

Michigan Campaign Finance Complaint

Section 1. Complainant

Name: Matthew Schonert

Daytime Telephone Number: +1 (231) 250-9931

Mailing Address: 22050 Boulder Avenue, Eastpointe, Michigan 48021

Section 2. Alleged Violator

Name: Devonte Sherard

Mailing Address: 3844 12th Street, Ecorse, Michigan 48229

Email: devontesherard2@gmail.com

Section 3. Allegations

Sections of MCFA alleged to be violated:

- MCL 169.226(1)(d) - Failure to report fundraiser

Explain how those sections were violated:

Background

1. Devonte Sherard was a candidate for Mayor of Ecorse in 2022.¹
2. On February 23, 2022, Sherard filed with the Wayne County Clerk a statement of organization for a candidate committee called DeVonte Sherard for Ecorse (ID: 82-157856).
3. Sherard is named as the respondent in this complaint because the candidate committee is under the control and direction of the candidate.²
4. In a letter dated February 24, 2022, the Wayne County Clerk notified the committee that the committee did not request a reporting waiver and therefore was required to file all campaign statements.

¹ https://www.waynecounty.com/documents/clerk/official_candidate_list_080222.pdf

² MCL 169.203(2)

Explanation of violation of MCL 169.226(1)(d)

5. On Facebook, DeVonte Sherard advertised a fundraiser to be held on June 26, 2022, at Hurryback Bar in Ecorse. (URLs and screenshots are provided in the evidence section.)
6. The fundraiser date falls within the reporting period for the committee's pre-primary campaign statement ("CS").
7. On both the date of the fundraiser and on the date that its pre-primary CS was due, the committee did not have a reporting waiver.
8. The committee's pre-primary CS fundraiser schedule (1F) did not list the June 26, 2022, fundraiser. The fundraiser schedule was empty.
9. MCL 169.226(1)(d) requires that a campaign statement include the following information for each fund-raising event held:
 - i. The type of event, date held, address and name, if any, of the place where the activity was held, and approximate number of individuals participating or in attendance.
 - ii. The total amount of all contributions.
 - iii. The gross receipts of the fund-raising event.
 - iv. The expenditures incident to the event.
10. The committee's failure to report the fundraiser information on Schedule 1F constitutes a violation of MCL 169.226(1)(d).

Evidence included with the submission of the complaint that supports the allegations:

All of the campaign finance documentation mentioned in this complaint is available online from the Wayne County Clerk's office at <https://wccampaignfinance.com/Public/ViewFiledReports>

I have also attached copies of the following documents:

- Page 1 of statement of organization filed Feb. 23, 2022
- No reporting waiver letter
- The cover page, summary page, and schedule 1F (page 16) of the pre-primary CS.
 - The page footer on Schedule 1F shows that it is the 16th page out of 16, indicating that the fundraiser schedule contains no further pages.

Statement of organization

https://wccampaignfinance.com/Public/FiledReports?FileName=PaperFilingReport_fbeb7616-8c05-4447-bff7-75899d469507.pdf&memVersID=2022&committeeID=343168&reportingPeriodID=1056&cTypeCode=2022

No reporting waiver letter

https://wccampaignfinance.com/Public/FiledReports?FileName=PaperFilingReport_7743134c-26bf-444b-8437-809bd9c5a3f9.pdf&memVersID=2022&committeeID=343168&reportingPeriodID=1056&cTypeCode=2022

Pre-primary campaign statement

https://wccampaignfinance.com/Public/FiledReports?FileName=CandidateCommittee_CampaignStatement_e63cbbac-fb0e-4133-9437-efd229e8bb5c.pdf&memVersID=2022&committeeID=343168&reportingPeriodID=1056&cTypeCode=2022

Evidence of fundraiser

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=7941064395905425>

https://m.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=7941064395905425&_rd

Log In
or
Join



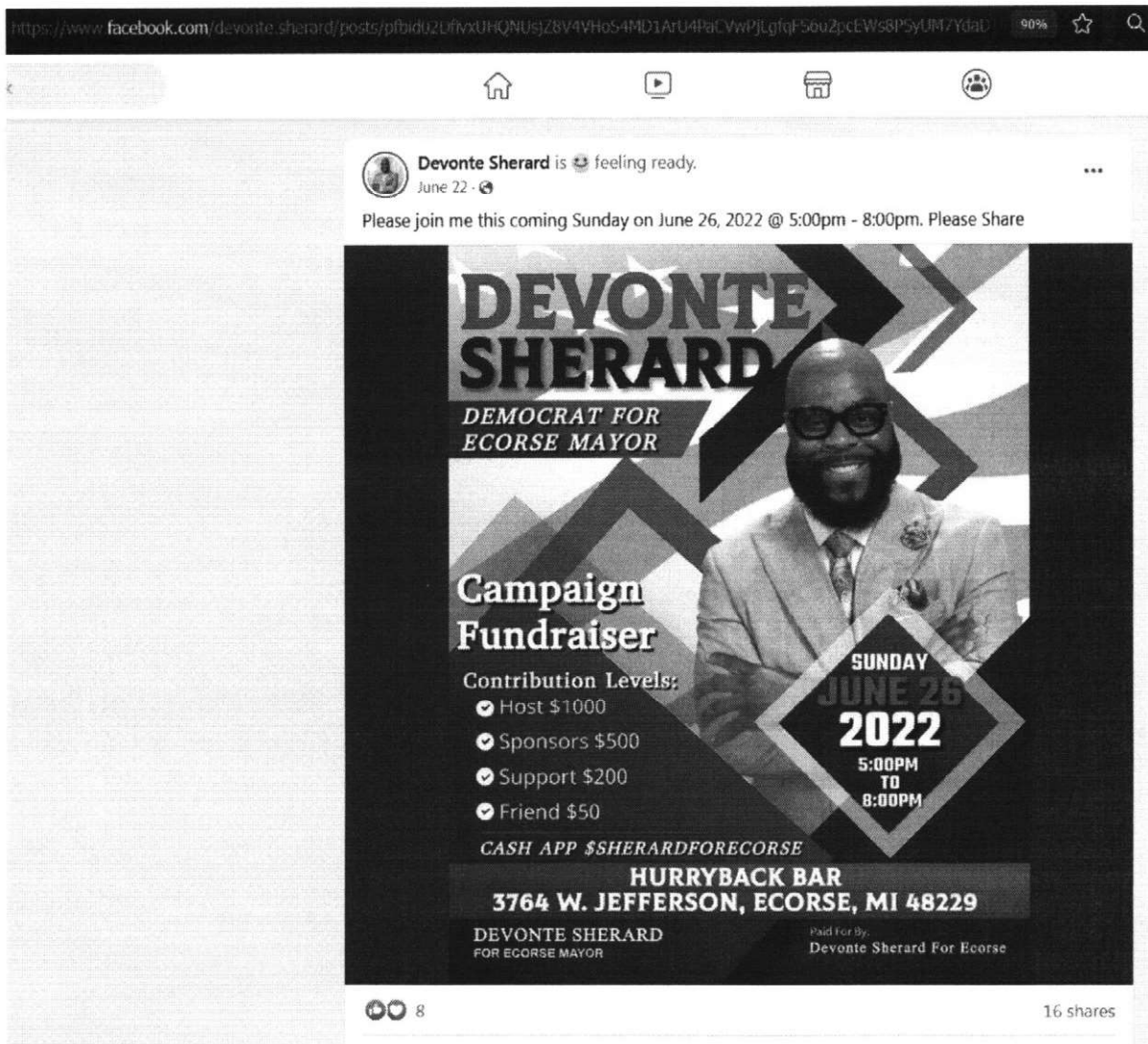
The image is a Facebook post from Devonte Sherard. It features a campaign poster for 'DEVONTE SHERARD DEMOCRAT FOR ECORSE MAYOR'. The poster includes a photo of Sherard, a list of contribution levels (Host \$1000, Sponsors \$500, Support \$200, Friend \$50), and event details for a 'Campaign Fundraiser' on Sunday, June 26, 2022, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM at 'HURRYBACK BAR, 3764 W. JEFFERSON, ECORSE, MI 48229'. Below the poster, the post text reads: 'Please join me for my pre-election fundraiser on Sunday June 26, 2022 @ Hurry back Bar 3764 W. Jefferson Ecorse MI 48229'. It also shows 'Mobile uploads · Jun 3 · 📷' and a 'View Full Size' link. At the bottom, it says 'Maurice Flaniken and 8 others like this.' and '77 Shares'.

Devonte Sherard
Please join me for my pre-election fundraiser on Sunday June 26, 2022 @ Hurry back Bar 3764 W. Jefferson Ecorse MI 48229

Mobile uploads · Jun 3 · 📷
View Full Size

Maurice Flaniken and 8 others like this.
77 Shares

<https://www.facebook.com/devonte.sherard/posts/pfbid02DfivxUHQNUsjZ8V4VHoS4MD1ArU4PaCVwPjLgfqFS6u2pcEWs8PSyUM7YdaDT8g4l>



Section 4. Certification

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 MRK-A
Signature of Complainant

12/20/2022
Date

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

If, after a reasonable inquiry under the circumstances, you are unable to certify that certain factual contentions are supported by evidence as indicated above, you may 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:

NOT APPLICABLE.

X

Signature of Complainant

Date

Section 6. Submission

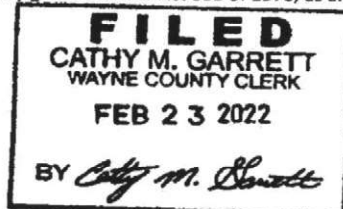
This complaint is hereby submitted to:

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



ORIGINAL OR AMENDED
STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATION FORM FOR LOCAL CANDIDATE COMMITTEES FILED WITH A COUNTY CLERK
Information on this form is made public.

1. Committee ID #: 82-157856	*2. Type of Filing: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original: <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment to items: Eff. Date:	
*3. Full Name of Committee (must include Candidate's first and last name): Sherard For Ecorse DeVonte Sherard For Ecorse		
*4a. Candidate Full Name: Last Name Sherard	First Name DeVonte	M.I. D
*4b. Political Party (if applicable): Democrat	*4c. County of Residence: Wayne	
*4d. Office Sought: Mayor	*4e. District or Jurisdiction: 13TH Congressional District Ecorse	
*5. Date Committee was Formed: Feb 17, 2022		
*6a. Committee Phone: 313-334-0266	6b. Committee Fax #:	
*6c. Committee Email Address: devontesherard2@gmail.com	6d. Committee Website Address:	
*7a. Complete Committee Mailing Address (May be PO Box): 3844 12TH street Ecorse, MI 48229		
*7b. Complete Committee Street Address (May not be PO Box): 3844 12TH street		
*8. Treasurer Name and Complete Residential Address: Shaundae Aike 478 Oliver Ct Ecorse MI 48229		
Phone #: (313) 575-4303	Email Address: ShaundaeAike@earthlink.net	
9. Designated Record Keeper Name and Complete Address:		
Phone #:	Email Address:	
*10. REPORTING WAIVER REQUEST: <input type="checkbox"/> YES, I/We WANT TO APPLY FOR THE REPORTING WAIVER. The committee does not expect to receive or expend in excess of \$1,000.00 in an election. I/We understand that if the committee does not spend or received in excess of \$1,000.00 in an election, the committee does not owe detailed campaign statements. I/We further understand that the Reporting Waiver will be automatically lost if the committee exceeds the \$1,000.00 threshold and all required campaign statements must be filed. A Reporting Waiver does not exempt a committee from filing Late Contribution Reports. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO, I/We DO NOT WANT TO APPLY FOR THE REPORTING WAIVER. The committee expects to receive or expend in excess of \$1,000.00 in an election. I/We understand that the committee owes detailed campaign statements even if the committee does not spend or receive in excess of \$1,000.00 in an election. I further understand that the Reporting Waiver cannot be requested retroactively to avoid filing requirements and to avoid paying late filing fees. Further information regarding Reporting Waivers can be found in Appendix C of the Committee Manual.		
*11. Name and Address of Depositories or Intended Depositories of committee funds. (Michigan Bank, Credit Union or Savings & Loan Association) While this item must be completed, an account does not have to be opened until the first contribution is received. *Official Depository (name and address): Secondary Depository (name and address): Chase Bank		
12. Verification: I/We certify that all reasonable diligence was used in the preparation of the above statement and that the contents are true, accurate and complete to the best of my/our knowledge or belief. If filing campaign statements electronically, we further agree that the signatures below shall serve as the signatures that verify the accuracy and completeness of each statement filed electronically by the committee. I/We certify that all reasonable diligence will be used in the preparation of each statement electronically filed by this committee and that the contents of each statement will be true, accurate and complete to the best of my/our knowledge or belief. (Sign Name and Date)		
*Candidate: DeVonte Sherard	Date: 2/17/22	*Current Treasurer:
*Designated Record Keeper (If Applicable)		Date: 2/17/22





Office of the County Clerk

Elections Division

Cathy M. Garrett
Wayne County Clerk

February 24, 2022

ID #82-157856
DeVonte Sherard For Ecorse
3844 12th Street
Ecorse, MI 48229

RE: A REPORTING WAIVER HAS NOT BEEN REQUESTED!

Dear Candidate DeVonte Sherard;

This committee filed in our office an original signed Statement of Organization form on January 23, 2022. **On the form, the committee did not check the box "Yes" for item #10 requesting a "Reporting Waiver".**

Based on this information, the committee does not have the Reporting Waiver and must file all required campaign statements. This is true regardless of the committee's activity level.

If this status is accurate, no action is needed on your part. However, if it is the committee's intent to request a Reporting Waiver, an amended Statement of Organization must be filed with the "Yes, I/We do want the Reporting Waiver" box checked. **Please review the Campaign Finance Act, MCL 169.233 (1).** A blank form is available on line at www.WCCampaignfinance.com under the "Forms and Manual" tab or you can log into our online system and edit and file an amended Statement of Organization.

A committee cannot request a Reporting Waiver retroactively in order to avoid filing campaign statements or paying late filing fees.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at (313) 224-2380, (313) 224-0169 or email at wccampaignfinance@waynecounty.com.

Very truly yours,

Gil Flowers

Gil Flowers
Campaign Finance Manager
Wayne County Clerk's Office

cc: file, scan, mail, email & treasurer
Rev: 2/2021



CANDIDATE COMMITTEE COVER PAGE

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Report must be legible, typed or printed in ink and signed by the treasurer(or designated record keeper) and candidate.

3. This Statement covers From: 04/17/2022 to 07/17/2022	
1. Committee I.D. Number 82-157856	4. Candidate First Name M.I. Last Name DeVonte D. Sherard
2. Committee Name DeVonte Sherard For Ecorse	4a. Office Sought Including District # or Community Served (If applicable) City, Ecorse, City Mayor
	4b. County of Residence
5. Committee's Mailing Address 3844 12th Street, Ecorse, MI 48229 Area Code and Phone: (313) 334-0266 If the address in this box is different from the committee mailing address on the Statement of Organization, mail may be sent to this address by the filing official.	6. Treasurer's Name & Residential Address LaGina, Sherard, 30203 Oakwood St., Inkster, MI 48141 Area Code and Phone: (313) 401-2098
7. Treasurer's Business Address Area Code and Phone:	8. Designated Record keeper's Name and Mailing Address (If the committee has a Designated Record keeper) Area Code and Phone:
9. TYPE OF STATEMENT 9a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pre-Election OR 9b. <input type="checkbox"/> Post-Election Pre-Election or Post-Election Statement relates to: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Primary <input type="checkbox"/> General <input type="checkbox"/> Convention <input type="checkbox"/> Special <input type="checkbox"/> School <input type="checkbox"/> Caucus Date of Election, Convention or Caucus 08/02/2022	Required ONLY if candidate is not on the ballot for the current year: <input type="checkbox"/> July Quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> October Quarterly 9c. <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Statement (2022) Coverage Year 9d. <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment to Campaign Statement (Complete Item 9a, 9b, 9c or 9e to indicate which Statement is being amended.)
9e. Dissolution of Candidate Committee <input type="checkbox"/> By checking this item, I/we certify any outstanding debt by the committee to the candidate or his or her spouse is here by discharged and forgiven, and no longer collectible from the committee. The committee has no outstanding assets, owes no late fees or has any outstanding debt. Further, if the dissolution cannot be granted, that this be considered a request for the Reporting Waiver. Effective Date of Dissolution _____ Note : The disposition of residual funds must be reported on Schedule 1B and the Summary Page.	
10. Verification: I/We certify that all reasonable diligence was used in the preparation of this statement and attached schedules (if any) and to the best of my/our knowledge and belief the contents are true, accurate and complete.	
Treasurer LaGina Sherard / Date: 07/14/2022 Type or Print Name Signature	
Candidate DeVonte D. Sherard / Date: 07/14/2022 Type or Print Name Signature	



Authority granted under P.A.388 of 1976

**SUMMARY PAGE
CANDIDATE COMMITTEE**

RECEIPTS		Column I This Period	Column II Cumulative this election cycle
3. Contributions			
a. Itemized (Schedule 1A - Column 6)	(3a.) \$	4144.00	
b. Unitemized (less than \$20.01 each - no Schedule)	(3b.) \$	NOT APPLICABLE	
c. Subtotal of "Contributions"	(3c.) \$	4144.00	(18.) \$ 4144.00
4. Other Receipts (Schedule 1A - 1, Column 6)	(4.) \$	0.00	(19.) \$ 0.00
5. TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND OTHER RECEIPTS (Add Line 3c + Line 4)	(5.) \$	4144.00	(20.) \$ 4144.00
IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS & EXPENDITURES			
6. In-Kind Contributions (Schedule 1-IK, Column 7)	(6.) \$	0.00	(21.) \$ 0.00
7. In-Kind Expenditures (Schedule 1B-IK, Column 6)	(7.) \$	0.00	(22.) \$ 0.00
EXPENDITURES			
8. Expenditures			
a. Itemized (Schedule 1B, Column 6)	(8a.) \$	3608.47	
b. Itemized Get-Out-the-Vote (Schedule 1B-G)	(8b.) \$	0.00	
c. Unitemized (Less than \$50.01 each - no Schedule)	(8c.) \$	0.00	
9. Total Expenditures (Add Line 8a + Line 8b + Line 8c)	(9.) \$	3608.47	(23.) \$ 3608.47
INCIDENTAL EXPENSE DISBURSEMENTS (Officeholders Only)			
10. Disbursements			
a. Itemized (Schedule 1C, Column 6)	(10a.) \$	0.00	
b. Unitemized (Less than \$50.01 each - no Schedule)	(10b.) \$	0.00	
11. TOTAL INCIDENTAL EXPENSE DISBURSEMENTS (Add Line 10a + Line 10b)	(11.) \$	0.00	(24.) \$ 0.00
DEBTS AND OBLIGATIONS			
12. Debts and Obligations			
a. Owed by the Committee (Schedule 1E)	(12a.) \$	0.00	
b. Owed to the Committee (Schedule 1E)	(12b.) \$	0.00	
BALANCE STATEMENT			
13. Ending Balance of last report filed (Enter zero if no previous reports have been filed.)	(13.) \$	0.00 *	
14. Amount received during reporting period (Line 5, Total Contributions & Other Receipts)	(14.) + \$	4144.00	
15. SUBTOTAL Add lines 13 and 14	(15.) = \$	4144.00	
16. Amount expended during reporting period (Add lines 9 and 11)	(16.) - \$	3608.47	
17. ENDING BALANCE (Subtract line 16 from line 15)	(17.) \$	535.53 *	

* Cash Balance as reported by committee



**FUND RAISER
SCHEDULE 1F
CANDIDATE COMMITTEE**

- USE A SEPARATE SHEET FOR EACH EVENT -



STATE OF MICHIGAN
JOCELYN BENSON, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

January 10, 2022

DeVonte Sherard
3844 12th Street
Ecorse, MI 48229

Re: *Schonert v. Sherard*
Campaign Finance Complaint No. 23-002

Dear Mr. Sherard:

The Department of State (Department) has received a formal complaint filed against you by Matthew Schonert alleging that you violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act). Specifically, the complaint alleges that you failed to report information regarding a fundraiser your committee, DeVonte Sherard for Ecorse, held on June 26, 2022. A copy of the complaint is included with this notice.

The MCFA requires that candidates and committees record the full name, street address, amount contributed, and date of contribution for each individual from whom contributions are received. MCL 169.226(1)(e). Additionally, the following information regarding each fundraising event must be included in the report:

- The type of event, date held, address and name, if any, of the place where the activity was held, and approximate number of individuals participating or in attendance.
- The total amount of all contributions.
- The gross receipts of the fundraising event.
- The expenditures incident to the event.

MCL 169.226(1)(d).

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. 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.* An explanation of the process is included in the enclosed guidebook.

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. Materials may be emailed to BOERegulatory@michigan.gov or mailed 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 answer will be provided to Mr. Schonert, who will have an opportunity to submit a rebuttal statement to the Department. After reviewing 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.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, you may contact the Regulatory Section of the Bureau of Elections at BOERegulatory@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

Regulatory Section
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

c: Matthew Schonert



STATE OF MICHIGAN
JOCELYN BENSON, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

February 9, 2023

SECOND NOTICE

DeVonte Sherard
3844 12th Street
Ecorse, MI 48229

Re: *Schonert v. Sherard*
Campaign Finance Complaint No. 23-002

Dear Mr. Sherard:

The Department of State (Department) has received a formal complaint filed against you by Matthew Schonert alleging that you violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act). Specifically, the complaint alleges that you failed to report information regarding a fundraiser your committee, DeVonte Sherard for Ecorse, held on June 26, 2022. A copy of the complaint is included with this notice.

The Department sent you notice of this complaint in a letter dated January 11, 2023. That letter informed you that you had 15 business days from that date to provide a response to the complaint. **As a courtesy, the Department is extending you an opportunity to submit a response within 15 business days of the date of this second notice.** If you do not submit a response within 15 business days of the date of this notice, the Department will have no choice but to adjudicate the complaint based on the facts and allegations included in the complaint alone.

The MCFA requires that candidates and committees record the full name, street address, amount contributed, and date of contribution for each individual from whom contributions are received. MCL 169.226(1)(e). Additionally, the following information regarding each fundraising event must be included in the report:

- The type of event, date held, address and name, if any, of the place where the activity was held, and approximate number of individuals participating or in attendance.
- The total amount of all contributions.
- The gross receipts of the fundraising event.
- The expenditures incident to the event.

MCL 169.226(1)(d).

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. 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.* An explanation of the process is available on the Department's [website](#).

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. Materials may be emailed to BOERegulatory@michigan.gov or mailed 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 answer will be provided to Mr. Schonert, who will have an opportunity to submit a rebuttal statement to the Department. After reviewing 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.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, you may contact the Regulatory Section of the Bureau of Elections at BOERegulatory@Michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

Regulatory Section
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

MDOS-BOERegulatory

From: Devonte Sherard <devontesherard2@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 9:46 PM
To: MDOS-BOERegulatory
Subject: Re: Ecorse Mayoral Campaign Finance

CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to abuse@michigan.gov

Thank you for your response.

Everything is already taken care of I do not owed the Wayne County they have probably did not update my finance report but everything is already taken care of I will reach out to them tomorrow.

Thank you in advance for your help

DeVonte Sherard

On Wed, Feb 15, 2023, 3:14 PM MDOS-BOERegulatory <MDOS-BOERegulatory@michigan.gov> wrote:

Mr. Sherard,

As you noted, the Wayne County clerk is your filing official, and campaign finance reports are due to them. Their website showing filed reports is available here: [View Filed Reports \(wccampaignfinance.com\)](https://www.wccampaignfinance.com). The Schonert v. Sherard complaint that the Department received regarding your committee alleged that you did not complete the 1F Fundraiser schedule for your fundraiser held June 26, 2022 in your pre-primary report, which you filed July 14, 2022.

You may address this issue by amending your report with Wayne County. You may respond to the complaint by February 27, 2023.

Thank you,

Regulatory Section

[Bureau of Elections](#)

Michigan Department of State

Main: 517-335-3234

BOERegulatory@Michigan.gov

From: Devonte Sherard <devontesherard2@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 2:58 PM
To: MDOS-BOERegulatory <MDOS-BOERegulatory@michigan.gov>
Subject: Ecorse Mayoral Campaign Finance

CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to abuse@michigan.gov

Dear Secretary of State

Hello I am DeVonte Sherard Former Ecorse Mayoral Candidate this is regarding of my campaign finance.

To whom is required my campaign finance is in order and write. When I first start off in the campaign I had three different treasures and now everything is squared away in the right direction.

There was some mistakes that have happened in the campaign treasure regarding to people that was not qualified to be my treasure but now I had the right person which is the third person came into help me with my Campaign finance.

Last treasure was LaGina Washington and the Wayne County clerk's office had made a mistake and put an arrow and in put LaGina Sherard.

All my campaign finance is straight in right

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to give me a call 313-334-0266

DeVonte Sherard

Former Ecorse Mayoral Candidate



Office of the County Clerk

Elections Division

Cathy M. Garrett
Wayne County Clerk

March 7, 2023

ID #82-156243
Committee to Elect Devonte Sherard
3844 12th Street, Apt 102
Ecorse, MI 48229-1334

Dear Candidate Devonte Sherard,

Following up with your email request dated March 3, 2023 for a committee status check for the office sought **Ecorse City Council Member**.
As of March 7, 2023:

1. You have one outstanding notice of Error or Omission for your filed Pre General 2018 Campaign Statement. Copy is included with this letter

There are no other outstanding issues (campaign statements or notice of error or omissions) with this candidate committee.

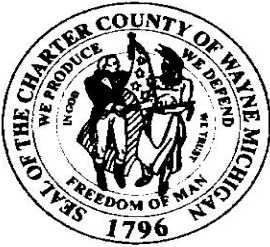
If you have any questions, please call our office (313) 224-2380 or (313) 224-0169.

Very truly yours,

Gil Flowers

Gil Flowers
Campaign Finance Manager

cc: file, scan, email
Rev: 4/2021



Office of the County Clerk

Elections Division

Cathy M. Garrett
Wayne County Clerk

COPY

DATE: July 30, 2019

ID #82-156243
CTE Devonte Sherard
3844 12th Street Apt. 102
Ecorse, MI 48229

Dear Committee: **SECOND MAILING: September 19, 2019**

There is a question about your **CAMPAIGN STATEMENT (S)** regarding the following schedule(s), which have not been properly completed:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cover Page | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Summary Page |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1A Itemized Direct Contributions | <input type="checkbox"/> 1B Itemized Expenditures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blank | <input type="checkbox"/> Blank |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1A-1 Itemized (other receipts) | <input type="checkbox"/> I-C Incidental Disbursements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1-IK In-Kind Contributions | <input type="checkbox"/> 1B-G Get Out the Vote Expend |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1E Debts/Obligations | <input type="checkbox"/> 1B-K Itemized In-Kind Expend |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1F Fund Raiser Schedule | |

NOTE: SEE ATTACHED REPORT

Please review the attached report and make the necessary corrections in a filed amendment to the Statement(s) listed. The amendment(s) are due on line no later than 9 business days from date of this notice (**Due on August 12, 2019**).

If we do not receive a response to this notice by the above due date, see enclosed MCL 169.233, which requires this office to refer the matter to the Attorney General.

Should you have any questions please give me a call at (313) 224-0169 or email at wccampaignfinance@waynecounty.com.

Sincerely,

Amirah Jackson - Barrett

Amirah Jackson - Barrett
Campaign Finance Analyst
Wayne County Clerk's Office

cc: file, scan, mail, email & treasurer
Rev: 3/2017

NOTICE OF ERROR OR OMISSION
PRE GENERAL (November 6, 2018 Election) CAMPAIGN STATEMENT

COVER PAGE

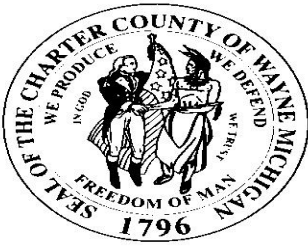
- No other changes are required.

SUMMARY PAGE

- The Beginning Balance of a Campaign Statement must be the same as the Ending Balance of the last Campaign Statement filed. On this Campaign Statement you have reported a Beginning Balance of **\$0.00**. However, on the previous Campaign Statement filed by your committee (**Post Primary 2018**), you reported an Ending Balance of **\$218.95**. Please amend your Campaign Statement so that these two totals are the same. This change may require an amendment to your reported ending balance amount. You can only make this change when you file your campaign statement on the screen for "**cash balances**".

NOTE: TO AMEND YOUR ON LINE CAMPAIGN STATEMENT

- Select: **Amend Transactions** for filed Campaign Statements
- Select: Reporting Period Name of "**10/21/2018 Pre General**"
- Select: **SEARCH** to see your reported data
- Select: "**Actions (blue edit box)**" to amend that line item (if needed).
- Please Note: **You must file the amended campaign statement for the changes to be reported.**
- If you have any questions, please contact our office.



Office of the County Clerk

Elections Division

Cathy M. Garrett
Wayne County Clerk

March 7, 2023

ID #82-157856
DeVonte Sherard For Ecorse
3844 12th Street
Ecorse, MI 48229

EMAILED ONLY

Dear Candidate DeVonte Sherard,

Following up with your email request dated March 3, 2023 for a candidate committee compliance status check for the office of **Ecorse City Mayor**.

We have reviewed your candidate committee's file and as of **Tuesday, March 7, 2023** there are no outstanding Campaign Finance Statements, Error or Omission notices or late filing fees.

If you have any questions, please call our office (313) 224-2380 or (313) 224-0169.

Very truly yours,

Gil Flowers

Gil Flowers

Campaign Finance Manager

cc: file, scan, email & treasurer
Rev:01/2022



STATE OF MICHIGAN
JOCELYN BENSON, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

March 15, 2023

Matthew Schonert
22050 Boulder Avenue
Eastpointe, MI 48021

Via email

Re: *Schonert v. Sherard*
Campaign Finance Complaint No. 23-002

Dear Mr. Schonert:

The Department of State received a response from Devonte Sherard to the complaint you filed against him alleging a violation of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act, 1976 P.A. 388, MCL 169.201 *et seq.* A copy of the response is provided as an enclosure with this letter.

You may file a rebuttal statement after reviewing the enclosed response. If you elect to file a rebuttal statement, you are required to do so within 10 business days of the date of this letter. The rebuttal statement may be emailed to BOERegulatory@Michigan.gov or mailed to the Department of State, Bureau of Elections, Richard H. Austin Building, 1st Floor, 430 West Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan 48918.

Sincerely,

Regulatory Section
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

Enclosure
c: Devonte Sherard

MDOS-BOERegulatory

From: Matt Schonert <mrschonert@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 8:00 PM
To: MDOS-BOERegulatory
Subject: Re: Schonert v. Sherard Campaign Finance Complaint No. 23-002

CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to abuse@michigan.gov

To Whom It May Concern:

My rebuttal statement in *Schonert v. Sherard* is as follows.

It appears that the respondent has inquired with the Wayne County Clerk's office about the compliance status of his committee. However, this fails to address the allegation made in the complaint. The county clerk is not responsible for processing campaign finance complaints and may not even be aware of this complaint. Furthermore, if the clerk does not know that the respondent held a fundraiser on June 26, 2022, then they would be unable to advise him via an error/omission notice that his fundraiser schedule was incomplete.

The Bureau of Elections advised the respondent in a February 15, 2023, email that this issue could be addressed by amending his pre-primary campaign statement ("CS"). However, it appears that this has not been done.

On March 15, 2023, I visited the Wayne County campaign finance website at <https://wccampaignfinance.com> and searched for the following campaign statement:

- Committee Name: 82-157856-DeVonte Sherard For Ecorse
- Reporting Period: 07/17/2022 Pre Primary

The system returned only one result, with a Filed/Amended date of 7/14/2022. For this CS, Schedule 1F is empty.

Consequently, it appears that the respondent has not amended his Pre Primary CS to include the fundraiser information.

Sincerely,
Matthew R. Schonert

On Wed, Mar 15, 2023 at 10:51 AM MDOS-BOERegulatory <MDOS-BOERegulatory@michigan.gov> wrote:

Please see the attached.

Thank you,

Bureau of Elections, Regulatory Section

Michigan Department of State

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson

P.O. Box 20126

Lansing, Michigan 48901



STATE OF MICHIGAN
JOCELYN BENSON, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

May 1, 2023

Devonte Sherard
3844 12th Street
Ecorse, MI 48229

Re: *Schonert v. Sherard*
Campaign Finance Complaint No. 23-002

Dear Mr. Sherard:

The Department of State (Department) has finished investigating the campaign finance complaint filed against you by Matthew Schonert alleging that you violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act). This letter concerns the disposition of that complaint.

The complaint alleged that you failed to report information regarding a fundraiser your committee, DeVonte Sherard for Ecorse, held on June 26, 2022.

You responded to the complaint in emails sent February 15 and 21, 2023. In your response, you claimed that you had three treasurers over the course of your campaign, which resulted in some mistakes. However, you argued that your reports had been corrected and everything was up to date.

Additionally, you submitted a letter from the Wayne County Office of the County Clerk: Election Division, which states that, as of March 7, 2023, “[y]ou have one outstanding notice of Error or Omission for your filed Pre General 2018 Campaign Statement . . . There are no other outstanding issues (campaign statements or notice of error or omissions) with this candidate committee.”

Mr. Schonert provided a rebuttal statement in an email received by the Department March 15, 2023. In that statement, he argued that, while the county clerk stated that you had no outstanding issues, the clerk’s office would have no way of knowing whether you had held a fundraiser and were required to submit the attendant report. Accordingly, the clerk “would be unable to advise [you] via an error/omission notice that [your] fundraiser schedule was incomplete.”

The MCFA requires that candidates and committees record the full name, street address, amount contributed, and date of contribution for each individual from whom contributions are received. MCL 169.226(1)(e). Additionally, the following information regarding each fundraising event must be included in the report:

- The type of event, date held, address and name, if any, of the place where the activity was held, and approximate number of individuals participating or in attendance.
- The total amount of all contributions.
- The gross receipts of the fundraising event.
- The expenditures incident to the event.

MCL 169.226(1)(d).

The Department has reviewed the evidence submitted in this matter and your filed [reports](#) for the DeVonte Sherard for Ecorse committee, ID #82-157856, available on the Wayne County Campaign Finance Information System. Mr. Schonert is correct that your pre-primary statement, submitted July 14, 2022, does not include any events on the Schedule 1F fundraiser page.

The Department has reviewed the evidence submitted in this matter and finds that sufficient evidence has been presented to support a finding of a potential violation of the MCFA. While you submitted your required pre-primary statement, you did not complete the Schedule 1F to report the elements required under section 26 of the MCFA, above. Your pre-primary statement includes at least 11 contributions received on June 26, 2022, which was the date of your fundraiser. All of those contributions must be reported on the Schedule 1F fundraiser form.

This letter serves to notify you and your clients that the Department has determined there may be reason to believe that you have violated the Act and to notify you that the Department is beginning the informal resolution process.

Please submit Schedule 1F as an amendment to your pre-primary report by September 8, 2023, and notify the Department that you have done so at BOERegulatory@Michigan.gov in order to resolve this issue.

“If, after 90 business days, the secretary of state is unable to correct or prevent further violation by these informal methods, the secretary of state shall do either of the following:

- (a) Refer the matter to the attorney general for the enforcement of any criminal penalty provided by this act.
- (b) Commence a hearing as provided in subsection (11) for enforcement of any civil violation.”

MCL 169.215(11).

Sincerely,



Jenny McInerney, Regulatory Attorney
Regulatory Section
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

c: Matthew Schonert



STATE OF MICHIGAN
JOCELYN BENSON, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

September 12, 2023

The Honorable Dana Nessel
Department of Attorney General
G. Mennen Williams Building
525 West Ottawa Street
Lansing, MI 48933

Re: *Schonert v. Sherard*
Michigan Campaign Finance Complaint

Dear Attorney General Nessel:

Please allow this letter to serve as a referral to the Attorney General of the above referenced campaign finance matter for the enforcement of any criminal penalties under the Michigan Campaign Finance Act. MCL 169.215(10)(a).

If you or your staff would like any additional information regarding this case, please contact this office.

Sincerely

s/ Michael J. Brady

Michael J. Brady, Chief Legal Director
Michigan Secretary of State

cc: Heather Meingast, Division Chief, CLEE Division