



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

July 14, 2016

Betty Dermyer
5773 South Saddler Road
Chase, Michigan 49623

Dear Ms. Dermyer:

The Department of State (Department) received a formal complaint filed by Dan Sloan 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 the 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), Mich. Admin. 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(6).

In support of his complaint, Mr. Sloan provided a picture of a sign which states, "Elect Betty DERMYER Lake County Commissioner [.]". The paid-for-by statement on this sign appears to omit your committee's address.

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 the 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.

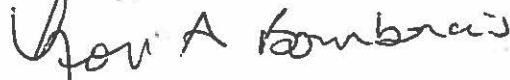
A copy of your reply will be provided to Mr. Sloan, who will have an opportunity to submit a rebuttal statement to the Department. After reviewing all of the statements and materials provided by the parties, the Department will determine whether "there may be reason to believe that a violation of [the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

Betty Dermeyer
July 14, 2016
Page 2

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(6) of the Act.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black 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 A. Bourbonais
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

c: Dan Sloan

Campaign Finance Complaint Form
Michigan Department 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.*). 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 <u>Dan Sloan</u>	Daytime Telephone Number <u>231-287-2309</u>	
Mailing Address <u>10035 E. 40th St.</u>		
City <u>Chase</u>	State <u>MI</u>	Zip <u>49623</u>

Section 2. Alleged Violator		
Name <u>Betty Dermeyer</u>		
Mailing Address <u>5773 S. Saddler Rd.</u>		
City <u>Chase, MI</u>	State <u>MI</u>	Zip <u>49623</u>

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

Section(s) of the MCFA violated:

Section 47(1)

Explain how those sections were violated:

Failure to include a complete identification on yard sign.

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

attached is a picture of a yard sign.

RECEIVED/FILED
MICHIGAN DEPT OF STATE
2016 JUL -8 PM 2:45
ELECTORAL/CREAT

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

Ann Sloan
Signature of Complainant

7-8-16
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:

Betty Dermeyer violated MCFA, 1976,
PA 388, MCL 169.247(1) by failing to
provide a complete identification on yard
sign.

X

Ann Sloan
Signature of Complainant

7-8-16
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



Elect

Betty

DERMYER

Lake County

Commissioner

Paid for by the committee to elect Betty Dermeyer Commissioner



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

July 28, 2016

Dan Sloan
10035 East 40th Street
Chase, Michigan 49623

Dear Mr. Sloan:

The Department of State received a response to the complaint you filed against Betty Dermyer, 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, 1st Floor, 430 West Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan 48918.

Sincerely,

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

Lori A. Bourbonais
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

c: Betty Dermyer

July 20, 2016

RECEIVED
2016 JUL 27 AM 10:28
ELECTIONS/CLERK OF COURT

Department Of State
Lansing, MI

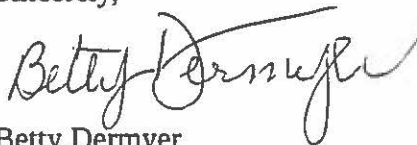
To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for bringing the matter of my campaign sign to my attention. It was merely an oversight. I have been under alot of stress, due to my husband passing away a few weeks ago.

I have taken care of the matter as you can see by the picture of my sign that I have enclosed.

Sorry you had to even send this letter. I apologize.

Sincerely,



Betty Dermeyer
5773 S Saddler Rd.
Chase, MI 49623



Elect

Betty

DEFERMYER

Lake County

Commissioner

Ballot for by the committee on elect Betty Defermyer Commissioner
6773 S. Oakview Rd. Denver, CO 80233 303-778-1928



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

October 17, 2016

Betty Dermeyer
5773 South Saddler Road
Chase, Michigan 49623

Dear Ms. Dermeyer:

The Department of State (Department) has completed its investigation of the complaint filed against you by Dan Sloan, 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 your campaign signs. This letter concerns the disposition of Mr. Sloan'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(6).

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.

Mr. Sloan filed his complaint on July 8, 2016, and you filed a written response on July 27, 2016. Mr. Sloan did not file a rebuttal statement with the Department.

Mr. Sloan alleged that you failed to include a committee address in your paid-for-by statement on your campaign signs. In support of his complaint, Mr. Sloan provided a picture of a sign which stated, "Elect Betty DERMYER Lake County Commissioner [.]". The paid-for-by statement on this sign appears to omit your committee's address.

In your response you stated that the absence of your committee's address was "an oversight." Once the omission was brought to your attention you wrote in the committee address on your signs. You provided a copy of a picture of the sign with the handwritten committee address included.

While the Department believes that the evidence tends to show that your campaign material failed to contain a 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 satisfied that you took

Betty Dermeyer
October 17, 2016
Page 2

appropriate corrective measures to bring your campaign material into compliance with the MCFA.

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(6), 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 black ink, appearing to read "Lori A. Bourbonais".

Lori A. Bourbonais
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

c: Dan Sloan