



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 2, 2007

Contact: Barbara Thomas
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FINDINGS IN THE COMPLAINT OF
HAROLD TOWNLEY, KIMBERLY IRELAND, AND TIM SZCZEPANIAK
AGAINST PATTI SOUTHWORTH AND GEORGE SEYMOUR
COMPLAINT 2007.7

Fair Campaign Practices for the Capital Region, Inc. (FCP) held a hearing on November 1, 2007, to consider a complaint made by Harold Townley, candidate for Town Supervisor in the Town of Ballston, against his opponent Patti Southworth and by Kimberly Ireland and Tim Szczepaniak, candidates for Town Council in the Town of Ballston, against their opponent George Seymour. Present were Hearing Panel members Jim Miller (Chair), Ruth Dinowitz, Faith Weldon, Libby Smith-Holmes, and Therese Lowenthal, along with Coordinator Betsey Swan. Mr. Townley, Mr. Szczepaniak, and Ms. Ireland appeared through their representative Murray Brower. Ms. Southworth and Mr. Seymour appeared through their representative Jason Southworth.

Mr. Townley, Mr. Szczepaniak and Ms. Ireland complained that a billboard in support of Ms. Southworth and Mr. Seymour violated FCP Principle 4 by implying that their opponents were guilty of conducting secret meetings. The piece in question stated, "End Secret Meetings! Vote Row "A" for Open Government." It then listed Southworth and Seymour's names.

FINDING: No Unfair Campaign Practice.

FCP Principle 4, which complainants allege was violated, provides in relevant part that a candidate will not misrepresent or falsify a fact about an opponent. The piece in question does not accuse complainants of conducting secret meetings and therefore cannot be said to violate Principle 4.

Mr. Townley, Mr. Szczepaniak, and Ms. Ireland also complain that a mailer sponsored by the Ballston Democratic Committee was misleading because it urged voters to support a Democratic candidate for Town Council who was no longer in the race.

FINDING: No Unfair Campaign Practice.

All parties admitted that Democratic candidate for Town Council, Janet Milos, had attempted to withdraw from the race but was unsuccessful because her withdrawal or declination was not submitted in a timely fashion. She therefore remains a candidate for Town Council in the Town of Ballston on the Democratic line. In light of this fact, the mailer does not violate FCP Principle 4.

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Fair Campaign Practices For The Capital Region, Inc.

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Neither the billboard that is the subject of this complaint nor the mailer in question contained the name and address or other contact information of the sponsor.

FINDING: Unfair Campaign Practice.

FCP Principle 5 requires materials disseminated by or on behalf of the candidate to contain the name and address or other contact information of the sponsor. Neither piece provided this information.

Candidates are reminded that misrepresentation of FCP findings in order to obtain political advantage constitutes an unfair campaign practice.

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