



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN & POLITICAL FINANCE

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MICHAEL J. SULLIVAN  
DIRECTOR

November 13, 2019

John Vieau  
287 Chicopee Street  
Chicopee, MA 01013

Re: CPF 19-99

Dear Mr. Vieau:

This office has completed its review of information we received alleging that you are a public employee and that you shared another candidate's fundraising event on your personal Facebook page.

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 to all fundraising solicitations for any political purpose, including for your candidacy or for the candidacy of any other individual.

You have acknowledged that you are employed by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. You are also an elected official, serving as a City Councilor in Chicopee since 2004 and City Council President since 2016; in the November 5, 2019 election, you were elected Mayor of Chicopee. On May 18, 2019, you shared a post to your personal Facebook page. The original post, posted by "George Balakier for City Council," advertised a spaghetti dinner fundraiser to support the re-election of George Balakier to the Chicopee City Council. The post also included information for individuals to make contributions to the Balakier Committee via ActBlue. All of this information appeared in both the original post, and in the re-post you shared to your personal Facebook page. You stated that you remembered the original Balakier post, but that you believed you had simply "liked" the post, rather than "sharing" it.

Based upon our review, we have concluded that your actions in sharing/re-posting of another's candidate's fundraising event on Facebook constitutes "direct or indirect" solicitation within the meaning of Section 13 and, accordingly, did not comply with the campaign finance law. Once you were made aware of this issue, you promptly removed the post from your personal Facebook page. 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

