

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of Campaign and Political Finance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 6, 2004

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**OCPF, Quincy Democratic Committee sign agreement
concerning organization and disclosure violations**

The Office of Campaign and Political Finance announced today that it has entered into a disposition agreement with the Quincy Democratic City Committee regarding violations of the campaign finance law's requirements for organizing and disclosing financial activity.

In the agreement, OCPF concluded that the Committee failed to file the required organization statement in 2000 and also failed to disclose receipts and expenditures for the last four years.

Local party committee members are elected at each presidential primary. Each committee is required by law to organize and elect officers shortly thereafter, then file a list of its officers with OCPF.

The Committee did not organize and file the required organizational statement after the March 2000 primary. In addition, it took in receipts and made expenditures through 2003 that were not disclosed in campaign finance reports. Bank records indicate the committee raised approximately \$21,000 and spent about \$18,000 from 2000 through 2003.

For the most part, the Committee's financial activity involved a single fundraising event each year, an annual brunch in October. The Committee did not make any contributions to candidates, or expenditures to promote or oppose candidates, during this period.

The Committee failed to disclose the above activity by not filing periodic campaign finance reports as required by M.G.L. Chapter 55, Section 18, which requires reports from local party committees that raise or spend more than \$100 in a reporting period. OCPF became aware of the Committee's ongoing activity in the normal course of its review of expenditures disclosed by other candidates and political committees to the Committee.

On February 17, 2004, after OCPF contacted the Committee chairman and the treasurer, the Committee filed its statement of organization with OCPF.

In the agreement, OCPF concluded that the Committee violated two sections of M.G.L. Chapter 55: Section 5, which requires a local party committee to file a statement of officers after the primary and which prohibits a committee from having any campaign finance activity until a treasurer is formally appointed and accepts the position in writing; and Section 18, which requires local party committees to file campaign finance reports if it exceeds the \$100 threshold during a reporting period. OCPF concluded that reports should have been filed for 2000 through 2003.

To resolve the matter, the Committee agreed to file campaign finance reports disclosing Committee activity between January 1, 2000 and December 31, 2003, within 30 days. The Committee also agreed to pay a civil forfeiture of \$2,000 to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

OCPF agreed not to refer the Committee or the Treasurer to the Attorney General for the violations of the provisions of M.G.L. c. 55 referenced in this Agreement.

The agreement was signed by OCPF Director Michael Sullivan; Michael T. Cheney, Committee chairman; and Joanne C. Walsh, treasurer.

A copy of the agreement is available from OCPF or may be obtained from the agency's office at One Ashburton Place, Room 411, Boston, MA 02108.

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