

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN & POLITICAL FINANCE

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June 22, 2009

Albert Turco
16 Indian Lane
Wakefield, MA 01880

Re: CPF-09-14

Dear Mr. Turco:

This office has completed its review of a complaint regarding a February 12, 2009, fundraising event held at the Americal Civic Center in Wakefield. The complaint also alleged that solicitations were sent via e-mail to public employees at their place of work in violation of Section 14 of chapter 55, the Massachusetts campaign finance law.

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." Since the Americal Civic Center does not contain offices "occupied for municipal purposes", it is therefore is not subject to the provisions of Section 14. Accordingly, we have concluded that holding this fundraising event at the Americal Civic Center complied with Section 14.

We have concluded, however, that your e-mail solicitations for the event, to the extent that they were sent to public employees at their places of employment, were inconsistent with Section 14. Section 14 prohibits the distribution of fundraising event notices to public employees at their place of business. According to your statements, approximately 250 e-mails were sent, nine of which went to public employees' e-mail addresses at their place of work. In response to this e-mail, you received \$200 in contributions from three separate public employees who received their solicitation at their place of work.

While sending these nine e-mails to governmental employees at their place of work was inconsistent with the campaign finance law, you have cooperated fully in this review and disgorged the \$200 raised as a result, by making a charitable contribution from your committee to The Angel Fund, Inc. in the amount of \$200. Accordingly, this matter may be closed at this time. We anticipate that our review and guidance will ensure future compliance with the campaign finance law.




Albert Turco
June 22, 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 black ink that reads "Michael J. Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".

Michael J. Sullivan
Director

MJS/sh