

AGENDA



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA
ELECTION CAMPAIGN FINANCES COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2012 – 6:30 P.M.

**HEARING ROOM, CIVIC CENTRE,
300 CITY CENTRE DRIVE, MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO**
www.mississauga.ca

MEMBERS

Rafiq Rokerya, Citizen Member (CHAIR)

Roderick Chung, Citizen Member (VICE-
CHAIR)

Wendy Chant, Citizen Member

Richard Do, Citizen Member

Mahmood Nulla, Citizen Member

Laura Wilson, Legislative Coordinator
The Corporation of the City of Mississauga
Office of the City Clerk, 2nd Floor, Civic Centre
300 City Centre Drive, Mississauga, ON, L5B 3C1
Phone: (905) 615-3200 ext. 5425 Fax: (905) 615-4181 Email: Laura.Wilson@mississauga.ca

CALL TO ORDER

DECLARATIONS OF DIRECT OR INDIRECT PECUNIARY INTEREST

PRESENTATIONS/ DEPUTATIONS

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED

1. Request for an Election Campaign Finances Audit of the Candidate, C. Parrish

The Election Campaign Finances Committee is to review and address the request for a compliance audit, received February 13, 2012, of the election campaign finances of Ms. C. Parrish, Candidate, Ward 5, submitted by the Applicant, Greg Vezina.

2. Request for an Election Campaign Finances Audit of the Candidate, M. Cashin

The Election Campaign Finances Committee is to review and address the request for a compliance audit, received February 13, 2012, of the election campaign finances of Mr. M. Cashin, Candidate, Ward 5, submitted by the Applicant, Greg Vezina.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – To Be Determined

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

MAR 06 2012

Ms. Crystal Greer
City Clerk
City of Mississauga
300 City Center Drive
Mississauga, Ontario
L5B 3C1

Dear Ms. Greer:

Re: Application for a Compliance Audit of Carolyn Parrish, a candidate in the September 19, 2011 Ward 5 By-election

"RECEIVED"
"12 FEB 13 P1:50"
"CLERK'S DEPARTMENT"
"CITY OF MISSISSAUGA"

I am requesting a compliance audit of Carolyn Parrish, a candidate in the Ward 5 By-election. I have reasonable grounds to believe that her financial return is incorrect and that numerous provisions of the Municipal Election Act have been contravened.

1. Ms. Parrish claims rent expense for her campaign office a donation of a good or service from Embee Properties of \$750. I have compared comparable sites for the same time period and have not been able to find any other facility of comparable size available for such a low cost other than Mr. Cashin's which is also very questionable. The obligation is to value this rent at market value, even if it was offered for free as a donation and even if the donation was made at a below market rate. In addition, because I believe the value of this rent is substantially higher than the \$750 filed, I believe Embee Properties provided a donation in excess of the limit of \$750, another infraction for Ms. Parrish. The fact that the property was valued at \$750 exactly the maximum limit on donations is too coincidental to believe that is the actual market value; it is clearly a conveniently agreed number.
2. Ms. Parrish declared in her return for the previous Ward 6 election that she had in sign inventory 327 large signs and 915 small signs yet in this Ward 5 by-election she declares she only used 50 large and 150 small. She also says she used 700 stakes but in 2010 she said she only had 447 left over! Ms. Parrish spent only \$470 less than the spending limit. If she only used another 50 large signs Ms. Parrish would have been over the limit. Ms. Parrish had signs up the day the election started across the ward and continued to dominate the sign presence in the ward throughout the election. It is not believable that she used 50 of 327 large signs and only 150 of 915 small signs left-over from her 2010 Ward 6 campaign in such a competitive and hard fought campaign. She also does not include these left over 2010 signs in her leftover 2011 return so I wonder what happened to them. The 2010 election was less than nine months previous. If she saved them all then, and used 50 big and 150 small again in 2011, any reasonable person would believe she probably used another \$470 worth of them in the Ward 5 by-election and is over her limit, and just didn't admit to it. Anyone that drove through Ward 5 and saw all her signs up day one and through the by-election; knows it.

3. Ms. Parrish did not complete the required declaration in her filing so it has no legal obligation. The way it is filled out Ms. Parrish has not declared a thing; "Blank" has made the declaration or maybe Ms. Parrish made in on behalf of "Blank". The City of Mississauga will not allow one candidate to run again because she was 10 minutes late in filing, another is not allowed because he was one day late. Not making the required declaration should be a similar technical letter of the law contravention of the requirements that should exclude her ability to run again in the next election. This might be extreme but rules are rules and ten minutes late is one of them, not filling out a form and a declaration should be another.

It is my submission that a compliance audit is the only way to fully access all violations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Greg H. Vezina". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Greg Vezina

Election Campaign Finances
Committee
MAR 06 2012

Ms. Crystal Greer
City Clerk
City of Mississauga
300 City Center Drive
Mississauga, Ontario
L5B 3C1

RECEIVED
12 FEB 13 P 1
CLERK'S DEPARTMENT
CITY OF MISSISSAUGA

Dear Ms. Greer:

Re: Application for a Compliance Audit of Mr. Mark Cashin, a candidate in the September 19, 2011 Ward 5 By-election

I am requesting a compliance audit of Mark Cashin, a candidate in the Ward 5 By-election. I have reasonable grounds to believe that his financial return is incorrect and that numerous provisions of the Municipal Election Act have been contravened. I further believe that your audit may uncover irregularities in actions taken by two charitable organizations that Mr. Cashin is associated with which could impact their charitable status with the Canadian Government and that you may have an obligation to report on to the Government.

1. Mr. Cashin claims rent expense for his campaign office a donation of a good or service from a Dr. Hoanh Nguyen of \$671. I have compared comparable sites for the same time period and have not been able to find any other facility of comparable size available for such a low cost. The obligation is to value this rent at market value, even if it was offered for free as a donation and even if the donation was made at a below market rate. In addition, because I believe the value of this rent is substantially higher than the \$671 filed, I believe Dr Nguyen provided a donation in excess of the personal limit of \$750, another infraction for Mr. Cashin. The public deserves to know that rich landlords cannot subvert the election financing rules by donating above the limit, campaign office space, and pricing it below market. Carolyn Parrish, as a comparison, valued her donated office at \$750, the maximum donation amount.
2. Mr. Cashin had an airplane circle Ward 5 on several days, potentially including Election Day, pulling a sign asking electors to vote for him. I can not find evidence of this expense in his return. At a minimum such an extraordinary expense should have been put on one line to ensure that it was properly accounted for. If it is included in Advertising or sign expense then I question if it was accurately accounted for as these expense items do not appear large enough to account for typical expenditures as well as the airplane. I also have information that the airplane was donated which means that it should have been accounted for as a donation, which it was not, and given the market pricing I have accessed for such advertising, would have been above the maximum donation of \$750.

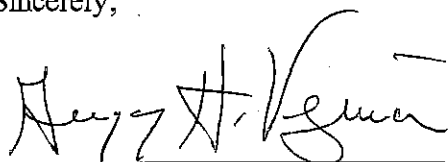
3. Mr. Cashin in his filing says that he didn't save any of this signs at the end of the campaign. I find this unbelievable given his obvious future political intentions. I have heard and believe that he has significant inventory of signs, if not stakes as well and possibly an airplane sign that should be accounted for on Schedule 3. To not demand this count be included would give Mr. Cashin an unfair advantage in any future campaign. If there is even one sign saved not declared then Mr. Cashin has been dishonest, incorrect in his filing and would have an unfair advantage in the next campaign.
4. Mr. Cashin says phone and internet expense was zero. This is not believable. I believe he had a campaign phone, an internet site and a phone canvassing company. To declare zero is absurd.
5. I believe Mr. Cashin used his positions as incoming president of the Rotary Club of Mississauga and his position with Rotaract inappropriately. I have been told that he used email lists he received from those two positions and organizations to canvass for votes, supporters and / or donations. It would be illegal for a charitable organization to provide assistance for a political campaign in this regard and Mr. Cashin would need to declare the market value of this contribution from the charitable organization. If Mr. Cashin did not have approval for the use of the email list then it would still be a donation that needs to be accounted for and the organizations may want or need to take disciplinary action against him. If this committee finds that the Rotary / Rotaract email lists were used I think you have an obligation under the Tax code to notify the tax authorities because such an activity / donation would question the charitable tax status of the Rotary Clubs. I understand that Mr. Cashin was either asked to resign or resigned immediately after the by-election by one Rotary Club because of inappropriate political activity. The same day he was accepted as a member of another Rotary Club which is known to be far more political with the past president being a current Ward councillor and former Conservative candidate and another member being a current Member of Parliament. This simultaneous timing is too coincidental. I also understand that Mr. Cashin has a record of urging Rotary to make inappropriate donations. This committee needs to ensure that contributions from charitable organizations are not made illegally and if made are accounted for at market value and properly disclosed. Charitable organizations should not and can not combine politics and charitable activities to this extent; it is wrong and would also impact their charitable status.
6. It is possible that the bouncy castle charged as a meeting expense is accounted for appropriately, but based on the company's price list, the expense is appropriate only if no Event Direct personnel were involved at the site because that would put the cost above the price quoted and above the donation limit. I think this should be audited to determine if any Event Direct personnel attended and if the market value filed is appropriate. If no Event Direct personnel were in attendance I think

Mr. Cashin's insurance plan should be reviewed to see if it covers accidents in Bouncy Castles. This was not a meeting and to suggest it was is wrong.

It is my belief that Mr. Cashin underreported the value and donation of his office, did not value the cost and donation of airplane advertising, did not declare the value of and donation of phone and internet, didn't declare the value of telephone calling companies, underreported the value of a bouncy castle and didn't report the value of and donation of bouncy castle staff, did not bother to count his left over signs and misused his position in Rotary, didn't declare the value and donation of lists from Rotary and Rotary email lists. The fact that phone and internet is zero on his return should be compelling enough to demand a compliance audit. To not even have one sign saved is equally absurd and compelling enough for a compliance audit. The market value estimates I have received for office, airplanes, telephone, internet and bouncy castles are all higher than Mr. Cashin reports.

It is my submission that a compliance audit is the only way to fully access all violations. I also believe that this committee may have an obligation to report Mr. Cashin and Rotary's activities to the Canadian tax authorities.

Sincerely,



Greg Vezina