

12/12-2 AM 9:51

CAMPAIGN FINANCE &
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD

March 1, 2012

Mr. Gary Goldsmith
Executive Director
Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board
Suite 180, Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155-1603

Dear Mr. Goldsmith:

This is to ask you to make corrections to and offer explanations for errors in the 2011 Report of Receipts and Expenditures filed on January 30, 2012 on behalf of Representative Ernie Leidiger. There are three issues.

1. I believe the biggest issue is a \$178 payment to Hennepin County on July 11, 2012 for a traffic violation. We reported this as a noncampaign disbursement and described the specific purpose of the disbursement to be "transportation". Representative Leidiger was coming home from the capital from a fairly late session and was ticketed for speeding. He was unhappy about it, mostly at himself, but decided that it was just another cost of serving. In our minds at the time, it looked like the expense was a direct result of serving in the legislature. We referred to item #10 in the Definitions of Noncampaign Expenditures and concluded that it applied. We obviously were doing some rationalizing, but even today, we think there is some merit to the interpretation. However, in hind sight, we think it was poor judgement to call the expense "transportation". At the time it just did not seem right to call it a "speeding ticket". To avoid any further controversy over this issue, Representative Leidiger has decided to reimburse his campaign fund for the expense. I am holding a check for \$178 which I will deposit in the morning.
2. A second issue raised by you is the reimbursement to myself of \$604.76 for printing and postage, and the payment of \$102.89 to the local newspaper for advertising for a fundraiser held in June of 2011. You have told me that these should have been reported as a Campaign Disbursements. I accept that interpretation. When I reported them as a Noncampaign Disbursements. I looked at item #5 in the Definitions of Noncampaign Disbursements and read into it that all fundraising expenses were considered to be noncampaign expenses. In the future I will make the distinction between these types of expenses.
3. While updating my records of contributions after filing the report, I discovered that a \$100 contribution made in September of 2011 was from a lobbyist. I had reported this contribution as being from an individual. There is no bottom line change, but the "Contributions from Individuals" should be reduced by \$100 and the "Contributions from Lobbyists" should be increased by \$100.

Thank you for taking my call today and providing guidance. Please let me know what other action I should take on this matter.

Sincerely,


Steve Nielsen

Treasurer for the Citizens for Ernie Leidiger Committee

CC:Ernie Leidiger

COMMITTEE TRANSACTION SUMMARY

see attached

1	Beginning cash balance 1/1/11 (Should be the same as the 12/31/10 ending cash balance)	\$66.94
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A RECEIPTS:			Cash (Col. 1)	Blank (Col. 2)	In-kind (Col. 3)	Total (Col. 4)
2	Individual contributions	Sch. A1 - IND	\$ 5,229. ⁵⁰		\$	\$ 5,229. ⁵⁰
3	Lobbyist contributions	Sch. A1 - LOB	\$ 300. ⁰⁰		\$	\$ 300. ⁰⁰
4	Political committee and political fund contributions	Sch. A1 - PCF	\$ 100. ⁰⁰		\$	\$ 100. ⁰⁰
5	Political party & terminating principal campaign committee contributions	Sch. A1 - PTY/TERM PCC	\$ 0		\$	\$ 0
6	Other contributions	Sch. A1 - OTH	\$ 0		\$	\$ 0
7	Receipts from loans payable	Sch. A2 - LP	\$ 0		\$	\$ 0
8	Miscellaneous income	Sch. A2 - MISC	\$ 0		\$	\$ 0
9	TOTAL RECEIPTS	Sum #2 to #8	\$ 5,529.⁵⁰		\$	\$ 5,529.⁵⁰

B DISBURSEMENTS:			Cash (Col. 1)	Unpaid bills (Col. 2)	In-kind (Col. 3)	Total Col. 4)
10	Campaign expenditures	Sch. B1 - CE	\$ 525. ⁰⁰	\$	\$	\$ 525. ⁰⁰
11	State ballot question expenditures (Not local referendums)	Sch. B1 - BQ	\$ 0	\$	\$	\$ 0
12	TOTAL CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURES	Sum #10 to #11	\$ 525.⁰⁰	\$	\$	\$ 525.⁰⁰
13	Noncampaign disbursements	Sch. B1-NCD	\$ 3,863. ²⁴	\$	\$	\$ 3,863. ²⁴
14	Contributions to other principal campaign committees	Sch. B2 - PCC	\$ 0		\$	\$ 0
15	Contributions to political parties	Sch. B2 - PTY	\$ 275. ⁰⁰		\$	\$ 275. ⁰⁰
16	Contributions to political committees and political funds	Sch. B2 -PCF	\$ 0		\$	\$ 0
17	Other disbursements	Sch B3	\$ 0	\$	\$	\$ 0
18	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND DISBURSEMENTS	Sum #12 to #17	\$ 4,663.²⁴	\$	\$	\$ 4,663.²⁴
19	Ending cash balance at 12/31/2011	#1 + #9 - #18	\$ 933. ²⁰			