



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN & POLITICAL FINANCE

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May 4, 2009

Representative Michael Moran  
161 Bigelow Street  
Brighton, MA 02135

Re: CPF-09-17

Dear Representative Moran:

This office has completed its review of information we received stating that a member of your State House staff collected campaign contributions at the entrance of a fundraising event held on your behalf on March 8, 2009, and also at a similar event last year.

The campaign finance law prohibits political fundraising activity by non-elected public employees. See M.G.L. c. 55, § 13, which states, in relevant part, that “[n]o person employed for compensation [by the Commonwealth or any of its subdivisions], other than an elected officer, ... 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.”

You have acknowledged that one of your State House staff members was present at the events on her own time, but that she was not there for the purpose of receiving contributions (this was the responsibility of the Committee treasurer). You have stated that although the State House staff member stood near the door at times during the event, she accepted only an occasional contribution check and her function there related to performing other tasks, such as distributing gift bags to children at the event.

You have also stated that most contributions received in connection with the events were not delivered at the events in question, but instead were received by mail. You are not aware of the amount received by the staff member, or which contributors gave checks to her, but you have stated that the amount she received was minimal.

You have acknowledged, however, that the receipt of contributions by the staff member did not comply with Section 13. To take appropriate remedial action, you have agreed that your Committee will make a payment of \$250 to a charitable entity. You and your staff member also understand that State House staff members will not be involved in any political fundraising in the future.



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Because the Committee and the staff member have agreed to take this corrective action, and because we anticipate that our guidance will ensure future compliance, we have determined that this matter may be closed at this time.

This letter is limited to addressing issues within the scope of M.G.L. c. 55, the Massachusetts campaign finance law, and does not address any issues that may exist under the conflict of interest law, M.G.L. c. 268A.

In accordance with an opinion issued by the Supervisor of Public Records, this letter is a public record. If you have any questions about this letter or any other aspect of the campaign finance law, 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/gb