



DEMOCRACY FUND BOARD MEETING

6:00 pm Wednesday, July 19, 2023

Mayor's conference room #1/ Virtual via Zoom

New Haven Democracy Fund Board, Sergio Rodriguez, Chair; William Wynn, Vice Chair (Absent)
Members: Aaron Goode (joined late), James O'Connell, James Bhandary-Alexander, Lesley Heffel-McGuirk, Sarah Ficca.

Democracy Fund Administrator: Alyson Heimer

Members of the Public: Gage Frank, Susan Metrick, Adsul Osmanu

- I. Call to Order & Attendance 6:05pm. Representatives from the Abdussabur, Brennan and Elicker campaign were present.
- II. Review of the Minutes from June 21, 2023, motion to approve by O'Connell, unanimously approved.
- III. Public Comment
 - A. Gage Frank - has a response to the complaint, but the Chair requested that the complaint reply be emailed to the full board.
- IV. Chair's Report
 - A. A complaint was received that requested information about overage contributions and ensure compliance with a grant recipient. Administrator Heimer summarized a complaint submitted by D. Agosta re: Abdussabur Campaign Compliance. The Board Chair recommended one-on-one mediation to ensure compliance.
 1. Statement from the Abdussabur campaign was read into the record and is attached below in full.

O'Connell asked whether there is a timeline for how long a campaign has to return an overage that is made to a committee. Chair Rodriguez thinks perhaps we should put a formal timeframe in writing. The Administrator stated there is no set timeline for reimbursement, but should be handled as soon as possible.

Chair Rodriguez thanked the Abdussabur campaign for their timely reply to the complaint and reminded all campaigns that treasurers are always welcome to connect with Aly for further training and on any financial questions.

The Chair accepts the remediation of the overage and the disbursements to the campaign will not be halted. The members agreed to this.

Heffel-McGuirk motioned to close the complaint, 5-0-0.

Administrator Heimer will send Mr. Agosta a statement



V. Administrator's Report

A. Summer Projects Update

1. Project 1&2 Update: Zoe Becker presented the data she has been going through from 2011-2023. She mapped the data by donor location and separated them by participating and non-participating candidates. The data is [available here](#).
2. Board members provided feedback to Zoe and thanked her for her efforts this far. Sarah and Leslie will assist Administrator Heimer

B. 2023 Election Update

1. Participating candidates
 - a) Justin Elicker matching funds request #2 totaled \$9560.00
 - b) Shafiq Abdussabur matching funds request #2 total \$5140.00
2. The Brennan Campaign will be submitting a second request soon.

C. Administrator Heimer took a moment of personal privilege to announce the birth of her son, Henri Rolfe Heimer McDougal, who was born at Yale New Haven Hospital on July 3, 2023 at 1:16 am. Board members congratulated her on the birth of her first child.

VI. New Business:

- A. A subcommittee was created to plan the Debate: Heffel-McGuirk, Goode, and Ficca will serve. Debate is a requirement for all participating campaigns.

O'Connell motioned to adjourn. 6:46 adjournment.



RESPONSE STATEMENT SUBMITTED BY GAGE FRANK:

Thank you Administrator Heimer and Members of the Democracy Fund Board,

I am appearing on behalf of Shafiq Abdussabur's campaign for Mayor to address the complaint that we have allowed individuals to contribute more than the legal aggregate maximum allowed of \$445 per contributor.

There are nine individuals who have accidentally exceeded this maximum, and we have been working diligently in all cases to return any and all excess funds to those donors as follows:

- Jamie Alosi contributed \$100 on March 31 and \$400 on July 14, for a total of \$500. We mailed Ms. Elosi a \$55 refund check today, July 19.
- Ali Antar contributed \$300 on May 26 and \$150 on June 13, for a total of \$450. We mailed Mr. Antar a \$5 refund check on July 8, which he confirmed that he has received but not yet cashed.
- Michael Dunn contributed \$500 on January 16, his only contribution to date. We mailed Mr. Dunn a \$60 refund check in March; he has confirmed receipt of our check and we have followed up with him to remind him to cash it.
- Brenda Fulcher contributed \$100 on January 19, \$5 on March 23, \$35 on March 28, \$35 on March 30, and \$300 on April 15, for a total of \$475. We mailed Ms. Fulcher a \$30 refund check on July 8, and when she told us that she had not yet received our check, we reissued her a new check.
- Mubarakah Ibrahim contributed \$500 on January 15, her only contribution to date. We mailed Ms. Ibrahim a \$60 refund check dated March 2, which posted on April 14.
- Dr. Reginald Mayo contributed \$500 on June 30, his only contribution to date. We mailed Mr. Mayo a \$60 refund check on July 8, which he has confirmed that he has received but not yet cashed.
- Richard Silverstein contributed \$100 on March 31 and \$500 on July 14, for a total of \$600. We mailed Mr. Silverstein a \$155 refund check today, July 19.
- Gregory Aaron Smith Jr. made contributions of \$445, \$9, and \$1 on March 11 and contributed an additional \$50 on May 25, for a total of \$505. We mailed Mr. Smith a \$5 refund check in March, which he confirmed that he has received but not yet cashed.
- Stanley Welch contributed \$220 on March 28, \$100 on May 25, and \$225 on July 12, for a total of \$545. We mailed Mr. Welch a \$100 refund check today, July 19.

On a final note, I must add how disappointed and disturbed we are by the process of this complaint. The complainant has been on a blind fishing expedition, submitting a wide array of charges that we have described as baseless, and wasting both our campaign's time and the bandwidth of the Democracy Fund Board.

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Gage Frank
Campaign Manager
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