



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN & POLITICAL FINANCE

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November 13, 2019

Joe Morissette
64 Langevin Street
Chicopee, MA 01020

Re: CPF 19-95

Dear Mr. Morissette:

This office has completed its review of information we received alleging that you and your wife are public employees, and that you both used your personal cell phones and/or Facebook accounts to distribute invitations to a fundraiser benefitting your Committee.

Section 13 of the campaign finance law prohibits any person "employed for compensation, other than an elected officer, by the commonwealth or any county, city, or town" from directly or indirectly soliciting or receiving contributions for a candidate for public office. This restriction applies at all times, and not just during the work day. You have acknowledged that both you and your wife are public employees: you are a Vice Principal at Chicopee Comprehensive High School, a public school, while your wife is a teacher at that same school. You were also a candidate for Chicopee Mayor in the November 5, 2019 election. To support your candidacy for Mayor, your Committee planned a spaghetti dinner for September 5, 2019, with an advertised ticket price of \$10 per person. You acknowledged that both you and your wife sent invitations to this event to a variety of people via text message and Facebook.

Based upon our review, we have concluded that your distribution of a fundraising invitation did not comply with Section 13. Once you were made aware of this issue, you promptly cancelled the event and refused and/or refunded any contributions that were offered in response to event invitations and advertising. Because you took appropriate and prompt remedial action, and because we believe this letter will ensure future compliance with the campaign finance law, OCPF has determined that this matter may be closed at this time.

In accordance with the opinion of the Supervisor of Public Records, this letter is a matter of public record.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Sullivan
Director

MJS/mc

