

Catherine Harder-Bernier

From: Douglas Thomson <dtthomson@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2019 11:28 AM
To: Catherine Harder-Bernier
Cc: Birne, Gregory (CPF) (gregory.birne@state.ma.us); David DeCoste
Subject: Re: Campaign finance reports

Dear Madame Clerk:

I have reached my limit on the utter ridiculousness of this matter. It is my view that you could easily have just let this lie until the extremely slow wheels of legislation lumbered along. However, now that you have opted to report to OCPF, the matter may unnecessarily come to a head early.

To restate - I have zero intention of involving myself in the campaign finance system. I applaud Greg and OCPF for making best efforts to shine light on a local, state and national campaign finance system that is the central basis for the many failures of US governance. Unfortunately, OCPF will not be able to fix a system, especially a national system, that is fraught with massive anonymous donations and thinly-veiled influence peddling.

We don't have enough local government volunteers as it is. In the last election in Hanover, every race other than yours was unopposed. If unnecessary paperwork continues to be required, it's just another roadblock to finding volunteers to give of their time.

In summary, if you or OCPF decide it it time to enforce this matter, I will simply resign from local government. I've been Hanover Town Moderator for 13 years. For virtually all of that time, I have filed zero paperwork and nobody ever cared. In 13 years, I have raised zero funds and put up zero signs. I will never participate in the campaign finance system.

Douglas Thomson
Town Moderator
Hanover, MA
dtthomson@yahoo.com

TOWN OF HANOVER
2019 SEP 30 AM 11:27
TOWN CLERK

On Sep 27, 2019, at 9:54 AM, Catherine Harder-Bernier <catherine.harderbernier@hanover-ma.gov> wrote:

Hi Doug –

As you know, a certified letter (copy attached) was sent to your address on September 16, 2019 regarding your late campaign finance reports that were due May 3rd and June 10th of this year. Yesterday, September 26th, was therefore the 10 calendar days post-notification deadline for this office to receive your reports. You have informed me that you do not plan to submit your reports. Accordingly, I am required by Massachusetts General Laws to refer this situation to OCPF. Given our previous conversations with Chief Counsel Greg Birne regarding this matter, I am therefore copying him on this e-mail. I am hopeful and confident that we can come to a mutually agreeable solution, and I look forward to working with you both towards those ends.

Best regards,
Cathy

*Catherine Harder-Bernier, CMC
Town Clerk
Town of Hanover
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Hanover, MA 02339
(781) 826-5000 x1079
catherine.harderbernier@hanover-ma.gov
<https://www.facebook.com/HanoverMAClerk/>*

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From: Catherine Harder-Bernier
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 11:20 AM
Cc: Meg Pallotta
Subject: Campaign finance reports

Greetings –

This is just a courtesy reminder (now that we are post-Labor-Day-vacation-season!) that you have two campaign finance reports due from this past election season. We will send a certified letter to you on Monday, September 16th reminding you of your legal responsibility if we have not heard from you by this Friday, September 13th.

Thanks and kind regards,
Cathy

*Catherine Harder-Bernier, Town Clerk
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<Campaign finance - D Thomson certified letter 9-16-19.doc>