



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN & POLITICAL FINANCE

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February 26, 2009

Ronald Hastie  
Longmeadow Republican Town Committee  
735 Longmeadow Street  
Longmeadow, MA 01106

Re: CPF-08-98

Dear Mr. Hastie:

This office has learned that the Longmeadow Republican Town Committee held a fundraiser at the Longmeadow Community House on May 17, 2008.

Based on our review, we have concluded that holding this fundraising event at the Longmeadow Community House did not comply with Section 14 of M.G.L. c. 55, the campaign finance law, which prohibits fundraising in "any building or part thereof occupied for state, county or municipal purposes." Section 14 states, in relevant part, that "[n]o person shall in any building or part thereof occupied for state, county or municipal purposes demand, solicit or receive any payment or gift of money or other thing of value for any political purpose."

The Longmeadow Community House contains offices of the Longmeadow Finance Department (including the Human Resources Department), the Longmeadow Board of Health and Parks and Recreation Department of Longmeadow. As such, the building is "occupied for municipal purposes" and subject to the provisions of Section 14. Notwithstanding the fact that it may have been an accepted practice to use the Longmeadow Community House for such political fundraising events due to a misunderstanding of the campaign finance law, this building should not be used for such events in the future.

While fundraising for political purposes in a public building is prohibited by the campaign finance law, holding a political meeting in such a building is allowable under Chapter 55. Equal access to any public building should be consistently granted to any other political committee upon request under the same terms and conditions. See *Anderson v. City of Boston*, 376 Mass. 178, 380 N.E.2d 628 (1978), appeal dismissed, 439 U.S. 1069 (1979).

While this fundraising event did not comply with the campaign finance law, this matter may be closed at this time. We anticipate that our review and guidance will ensure future compliance with the campaign finance law.



Ronald Hastie  
February 26, 2009  
Page 2

In accordance with an opinion of the Supervisor of Public Records, this letter is a public record. A copy is being provided to the person(s) who brought this matter to our attention. Thank you for your cooperation in resolving this matter.

If you have any questions about 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 includes a horizontal line at the end.

Michael J. Sullivan  
Director

MJS/sh

cc: Jonathan Fein, Treasurer,  
Longmeadow Republican Town Committee