

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD**

ORDER

IN THE MATTER OF THE STAFF REVIEW OF BRANDON D. ANDERSON FOR SD6:

On February 29, 2016, the executive director initiated a staff review of the Brandon D. Anderson for SD6 committee. The staff review was prompted by information on the committee's 2015 year-end report of receipts and expenditures, which was filed as a termination statement for the committee. The report disclosed that the committee had paid Katherine Avery, a committee volunteer, \$731.74 in 2015 for "Prior Year Unpaid Bill: deferred payment for transportation services during campaign."

The committee, however, had never reported owing any unpaid bills to Ms. Avery in prior years. The payment therefore raised questions regarding whether the committee had improperly used campaign funds to pay for activities that were not campaign related; had improperly used its funds to retroactively pay for services that originally were provided on a volunteer basis; or had inaccurately reported its expenditures during the 2012 campaign.

Mr. Anderson did not respond to any of the Board's letters, emails, or telephone calls asking for information about the matter. Board staff was able to contact Ms. Avery to discuss the payment. Ms. Avery stated that in 2012 when Mr. Anderson was running for office, she drove her personal car for the campaign in parades. Ms. Avery said that before the campaign began, she discussed payment with Mr. Anderson and he agreed that when the committee had sufficient funds, it would reimburse her for her transportation costs using the standard IRS mileage rate. Ms. Avery therefore kept contemporaneous records of her expenses and showed those records to Mr. Anderson. Public sources indicate that Mr. Anderson participated in at least 11 parades across senate district 6 during the campaign. Senate district 6 is located in northern Minnesota and is one of the state's largest senate districts.

Based on the information above, the Board concludes that the use of Brandon D. Anderson for SD6 committee funds to pay Ms. Avery mileage to attend parades in 2012 was for campaign-related activities. The committee, however, inaccurately reported its expenditures in prior years because it did not disclose the debt owed to Ms. Avery. The committee is not required to amend its prior year reports to include the unpaid bill because the committee now has disclosed this obligation and it has terminated its registration with the Board as of the date of its 2015 year-end report.

Based on the information provided by the committee, the Board issues the following:

Order

The staff review in this matter is dismissed.

/s/ Daniel N. Rosen
Daniel N. Rosen, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Date: January 4, 2017