



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN & POLITICAL FINANCE

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July 27, 2016

Linda Parent
11 Belmont Avenue
West Springfield, MA 01089

Re: CPF-16-73

Dear Ms. Parent:

This office has completed its review of a complaint we received regarding your name appearing on an invitation to a fundraising event on behalf of Tom Ashe for Hampden County Sheriff. The event was held at the Dante Club on June 27, 2016.

Section 13 of M.G.L. c. 55, the campaign finance law, states, in relevant part, that “[n]o person employed for compensation, other than an elected officer, by the commonwealth or any county, city or town shall directly or indirectly solicit or receive any gift, payment, contribution, assessment, subscription or promise of money or other thing of value for the political campaign purposes of any candidate for public office or of any political committee, or for any political purpose whatever,”

As the Director of Insurance for the City of Springfield, you are employed for compensation by the City. Therefore, you may not directly or indirectly solicit or receive contributions for a candidate or for any other political purpose. See IB-92-01 (summarizing Section 13). Your name was included on a list of 25 individuals who were hosting a fundraising event on behalf of Tom Ashe. You stated, however, that when you agreed to host the event, you believed the event would only be a “meet and greet” and that you did not know it would be a fundraiser. Furthermore, as soon as you learned your name was on a fundraising invitation, you requested that it be removed. Once you contacted the Ashe Committee, new invitations were printed and distributed without your name.

While the listing of your name on the invitation did not comply with the campaign finance law, I believe that our explanation of the law to you will ensure future compliance. Accordingly, I have determined that this educational letter to you resolves this matter. For future reference, I have enclosed a copy of this office’s one-page fact sheet: *Public Employees and Campaigns*.



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In accordance with the opinion of the Supervisor of Public Records, this letter is a public record. Thank you for your cooperation in resolving this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael J. Sullivan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Michael J. Sullivan
Director

MJS/sh