



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN & POLITICAL FINANCE

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May 4, 2009

Marjorie C. Decker  
Decker Committee  
61 Walden Street  
Cambridge, MA 02140

Re: CPF-08-75

Dear Ms. Decker:

This office has completed its review of an expenditure originally made by the John Buonomo Committee to Cambridge Offset Printing for printing services that were actually provided to the Decker Committee in November 2007. Based upon our review, we have determined that the Decker Committee did not comply with M.G.L. c. 55, § 6, the Massachusetts campaign finance law, by accepting an excess in-kind contribution from the Buonomo Committee in the amount of \$2,400.

Specifically, we have concluded, and your Committee has acknowledged, that the Buonomo Committee paid \$2,500 for services that Cambridge Offset Printing provided to you when they produced a mailer for your campaign in November 2007. "Contributions" are generally defined in Section 1 of Chapter 55 to include loans, advances, or transfers of money or anything of value between political committees. The payment by the Buonomo Committee resulted in an in-kind contribution from the Buonomo Committee to your Committee in the amount of \$2,500. The campaign finance law prohibits a committee organized on behalf of a non-statewide candidate from contributing to another candidate committee in excess of \$100 in a calendar year. See M.G.L. c. 55, § 6. Since your Committee received the goods and services for which the Buonomo Committee paid, an excess in-kind contribution of \$2,400 was received.

In August 2008, your Committee contacted Cambridge Offset Printing and the Buonomo Committee to remedy the excess in-kind contribution. As a result, your Committee then paid Cambridge Offset Printing \$2,500 on September 11, 2008, and Cambridge Offset Printing refunded \$2,500 to the Buonomo Committee on September 24, 2008. In response to inquiries from this office, you acknowledged the receipt of the excess in-kind contribution and have made a payment to the Commonwealth in the nature of a civil forfeiture in the amount of \$1,000 from your personal funds. In addition, your Committee has amended its 2007 year-end campaign finance report to reflect this in-kind contribution.

Based on the remedial measures outlined in this letter, we have concluded that this matter may be closed at this time. We believe that the guidance provided in the course of this review will result in future compliance with the campaign finance law.



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In accordance with the opinion of the Supervisor of Public Records this letter is a public record. If you have any questions regarding this letter or any other campaign finance matter, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael J. Sullivan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Michael J. Sullivan  
Director

MJS/sh