockmann

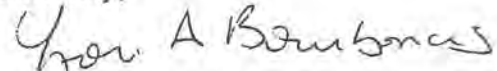
May 11, 2016

Page 2

administrative hearing, or referring this matter to the Attorney General for enforcement of the criminal penalties provided in section 57(4) 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 that reads "Lori A. Bourbonais".

Lori A. Bourbonais

Bureau of Elections

Michigan Department of State

c: Deborah Obrecht

**Campaign Finance Complaint Form**  
**Michigan Department of State**

RECEIVED/FILED  
MICHIGAN DEPT OF STATE  
2016 MAY -4 PM 3:16

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.*). All information on the form must be provided along with an original signature and evidence. **Please print or type all information.**

I allege that the MCFA was violated as follows:

Section 1. Complainant		
Your Name	Deborah S. Obrecht	
Daytime Telephone Number	586-246-3795	
Mailing Address	8661 N. DUTCHESS	
City	State	Zip
Romeo	MI	48065-4344

Also:  
Bruce Twp Treasurer

Section 2. Alleged Violator		
Name	Susan E. Brockmann, Bruce Twp Clerk	
Mailing Address	223 East GATES ST	
City	State	Zip
Romeo	MI	48065

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

Section(s) of the MCFA violated:

MCFA ACT 388 of 1976 Section 169.257

Explain how those sections were violated:

Sec. 57. (1) A person or a person acting for a public body shall not use...  
office space... to make a contribution

(per Mark spoke w/ @ your office 1:10 pm 4/29/16) (2nd confirmation by your office - violate) <sup>4/28/16 called also</sup>

It is the policy of this state that a public body shall maintain strict neutrality in each election & that a public body or person acting on behalf of a public body shall not attempt to influence the outcome of an election held in the state.

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

Photo of sign displayed in Clerk's office for her re-election.  
Her office is located in the Township hall - a public building.  
As an elected official, responsible for elections for our community,  
it is a violation. Furthermore, creates distrust of the governmental

**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 *Nehorah A. Clermont*  
Signature of Complainant

4/29/2016  
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:*

A photo showing sign displayed openly in Clerk's office.  
This office hosts meetings & discussion with various people  
including residents and registered voters.

It is common sense we cannot display campaign materials on  
town property. It is unethical & embarrassing for our community.  
Elected officials are required to uphold the highest standards of conduct.

X *Nehorah A. Clermont*  
Signature of Complainant

4/29/16  
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 with an **original signature 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

Revised: 01/16

Note: I have photos - sign was n't displayed just an hour - it has been at least since

"I am not a lawyer, but I believe that the sign was not displayed just an hour - it has been at least since





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

May 27, 2016

Deborah S. Obrecht  
8661 North Dutchess  
Romeo, Michigan 48065-4344

Dear Ms. Obrecht:

The Department of State received a response to the complaint you filed against Susan Brockmann, which concerns 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, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 430 West Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan 48918.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori A. Bourbonais".

Lori A. Bourbonais  
Bureau of Elections  
Michigan Department of State

c: Susan Brockmann



May 18, 2016

RECEIVED/FILED  
MICHIGAN DEPT OF STATE  
2016 MAY 26 PM 3:50  
ELECTIONS/GREAT SEAL

To Whom it May Concern:

Please accept this letter as my written response to your letter dated May 11, 2016 in regards to a complaint by Bruce Township Treasurer, Deborah Obrecht. The complaint involves a statement that I had a political sign displayed in my office and because that office is public, I was in violation of MCL 169.257.

The sign that is at the center of this investigation apparently had been hidden behind a file cabinet in my office since the election of 2012. I had disposed of all of my signs, but apparently a citizen had brought it by as a good gesture and that's where I put it. It became exposed during the cleaning of my office by me and because I needed to get a new supply of lawn signs for the 2016 election, I sat it against the wall on the floor as seen in the photograph for a few days. A good portion of that time, my office door was closed. I never knowingly violated MCL 269.257 in any way. I had the sign placed as a reminder to take with me to the sign company. I was notified by a member of our general office staff on May 6<sup>th</sup>, that Treasurer/complainant Obrecht was taking pictures of the inside of my office through an open door. That picture is at the foundation of her complaint and included in this package. It should be noted that the member of the staff saw the photo being taken on May 6<sup>th</sup>. I didn't know why she was taking pictures. I didn't even realize I had done anything wrong until she started posting the pictures on social media. By that time I had voluntarily removed the sign, as I had planned to do, without knowing it was a topic of conversation.

The sign was never placed there for campaign purposes. My office is not visible from any public access to the township. It is adjacent to an employee only entrance. Meetings are rarely held in my office, none of which are with the general public. The meetings held in my office over the past few weeks were with engineers, developers, attorneys, and our DPW, none of which can vote for me and none of which have contributed to or endorsed my candidacy.

This complaint is motivated by an ongoing personal vendetta by the treasurer towards me. It bears an eerie resemblance to the campaign of 2012 when Ms. Obrecht went so far as to make an assault and battery complaint against me which was rejected in whole by the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office. I have been harassed by the Complainant since first hired by the township in 2005 because my duties in the accounting department exposed a number of suspicious actions of collusion and corruption which included the complainant. Her ongoing harassment activities include taking photographs of my minor son late in the evening (secretively), her husband following me on numerous occasions after hours, and publishing of false documents that she had altered to fit her needs.

The photograph could not have been taken on the hand written date and time that she indicated on her copy. I challenge the authenticity and accuracy of her claim. Knowing her past behavior, and propensity for amending the truth, I would ask the state to consider these circumstances when rendering their decision. If the true intent of the complaint was to make sure the election process was upheld to the "highest standards", why would she continue to post this complaint on social media literally almost two weeks after the sign had been removed (see photos enclosed).

I have enclosed pictures showing that the complainant continues to promulgate this story on social media long after the removal of the sign. I have also enclosed unsolicited letters from township employees. I have received numerous phone calls that she is using this incident to make derogatory remarks about me in an effort to help my opponent.

I have read through the entire MCL 169.257, and do now know that this nor any other political sign cannot be on township property whether it be on election day or not, and for any reason and will act accordingly. I would like to reiterate that I did not knowingly violate any campaign laws. It was nothing more than me getting busy and forgetting to take it. A person who is politically motivated took advantage of an honest error.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susan E. Brockmann".

Susan E. Brockmann



May 18, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Political Campaign Sign in Bruce Township Office

I have been employed by Bruce Township in the clerk's office for 15+ years.

It is my understanding that the Bruce Township Treasurer reported to the State of Michigan that Susan Brockmann, Bruce Township Clerk, was keeping a campaign sign in her office in full view of the public.

I am in and out of Ms. Brockmann's office every day that I work. I was totally unaware of any such sign in her office. Apparently, it was hidden behind furniture out of sight of anyone and forgotten about for some time. While doing a thorough cleaning of her office, including vacuuming and dusting, Ms. Brockmann found the sign and pulled it out with the intension of removing it from the premises. Before she was able to remove it to her vehicle, the treasurer took a picture of it.

I have never known Clerk Brockmann to do any campaigning from the office by displaying or handing out any items.

Sincerely

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

Mary Hoxsie

May 18, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

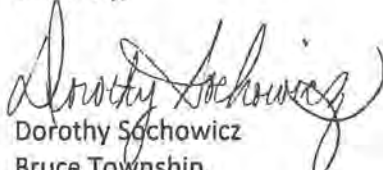
This letter is in response to the complaint that was filed against Susan Brockmann.

On May 6, 2016, I was at my desk in the general office when I heard a cell phone camera click coming from the hallway that leads to our bathroom. I thought it was "odd". The Township Treasurer had just headed that way, and I had not heard the bathroom door shut. The Clerk's office is right across from the bathroom, and she was not in her office.

There have been, and continue to be, many instances where the Township Treasurer has instigated complaints against the Clerk, Susan Brockmann. I thought it "odd enough" that I called the Clerk and let her know what I had heard, and indicated that I did not know what she was taking a picture of, but I just wanted her to be aware of the incident.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Dorothy Sochowicz  
Bruce Township  
Deputy Clerk



This is a social media post by Complainant. The post + pictures of my office were sent to social media 5 days after incident and 5 days after sign was removed.

Additional Information 5/24/16

In addition to my letter dated 5/18/16, I would like to submit another e-mail which I believe is pertinent to this issue. Last week the township was contacted by a resident who had issue with how our treasurer (the complainant) was conducting herself while going door to door in the township. He asked that we conduct ourselves in a more professional manner.

Yesterday that same resident sent an additional e-mail to the township of which I have enclosed a copy. He was asking to not be contacted anymore by the treasurer. What is more important to shed light on this case is that the e-mail sent to the resident on Friday 5/20/16 at 1 pm. (see email) is clearly from her township e-mail, using township property, and our township server to send out campaign material. Please read the body of the e-mail.

I am not going to file any complaint on this but wanted to submit it with my response to show the nature of the original complaint is more of a personal attack than a misuse of township property for election purposes as she herself is doing this. Thanks again for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Susan B. McKenna". The signature is written in dark ink on a plain white background.

## Susan Brockmann

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**From:** Dan Walker <dpwalker20@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 23, 2016 10:52 AM  
**To:** Debbie Obrecht; Susan Brockmann; Richard Cory; Paul Okoniewski  
**Subject:** Re: Bruce Twp Board Concerns

Debbie,

As stated, I am replying "all" to the below original response sent. I would like to formally redact from my original email that this be put onto official record. I also do not wish to receive further communication regarding this issue.

Thanks,  
Dan

On Fri, May 20, 2016 at 1:04 PM, Debbie Obrecht <[DObrecht@brucetwp.org](mailto:DObrecht@brucetwp.org)> wrote:

Dan –

Thank you for your comments. Based on your comment of "honor" and "integrity", I assume your comments were directed to me since they are listed on my election material.

I respect your request and have always worked under these principals/standards. During my term, working with Ron Walker was an honor. I appreciate all of the knowledge and experience he had and shared with our Board. As you know, John & I are indirectly related to your family. You may not be aware of the threatening email Ron received since he "wasn't" rubber stamping items. Unfortunately, it becomes a personal matter, if one chooses to disagree rather than agree professionally to disagree. Diversity is part of life. Yesterday, I received the highest compliment. They stated - I am not a politician because I don't play the game and I wear my heart on my sleeve. I truly care about our residents and citizens. I don't vote at the Board table to get votes. I vote what is the best (given the data provided) for our community overall. There are tough issues and some are not popular.

I personally do not track sale prices of homes nor have that information in my office. I had your neighbor tell me, after the house was sold, what it sold for. I never confirmed, researched nor discussed it. How they knew, I have no idea – but it was not from me. Personally, I was very excited to see you buy and settle in our community. I know your parents are happy to see you so close.

I agree that the current internal turmoil is a difficult situation. I work hard for our community. In order to make decisions, one must have information. That information must be accurate, truthful and presented timely to Board members. One should not have to struggle to get data. Based on the most recent rezoning request, residents asked me to be part of the legal representation for our community. I was the minority vote of the three key

officials. Recently, I completed evening classes on Planning & Zoning and just finished the Masters Certification. I spent many hours to better serve our community.

I have knocked on many doors. Sale price of homes or petty township politics is not my focus. I spoke with your wife briefly and welcomed her to our community and was thrilled to meet your son. I have been going door to door to encourage people to vote on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016, since our local officials are decided then. Homes sales have not come up. Taxes, roads, and sewer debt have been the major concerns in the Township.

Susan's comment puzzles me:

"Dan,

I am very sorry that this occurred. I have received numerous complaints in my office over the past few weeks but I am not in a position to police this. I do hope it stops. It is very embarrassing for us. I appreciate your input and hope that you stay involved with township issues.

Thank you,

Susan"

The only feedback Susan did pass along, five days later, was leaving information when "no solicitation" has been posted. I had checked prior with the Village and political materials are canvassing - not solicitation. I did not knock, I simply taped my flyer to their door. It is difficult to please everyone - some probably prefer to not have someone "knock on their door" and others expect this.

I have always maintained a professional and personal high ethics' standard of integrity and honesty. I am sorry you do not see this in my actions. I appreciate your return phone call and the opportunity to discuss this.

Thank you for your time. I wish you and your family many blessings and enjoy your "new" home in Bruce Township.

Deb Obrecht

Bruce Township Treasurer



586-752-4585 ext. 117

586-246-3795 cell

**From:** Dan Walker [mailto:[dpwalker20@gmail.com](mailto:dpwalker20@gmail.com)]

**Sent:** Friday, May 20, 2016 10:14 AM

**To:** Richard Cory <[RCory@brucetwp.org](mailto:RCory@brucetwp.org)>; Susan Brockmann <[SBrockmann@brucetwp.org](mailto:SBrockmann@brucetwp.org)>; Debbie Obrecht <[DObrecht@brucetwp.org](mailto:DObrecht@brucetwp.org)>; Paul Okoniewski <[pokoniewski@brucetwp.org](mailto:pokoniewski@brucetwp.org)>; [mfalker@brucetwp.org](mailto:mfalker@brucetwp.org)

**Subject:** Bruce Twp Board Concerns

Dear All,

I am writing this email so as to be on official record since I could not be present at the meeting on Wednesday, 5/18.

Several issues have come to light that I would like to address as both a citizen of Bruce Twp and as an adult who appreciates his privacy.

First, the very public feud between members of the Board is nothing short of embarrassing. You are elected officials who are supposed to represent the interests and project the image of the citizens of Bruce and lately that image has been one of childish, petty, immature and selfish pandering. If you expect your constituents to accept this kind of behavior, I believe you are mistaken. You are adults, please start acting as such.

Second, while I am fully aware that certain information is readily available as public record, I find it a severe overreach and abuse of power for members to use information received as a public official and share it while acting as a private citizen. I do not appreciate my neighbors coming up to me and sharing that they heard how much I paid for my home from one of our elected officials. If you're going to run a campaign based on "honor" and "integrity" I would begin by making actions out of your words.

Thank you,

Dan Walker

8934 W Gates St.

Bruce Twp, MI

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Daniel P. Walker  
University of Miami School of Law, JD

University of Michigan, BA  
586.531.1982  
dpwalker20@gmail.com

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Daniel P. Walker  
University of Miami School of Law, JD  
University of Michigan, BA  
586.531.1982  
dpwalker20@gmail.com



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

May 11, 2016

Susan Brockmann  
223 East Gates Street  
Romeo, Michigan 48065

Dear Ms. Brockmann:

The Department of State (Department) received a formal complaint filed by Deborah Obrecht against you, alleging that you violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act), 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.201 *et seq.* The investigation and resolution of this complaint is governed by section 15 of the Act and the corresponding administrative rules, R 169.51 *et seq.* A copy of the complaint and supporting documentation is enclosed with this letter.

In Michigan it is unlawful for a public body or an individual acting on its behalf to use or authorize the use of "funds, personnel, office space, computer hardware or software, property, stationery, postage, vehicles, equipment, supplies, or other public resources to make a contribution or expenditure [.]” MCL 169.257(1). A knowing violation of section 57 is a misdemeanor offense. MCL 169.257(4).

Ms. Obrecht alleges that you improperly used public funds by displaying your campaign sign in the township office.

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.** 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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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 answer will be provided to Ms. Obrecht, 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



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

June 21, 2016

Susan Brockmann  
223 East Gates Street  
Romeo, Michigan 48065

Dear Ms. Brockmann:

This letter concerns the complaint that was recently filed against you by Deborah Obrecht, which relates to a purported violation of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act), 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.201 *et seq.* The Department of State has received a rebuttal statement from the complainant, a copy of which is enclosed with this letter.

Section 15(10) of the MCFA, MCL 169.215(10), requires the Department to determine within 45 business days from the receipt of the rebuttal statement whether there is a reason to believe that a violation of the Act has occurred. Ms. Obrecht's complaint remains under investigation at this time. At the conclusion of the review, all parties will receive written notice of the outcome of the complaint.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori A. Bourbonais".

Lori A. Bourbonais  
Bureau of Elections  
Michigan Department of State

c: Deborah Obrecht

Deborah S. Obrecht  
8661 North Dutchess  
Romeo, MI 48065  
586-246-3795 (cell)

RECEIVED/FILED  
MICHIGAN DEPT OF STATE  
2016 JUN -6 PM 3:10  
ELECTIONS/GREAT SEAL

June 2, 2016

Bureau of Elections  
Richard H. Austin Building  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
430 West Allegan Street  
Lansing, MI 48918  
ATTN: Lori A. Bourbonais

RE: Reply to Complaint – Susan E. Brockmann, Bruce Township Clerk

Dear Ms. Bourbonais:

This short rebuttal position is permitted in accordance with your communications dated May 27, 2016. I will keep the issues concise.

It is my understanding State Statutes are enforced in accordance with the plain meaning of the relevant language. All words and phrases are afforded plain meanings and, if there are disputes, dictionary definitions may be used. Here, the relevant statute, MCL 169.257 is clear.

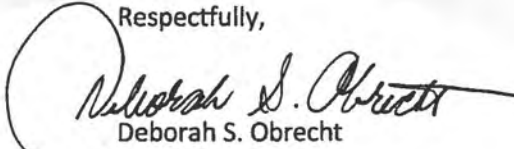
The campaign signage in the Clerk's office is a violation of MCL 169.257. The photographs provided are instructive on the issue. I took photos of the plain view from April 26, 2016 to May 6, 2016. Again, the photos are taken from a hallway without any touching of the signage.

Members of the voting public were in the Clerk's office for meetings on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016. There may have been others. Again, the signage was in plain view and violated MCL 169.257. During the school ballot election process on May 3, 2016, many citizens and election workers were in the hallway where the signage was visible.

It is a violation of MCL 169.257 to openly display a campaign sign in a person's public office. The issue is clear.

I ask the MCL 169.257 be enforced. If you need any additional information, please feel free to call me.

Respectfully,

  
Deborah S. Obrecht



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

August 9, 2016

Susan Brockmann  
223 East Gates Street  
Romeo, Michigan 48065

Dear Ms. Brockmann:

The Department of State (Department) has completed its investigation of the complaint filed against you by Deborah Obrecht, which alleged that you violated section 57 of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act), 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.257. This letter concerns the disposition of Ms. Obrecht's complaint.

The MCFA and corresponding administrative rules require the Department to ascertain whether there may be "reason to believe that a violation of this act has occurred." MCL 169.215(10), R 169.55(3). If the Department finds that there may be "reason to believe that a violation of this act has occurred [,]" the Department is required by law to "endeavor to correct the violation or prevent a further violation by using informal methods." Id.

The MCFA prohibits a public body or an individual acting on its behalf from "us[ing] or authoriz[ing] the use of funds, personnel, office space, computer hardware or software, property, stationery, postage, vehicles, equipment, supplies, or other public resources to make a contribution or expenditure." MCL 169.257(1).

Ms. Obrecht alleged that you improperly used public funds or resources by displaying one of your campaign signs in your township office. As evidence, Ms. Obrecht provided a picture of a sign which stated, "Elect SUSAN BROCKMAN BRUCE TOWNSHIP CLERK [,]" The sign was leaning against a wall next to a bookcase that had a sign which stated, "CLERK'S OFFICE [,]"

In your answer, you stated that you had placed the sign behind a bookcase after the 2012 election, where it had remained until recently. You further stated that you discovered the sign while cleaning your office and you left it on the floor for a few days. You also stated that you placed the sign there to remind you to take it with you to the sign company and to get new signs for this election cycle. Finally, you stated that the sign was not placed there for campaign purposes and that your office is not visible to the public.

Based on your admission that the sign was visible in your township office for a few days, the Department finds that the evidence tends to support a conclusion that there may be reason to believe a violation of the Act has occurred. After making this determination, the Department must now attempt to resolve the matter informally. MCL 169.215(10). The purpose of an informal resolution is "to correct the violation or prevent a further violation[,]" Id.



Susan Brockmann

August 9, 2016

Page 2

The Department notes that while the display of your sign in your township office was not proper, the Department takes into consideration that it appears from the evidence provided by the complainant that the sign was on the floor of your office, propped against a wall, and not prominently displayed for public view. The evidence is consistent with your explanation that the sign had been behind a bookcase in your office and when you found it you left it visible for a few days to remember to take it with you. Given the particular circumstances in this instance, the issuance of a warning letter is an appropriate resolution to this matter.

The Department reminds you that it is unlawful for a public body, or an individual acting on its behalf, to use or authorize the use of equipment, supplies, personnel, funds, or other public resources to make a contribution or expenditure. This notice may be used in future proceedings as evidence that tends to establish a knowing violation of the Act should you commit a violation of the MCFA in the future. A knowing violation is a misdemeanor offense and may merit a referral for criminal enforcement action. MCL 169.257(4).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lori A. Bourbonais", written in a cursive style.

Lori A. Bourbonais

Bureau of Elections

Michigan Department of State