



TAFFANEE L. KEYS | 5633 CARROLLTON AVE. | INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46220
317-414-5046 | tkeysattorney@me.com

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by Kathryn Ross
Date:
2018.09.20
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Kathryn Ross

September 20, 2018

Via Email: cela@fec.gov

Jeff S. Jordan
Assistant General Counsel
Federal Election Commission (FEC)
Office of Complaints Examination
& Legal Administration
1050 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20463

RE: MUR 7404

Subject: Complaint for Federal Finance Violations for Unreported In-Kind Assistance Against Congressman Andre Carson's Campaign, Misuse of FCC license by Urban One, WTLC 106.7 and A.M. 1310; the George P. Stewart Company and its newspaper the Indianapolis Recorder; Gannett Inc. and its newspaper, the Indianapolis Star for Conspiracy to Violate Campaign Finance Laws and Injure the Congressional Campaign of Pierre Quincy Pullins and for Possible Unreported Payment of Monies to do the aforementioned.

Dear Mr. Jordan:

I, Taffanee L. Keys of The Keys Law Office, represent The George P. Stewart Printing Company, Inc., Indianapolis Recorder in the above referenced matter. This letter serves as the response for The George P. Stewart Printing Company, Inc., Indianapolis Recorder (hereinafter referenced Recorder) to the allegations contained in the complaint filed by Pierre Quincy Pullins (hereinafter referenced "Pullins") dated June 4th, 2018 MUR #7404. For its response, the Recorder requests that the Commission take no further action for the following reasons:

Summary of the allegations against the Recorder:

Summarizing Pullins' complaint, the following statements are made by Pullins, which set forth the basis of his beliefs that the Indianapolis Recorder has violated the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 as amended, hereinafter referenced the "Act". Pullins hypothesizes that the Recorder, the Indianapolis Star, and WTLC Radio engaged in a conspiracy to suppress and injure Pullins' congressional campaign and message by coordinating their news coverage to aid Carson's campaign. Pullins alleges that both the Recorder and WTLC Radio excluded Pullins from being interviewed with other Democratic candidates in the congressional race against Congressman Andre Carson. Pullins states that the exclusion was a coordinated attempt by the Recorder and WTLC to



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suppress votes from Pullins and to aid Carson. Pullins states that WTLC radio host and the past President and General Manager of the Recorder attend the same church. Further that the WTLC radio host tried to ban Pullins from her show and that Pullins sued the Recorder in 2007; thus Pullins believes this was not a mistake and the aforementioned substantiates his conspiracy claim. It is Pullins' belief that he was excluded as he was the only candidate demanding Carson answer questions regarding sexual harassment allegations. Pullins believes that Carson and/or his campaign may have paid the Recorder, WTLC and the Indianapolis Star through inflated advertisement or made direct cash payments to them. Although Pullins does not aver what portions of the Act, he claims the recorder violated, nothing within his allegations constitutes a violation of the Act and therefore the complaint should be dismissed. In support thereof the Recorder states the following:

I. Pullins' Claims are Without Merit, Mere Unsubstantiated Allegations and Fail to Provide a Clear Statement that the Recorder is in Violation of FECA.

Pullins makes broad allegations that the Recorder violated the Act. Such allegations were made without merit or foundation and thus, his complaint is void for failure to comply with 11 C.F.R. Sec. 111.4(d)(2)(3)(4) - 52 U.S.C. 30109.

11 C.F.R. Sec 111.4(d)(2)(3)(4) in part sites the following:

(d) The complaint should conform to the following provisions:

- (2) Statements which are not based upon personal knowledge should be accompanied by an identification of the source of information which gives rise to the complainants' belief in the truth of such statements;
- (3) It should contain a clear and concise recitation of the facts which describe a violation of a statute or regulation over which the Commission has jurisdiction; and
- (4) It should be accompanied by any documentation supporting the facts alleged if such documentation is known of, or available to, the complainant.

Pullins' complaint is based on mere speculations. Pullins makes assertions, formulates and voices his opinion that established news corporations engaged in a conspiracy to suppress votes. Pullins failed to present sufficient facts which, if taken as true, would indicate that a violation of the Act had occurred. Moreover, Pullins failed to provide any supporting documentation, as required, to support his unbridled allegations as none exists. Pullins failed to provide a clear and concise recitation of the facts, which describes a violation. Thus, the complaint is void on its face and therefore not actionable by the FEC.

II. Pullins Complaint is not Actionable as the Media is Exempted from Campaign Finance Restrictions. 11 C.F.R. § 100.73

Pullins states he believes that Carson or his campaign may have paid the Recorder, WTLC and persons at the Indianapolis Star through inflated advertisement or made direct cash payments. He believes and alleges that the Recorder, WTLC and the Indianapolis Star coordinated the reporting with the Carson campaign and may have received unreported monies to do so in violation of the Act. Notwithstanding the fact that Pullins' allegations are couched with pure speculations, without



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factual or evidentiary support, Pullins' allegations are meritless on their face as press activity is exempt as a result of the FEC's definitions of "contribution" and "expenditure" 11 C.F.R. § 100.73 as well as 52 U.S.C. § 30101(B). This long-established exemption provides that any costs incurred in covering a news story, commentary, or editorial by any news media does not constitute a contribution unless such news media is owned or controlled by a political party, committee or candidate. 11C.F.R. § 100.73 specifically states the following:

Any cost incurred in covering or carrying a news story, commentary, or editorial by any broadcasting station (including a cable television operator, programmer or producer), website, newspaper, magazine, or other periodical publication, including any Internet or electronic publication, is not a contribution unless the facility is owned or controlled by any political party, political committee, or candidate, in which case the costs for a news story:

- (a) That represents a bona fide news account communicated in a publication of general circulation or on a licensed broadcasting facility; and
- (b) That is part of a general pattern of campaign-related news accounts that give reasonably equal coverage to all opposing candidates in the circulation or listening area, is not a contribution.

Contribution is defined as follows:

11 CFR § 100.51

The term contribution includes the payments, services, or other things of value described in this subpart.

52 U.S.C. § 30101(B) states: (B) The term "expenditure" does not include—

- (i) any news story, commentary, or editorial distributed through the facilities of any broadcasting station, newspaper, magazine, or other periodical publication, unless such facilities are owned or controlled by any political party, political committee, or candidate;

There is no dispute that the Recorder is a press entity that engages in legitimate press activity and therefore is entitled to the press exemption as described and admitted by Pullins. Further, the Recorder is not owned or controlled by any political party, political committee, or candidate. The Recorder is an Indiana domestic corporation licensed to conduct business in the state of Indiana. Thus, any cost incurred in covering or carrying a news story, commentary or editorial by the Recorder is not a contribution by statute.

Notwithstanding the aforementioned, the Recorder denies each and every allegation made by Pullins. (*See Exhibit "A" pp. 1-2, statement of Shannon Williams, President/General Manager Recorder*). At no time did the Recorder make any prohibited corporation contributions to Andre Carson or his campaign. Mr. Carson purchased an ad with the Recorder on April 27, 2018 and paid, prior to the ad's run date, the standard political rate that any other candidate would have had to pay if he or she chose to pay for an ad of the same size and color (*See Exhibit A, pp 1-5*). The aforementioned does not violate campaign finance rules. The Commission's regulations exempt



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any costs incurred in connection with covering or carrying a news story, commentary or editorial and therefore not considered a contribution by the Recorder.

III. The Recorder is a Publisher Independent of any Candidate or Party, and as Such, its Press News Reporting is Exempt Pursuant to FEC Regulations

Pullins does not allege that the news reporting of the election was not a legitimate press function. Pullins solely contends that the media coverage of Andre Carson and other democratic candidates exclusive of Pullins may have had an effect of benefitting those candidates in the election and may have had the effect of costing him votes.

It is well-settled federal law that where a press entity's activity is at issue, the FEC must first determine whether the press exemption is available. If the FEC determines that the press exemption is applicable, the FEC's inquiry into the content of the programming must cease as a statutory and constitutional matter. Federal Election Commission v. Phillips Publishing, Inc. 517 F. Supp. 1308 (D.D.C. 1981), outlined a two-part test to determine whether the press exemption is available with respect to a particular communication. The first test is whether the press entity was acting as a press entity with respect to the conduct in question. The second test is whether the news story, commentary, or editorial was distributed through facilities that are owned or controlled by a political party, political committee, or candidate. The court explained:

The initial inquiry is limited to whether the press entity is owned or controlled by any political party or candidate and whether the press entity was acting as a press entity with respect to the conduct in question. If the press entity is not owned or controlled by a political party or candidate and it is acting as a press entity, the FEC lacks subject matter jurisdiction and is barred from investigating the subject matter of the complaint. Phillips, 517 F. Supp. at 1313.

The first test is whether the Recorder was acting as a press entity with respect to its political-based articles published on Friday, April 20, 2018 and on May 11, 2018. Said articles were published in the regular course of its business in the Recorder's weekly reoccurring news publication and thus have met the first prong of the Phillips test. Moreover, any news story or editorial published by the Recorder that comments on a political campaign is activity in which the Recorder is "acting as a press entity." The conduct is therefore exempt from FEC regulations.

The Second test, The George P. Stewart Printing Co. Inc., The Indianapolis Recorder, was established on December 13, 1949. It is a Domestic for-profit corporation licensed to conduct business in the state of Indiana. The Recorder, press entity in question, is not owned or controlled by any political party, political committee, or candidate, and, consequently, the second test under Phillips is satisfied. (See Exhibit B pp. 1-2 Business Entity Report).

Pullins' complaint states that the Recorder conspired to deny him equal campaign coverage and thus, the denial of equal coverage cost him votes. Equal coverage is only applicable if the entity

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falls within the second prong of the test, "owned or controlled by a political party or candidate". As established herein, the Recorder is not owned nor controlled by any political party, political committee or candidate. Thus, Pullins' equal coverage argument is moot. "If the press entity is not owned or controlled by a political party or candidate and it is acting as a press entity, the FEC

lacks subject matter jurisdiction and is barred from investigating the subject matter of the complaint. See *Phillips* 517 F. Supp. at 1313.

For these reasons, the Recorder has satisfied the first and second Phillips tests and, accordingly, the press exemption should apply. The FEC, therefore, lacks subject matter jurisdiction and the Commission should find no reason to believe the Recorder violated the Act and dismiss this matter that is under review.

IV. The Recorder has a First Amendment Right to Report on Political Matters

The media exemption was enacted by Congress to preserve the media's U.S. Constitution First Amendment right to comment on politics without restrictions by the FEC.

H.R. Rep No. 93-1239, 1974:

[I]t is not the intent of the Congress in the present legislation to limit or burden in any way the first amendment freedoms of the press and of association. Thus the exclusion assures the unfettered right of the newspapers, TV, networks, and other media to cover and comment on political campaigns.

It has been established that the FEC has the right to regulate any news story or other commentary published by a newspaper for entities that are owned or controlled by a political party, political committee or candidate. As the Recorder does not fall within the aforementioned category, to regulate its action would be unconstitutional. The Supreme Court has long recognized "the purpose of the First Amendment of the Constitution is to protect the free discussion of government affairs. This includes discussions of candidates, structures and forms of government, the manner in which government is operated or should be operated, and all such matters relating to political processes." *Mills v. Alabama*, 384 U.S. 214, 218-19 (1966). The Court in *Mills* held that an Alabama statute that criminalized the publication of a newspaper editorial on election day that urged people to vote for a particular direction violated the First Amendment protections of free speech and press.

Pullins argues that not being included in the Recorder's publications was in violation of the First Amendment and Campaign Finance rules. However, to enforce a requirement that each candidate in political race must be given the same deference would constitute government interference with the newspaper's editorial control and judgment, which is absolutely prohibited by the First Amendment. See, *Miami Herald Pub. Co v. Tornillo*, 418 U.S. 241, 258 (1974). The choice of material, its content and the treatment of public issues and officials, whether fair or unfair constitutes edito-

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rial judgment and a restriction of such would be a violation of rights guaranteed by the first amendment. *Id.* The First Amendment affords the broadest protection to such political expression in order to assure the unfettered interchange of ideas for the bringing about of politics and social changes desired by the people. Roth v. United States, 354 U.S. 476, 484 (1957). Therefore, the aforementioned gives further reason as to why the FEC should dismiss the complaints.

Notwithstanding the aforementioned, the Recorder vehemently denies all such allegations. It is an historic 123 year-old newspaper which prides itself in serving the community with the utmost integrity. It strives to be fair, not only to candidates, but also to its readers who need to make informed decisions and would never compromise its integrity for any candidate or election. (*See Exhibit C, statement of Oseye Boyd, Editor, Brandy Perry, Staff Writer, article 4/20/2018*).

Conclusion

There are no facts pled, no evidence presented, nor principle basis on which the FEC can proceed in the above-referenced MUR. News coverage from independent publications, not controlled by any political parties or candidates, are fully protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution.

Further, any cost incurred in connection with covering or carrying news story, commentary or editorial are exempt under the Act and Commission's regulations from treatment as a "contribution". For the foregoing reasons, we respectfully request that the Commission find no reason to believe The Recorder violated the Act and dismiss the Recorder from this matter under review.

Respectfully submitted,


Taffanee L. Keys, Esq.
Attorney for the Recorder

Enclosures:

- Designation of Counsel
- Exhibit A in 4 parts
- Exhibit B in 2 parts
- Exhibit C in 3 parts



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
 1050 First Street, NE
 Washington, DC 20463

STATEMENT OF DESIGNATION OF COUNSEL

Provide one form for each Respondent/Witness

EMAIL cela@fec.gov

FAX 202-219-3923

AR/MUR/RR/P-MUR# 7404

Name of Counsel: Taffanee Keys

Firm: The Keys Law Office

Address: 5633 CARROLLTON AVE

Office#: 317-414-5042 Fax#: 317-732-7153

Mobile#: 317-414-5042

E-mail: tkeysattorney@me.com

The above-named individual and/or firm is hereby designated as my counsel and is authorized to receive any notifications and other communications from the Commission and to act on my behalf before the Commission.

9/20/18 [Signature] Attorney at Law
 Date (Signature - Respondent/Agent/Treasurer) Title
TAFFANEE KEYS
 (Name - Please Print)

RESPONDENT: The George P. Stewart Printing Co, INC
 (Please print Committee Name/ Company Name/Individual Named in Notification Letter)

Mailing Address: 2901 N. Tacoma Ave.
 (Please Print) Indpls, IN 46218

Home#: _____ Mobile#: _____

Office#: 317-924-5143 Fax#: _____

E-mail: JoseL@IndyRecorder.com

This form relates to a Federal Election Commission matter that is subject to the confidentiality provisions of 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(12)(A). This section prohibits making public any notification or investigation conducted by the Federal Election Commission without the express written consent of the person under investigation.

Exhibit "A"
pp. 1-8



Bill Mays - Owner/Publisher

Shannon Williams - President/General Manager

September 14, 2018

Office of General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
1050 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20463

Re: Response to Pierre Pullins' Complaint

To whom it may concern:

This letter serves as an official response to the complaint Pierre Pullins made regarding the Indianapolis Recorder Newspaper.

I have served in a leadership capacity for the Indianapolis Recorder for 18 years, the past eight being president of the historic publication. I would like to categorically deny Mr. Pullins' claims of unfair treatment, biased coverage and unethical practices. The Recorder has always been committed to providing readers with balanced information relative to politics - regardless of a candidates' race, gender or political affiliation.

On April 20, 2018 the newspaper published an article on the District 7 Congressional race titled "Your party, your choice for highly contested races." The reporter assigned to the article was Brandon Perry, someone who has over 15 years of experience in the journalism industry. Mr. Perry tried to contact Mr. Pullins to be a source in the article since Mr. Pullins was a candidate for District 7. Mr. Pullins never responded to Mr. Perry's outreach. Although Mr. Perry waited until the last possible moment to incorporate a quote from Mr. Pullins before the paper was sent to the printer, Mr. Pullins never responded. The published article stated "Pullins is making his seventh run for Congress, and could not be reached by press time." In addition, Mr. Pullins' name appeared in a sidebar with other Democratic candidates for District 7. In the same sidebar was also a listing of the Republican candidates running for District 7. A picture was also published of Mr. Pullins.

In the May 11, 2018 issue of the Indianapolis Recorder, the newspaper published an overview of the election results, which included Mr. Pullins' (and all the other Democratic candidates for District 7) results.

Mr. Pullins' complaint, also made claims that the Recorder received payment from Andre Carson to treat Mr. Pullins adversely. That claim is absolutely false. To be clear, the only payment the

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MINORITY BUSINESS
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INDIANAPOLIS RECORDER
NEWSPAPER

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Bill Mays - Owner/Publisher

Shannon Williams - President/General Manager

Recorder received from Andre Carson was for an advertisement published in the April 27, 2018 issue. Mr. Carson paid the standard political rate, the same amount any other candidate would pay for an ad the same size. Enclosed in this correspondence is a copy of Mr. Carson's paid invoice as well as a copy of the Recorder rate card that details the per column rate for all political advertisements. Again, Mr. Carson's rate is the standard rate for all political advertisements.

Mr. Pullins was given the same treatment as the other candidates. The Recorder is 123 years old and has always maintained the highest standard of integrity. Pierre Pullins has tried suing the Recorder in the past. His claims were false and we countersued and won. For well over 10 years, Mr. Pullins has publicly slandered the Recorder and many of its current and former employees. Despite his harassment and bullying tactics, the Recorder staff remains courageous and the publication continues to practice journalistic excellence by including him in news coverage when he runs for office...something that has occurred numerous times.

Mr. Pullins seems to have a vendetta against the Recorder and other respectable media entities in the city. My hope is his complaint and any subsequent efforts against the Recorder be thrown out.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at 317-924-5143 if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Shannon Williams
President

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INDIANAPOLIS RECORDER ADVERTISING RATES

Commission and Payment Terms:

- Agency commission is 15%
- Net due in 10 days
- Payment on account is not dependent upon receipt of tear sheets
- Ads of \$100.00 or less must be paid in advance
- All political ads must be paid in advance
- All rates are net

Political and National Agency Rate: \$36.30

Local Open Rates:

1-13 weeks	\$21.95 per column inch
14-26 weeks	\$20.35 per column inch
27-39 weeks	\$18.76 per column inch
40-52 weeks	\$17.16 per column inch

Non-profit / Church Display:

\$16.34 per column inch

Front Page Banner Rates:

A Section	\$750.00
B Section	\$550.00

Classified / Real Estate Rates:

\$17.55 per column inch

Legal Rates:

Dissolution of Company	\$70.00 (1x run)
Notice of Final Accounting	\$70.00 (1x run)
Notice of Administration	\$80.00 (2x run)
Change of Name	\$109.00 (3x run)
Dissolution of Marriage	\$109.00 (3x run)
Notice of Adoption	\$109.00 (3x run)
Notice of Real Estate	\$109.00 (3x run)
Petition of Guardianship	\$109.00 (3x run)
Summons by Publication	\$109.00 (3x run)
Ask about Public Notices	

Process Color \$450.00

Insert Rates:

\$55.00 per thousand
 Minimum size: 5" X 7"
 Maximum size: 10" X 13"
 Weight over 6 oz. add \$10.00 per thousand
 *Delivery to printer by Monday of the issue week.

Tabloid Rates:

Inside Front Cover	\$1,200.00
Inside Back Cover	\$1,200.00
Back Cover	\$1,435.00
Center Spread	\$2,000.00
Full page	\$1,035.00
Half page	\$535.00
Quarter page	\$275.00

Website Rates:

Page Curl	\$500.00 flat rate per month
Banner 728 x 90	\$450.00 (100,000 Impressions)
Display 300 x 250	\$350.00 (100,000 Impressions)
Classified	\$100.00 / per week
E-mail Blast	\$125.00 / per blast

Miscellaneous Rates:

Black Business Profile	\$39.00 (1x run)
Layout and Design	20% of total ad cost
Placement	20% of total ad cost
Sponsorships	Please ask



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Kenny "Babyface" Edmonds to returns to North Central



Kenny "Babyface" Edmonds visited his alma mater, North Central High School, on Tuesday. Edmonds, Class of 1977, stopped by former classrooms and watched a student performance. He visited the Counterspoints show choir, which recently won state and national championship titles. The 11-time Grammy Award winner, who began writing music at an early age, hopes to inspire performing arts students to continue doing great things with their talents.

"We are honored and thrilled that Mr. Edmonds continues to show support to North Central High School," Principal Evans Branigan said. "Students looked forward to his visits and to see where a North Central High School education can take you."

Edmonds, who spoke to students about images and how they affect youth, was joined on stage by promoter and activist Amp Harris (right). (Photos/Mike Patton)



Longtime Recorder friend and historian dies

Staff Report

Wilma L. Moore had an undeniable love of history, specifically African-American history, and was known throughout the community as "the go-to-source."

Moore, 67, a friend and historian of the Recorder, died on April 18.

She was born in Indianapolis to parents William Joseph and Tessie Arlene Gibbs, and had six siblings. Moore graduated from Crispus Attucks High School in 1959 and Indiana University with a bachelor's degree in sociology in 1973 and a masters in library and information science in 1974.

Moore worked at Indiana University Libraries and Indianapolis Public Library. She retired from the Indiana Historical Society after working there 30 years.

Moore served as editor of Black History News and Notes from 1986 to 2007 and was contributing editor of *Traces of Indiana and Midwestern History* from 2007 to 2017. Moore was a trusted source for researchers, often spending hours upon hours helping others, and a willing collaborator on various projects. She gave presentations, processed collections and dutifully served on numerous committees.

In addition to being a trusted source and valued colleague, Moore was a gifted storyteller.

She received an Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) in 2016. Moore was called a "trailblazer" and "go-to-source" for African-American history.

Funeral services will be April 27 at Eastern Star Church, 5750 E. 20th St., where Moore was a member. Calling hours will be 9-11 a.m., with celebration of life service at 11 a.m.

"I have spent the past 30 years doing work that I thoroughly enjoy — telling in the Indiana history vineyard helping others find material for their storyboards," Moore said upon receiving the award. "I am always surprised by special thank you notes from patrons or when authors acknowledge me in their books. This award is a special bonus. I am humbled and grateful."

Moore also received the Eli Lilly Lifetime Achievement Award in 2017 for her extraordinary contributions in the field of history.

Other awards include:

- 1987 — Recipient of the Indianapolis YWCA's Phyllis Wheatley Award
- 2003 — Culture Advocate Award from the African Unity Festival
- 2007 — Inaugural Jasmine Robinson Pioneer Award (Wabash College)
- 2015 — Moore was recognized for contributions for the 120th celebration of the Indianapolis Recorder Newspaper
- 2003 — February cover of Indianapolis Woman Magazine



Wilma L. Moore

VOTE ✓

Tuesday, May 8!

ANDRÉ
CARSON

FOR CONGRESS

Paid for by André Carson for Congress.

Dedicated Service. Honest Leadership. Common Sense Solutions.

PHOTOGRAPH BY

Exhibit "B"
pp 1-2

APPROVED AND FILED
CONNIE LAWSON
INDIANA SECRETARY OF STATE
02/21/2018 01:47 PM

BUSINESS ENTITY REPORT

NAME AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE ADDRESS

BUSINESS ID 194175-087
BUSINESS TYPE Domestic For-Profit Corporation
BUSINESS NAME THE GEORGE P STEWART PRINTING CO INC
ENTITY CREATION DATE 12/31/1949
JURISDICTION OF FORMATION Indiana
PRINCIPAL OFFICE ADDRESS 2901 N TACOMA AVE, INDIANAPOLIS, IN, 46218. USA

YEARS FILED

YEARS 2017/2018

REGISTERED OFFICE AND ADDRESS

NAME WILLIAM MAYS
ADDRESS 2901 N. Tacoma Ave., Indianapolis, IN, 46218 - 0000, USA
SERVICE OF PROCESS EMAIL chantelled@indyrecorder.com

I acknowledge that the Service of Process email provided above is the email address at which electronic service of process may be accepted and is publicly viewable.

PRINCIPAL(S)

TITLE President
NAME Shannon Williams
ADDRESS 2901 N Tacoma Ave, Indianapolis, IN, 46218, USA

TITLE President
NAME Shannon Williams
ADDRESS 2901 N. Tacoma Ave., Indianapolis, IN, 46218, USA

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Exhibit "C"
PP 1-4



Bill Mays - Owner/Publisher

Shannon Williams - President/General Manager

September 14, 2018

Office of General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
1050 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20463

Re: Response to Pierre Pullins' complaint

To Whom It May Concern,

The Indianapolis Recorder Newspaper prides itself on being an ethical member of the community. The public entrusts us to be truthful, accurate and fair. It is a responsibility we do not take lightly. As editor of the historic 123-year-old newspaper, I operate daily with these values in mind.

Journalists who work for the Recorder make every effort to be fair and unbiased in our reporting, especially during coverage of elections. We strive to be fair, not only to candidates, but also to our readers who need to make an informed decision in the voting booth.

It is standard practice for a reporter to attempt to contact a candidate by telephone, email or even social media. However, there is no guarantee the candidate will respond, as it is his or her choice to do so. The newspaper industry is deadline focused. Reporters only have so much time to write an article before it must be turned in to the editor. If a source doesn't return a call or email by the deadline, it may not be feasible to hold the article and wait. In those instances, it is common practice to make the public aware of the attempt to contact in the article.

INDIANA
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INDIANAPOLIS RECORDER
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C 1
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Bill Mays - Owner/Publisher

Shannon Williams - President/General Manager

Recorder staff writer Brandon Perry followed this protocol while writing the April 20, 2018 article on District 7 Congressional candidates. The article, "Your party, your choice for highly contested races," noted Perry attempted to reach Pierre Pullins. After I assigned the article to Perry, he and I discussed attempts to reach candidates. We also discussed the impending deadline and Perry's futile attempts to contact Mr. Pullins. We could no longer wait for contact and had to print the article. However, the article didn't exclude Mr. Pullins as he's mentioned as a candidate, there's a photo of him as well as a sidebar with all District 7 candidates and Mr. Pullins is included.

It should be noted, I began as editor of the Recorder in February, 2018. I had no knowledge of Mr. Pullins' issues with the newspaper until I received a letter from him dated April 25, 2018. The letter was actually addressed to a previous editor and President and General Manager Shannon Williams. I was taken aback by the language, tone and accusations in the letter, especially from a political candidate. At no time was there ever a discussion to exclude Mr. Pullins. On the contrary, Brandon Perry made several attempts to contact Mr. Pullins.

As journalists of integrity, we will continue to strive for excellence in reporting.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Oseye Boyd
Editor

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Bill Mays - Owner/Publisher

Shannon Williams - President/General Manager

For its April 20, 2018 issue, the Indianapolis Recorder published an article about candidates running in the 7th District congressional primary election.

Attempts were made to include Pierre Pullins in the article. He did not respond to those attempts.

Unlike other candidates running in the Democratic primary, Mr. Pullins did not have a campaign website or campaign Facebook page with available contact information. Calls placed to a phone number listed for him online were not answered. No response was given from his personal Facebook page. Therefore, as the article indicated, Mr. Pullins "could not be reached by press time."

Brandon Perry
Staff Writer
Recorder Media Group

"6" 4 of 4



Bob Kern



Sue Spicer



Curtis Godfrey (Photos/Olana Penn)



Donald Eason, Wayne Harmon, J.D. Miniear, Jason Davis, Pierre Pullins

RACES

► Continued from A1

family, retire with security and build a better life for their children.

"Unfortunately, this is not the reality for most Hoosiers," Carson said. "Which is why if re-elected, I will continue to fight for hard-working Hoosiers by combating income inequality, strengthening the middle class and protecting those who have fallen on difficult times."

Carson said he is proud to offer bi-weekly meetings with constituents, and he responds to thousands of residents' letters. He also helped secure hundreds of millions of dollars for transit, education, renewable energy and medical research to help create jobs and rebuild neighborhoods.

He touted the success of his annual job fair and the annual Youth Opportunities Fair, which connects youth with internships, summer jobs, and volunteer opportunities. Carson is also happy with the recent passage of his bill designating Martin Luther King Park as a National Commemorative Site.

Carson usually receives more than 80 percent of the vote during the Democratic primary in a city where that party controls most political offices. However, he is taking nothing for granted.

Four other candidates are also running for the Democratic nomination, including Curtis Godfrey, Bob Kern, Pierre Pullins and Sue Spicer. They all believe a decade is enough for Carson and are calling for fresh solutions to old problems.

Godfrey is making his third run in the 7th District. His goal is to help restore "direction and integrity" in federal government, and he believes in term limits.

"Congress should not be a long-term retirement plan," he said. "An elected official should be a servant of the people."

A U.S. Army veteran, Godfrey is also passionate about improving medical care and services for his fellow veterans after seeing one of them wait decades for compensation.

Kern won the hotly contested Democratic primary in the 6th Congressional District in 1998, before losing to Republican Dan Burton. After 20 years, he has not given up on his dream of making a difference in Congress.

"The constituents must have a voice," Kern said. "I am ready to listen to the people, do what the people want and stand up for them."

Pullins is making his seventh run for Congress, and could not be reached by press time.

Spicer worked in the national office of presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, who won the Indiana Democratic primary in 2016. She is running to represent the Vermont senator's progressive ideas on health care and addressing shortages of quality food in certain areas.

"I didn't see anybody else with the Sanders branding," Spicer said.

She would like to stay connected to residents of the district by holding at least two town hall meetings each year and interacting with citizens via Skype when she is in Washington.

"Instead of calling corporate donors in the afternoon, I will have constituent access time," Spicer said. "We have to get money out of politics."

Challenge from the right

The current 7th District has not sent a Republican to Congress since 1972. Still, several candidates will slug it out on the ballot for the GOP nomination. They include John Couch, J. Jason Davis, Donald Eason, Jr., Wayne Harmon, J.D. Miniear and Tony Van Pelt.

Couch previously ran for the Indiana House in District 29. He is concerned about the ugly tone in politics and wants to present legislation that can benefit all sectors of society.

"Citizens, businesses and government are all important," Couch said in a statement.

Davis, a corporate fire and safety specialist, wants to promote faith-based and vocational solutions to community problems.

"Education is our most critical issue, because it shapes our culture," Davis said.

Eason could become the first African-American Republican to run in the district since Marvin Scott in 2010. He has worked as an administrator at Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, Michigan, and operated inner-city outreach ministries as an associate minister at Fall Creek Parkway Church of Christ.

"Economic growth, improving education and promoting healthy families will take care of many of the issues we face — including rising crime rates, rising unemployment and declining graduation rates," Eason said.

Harmon, a parole agent and Marine combat veteran, is making his fourth bid for Congress. His top issues of concern are national security, improving veteran services and balancing the federal budget.

"We need to reduce everyone's tax rate and give the citizens back their buying power for this economy," Harmon said.

Miniear, a financial advisor and conservative radio show host, is also making his fourth run in the 7th District. He describes himself as "pro economic growth and constitutional," and a "Christian conservative defender of freedom."

Van Pelt's platform calls for defense of the Bill of Rights, a return to gold backing U.S. currency, vocational programs for ex-prisoners and citizen defense training courses. He wants the removal of Carson and "Islamic extremists" from Congress.

Contact Brandon Perry at (317) 926-5163 ext. 308. Follow him on Twitter @BrandonPerry17.

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT WHO'S RUNNING FOR CONGRESS IN THE 7TH DISTRICT?

Learn the candidates' views on important issues by visiting their web pages or social media accounts.

DEMOCRATS

Andre Carson
andrecarson.com

Curtis Godfrey
curtisgodfreyforcongress.com

Bob Kern
facebook.com/Bob-Kern-for-Congress-Indiana-7th-District

Pierre Pullins
facebook.com/pierre.pullins

Sue Spicer
sueforyou2018.com

REPUBLICANS

John Couch
N/A

J. Jason Davis
N/A

Donald Eason Jr.
On Twitter: @DonaldEasonJr

Wayne Harmon
N/A

J.D. Miniear
miniearforcongress.com

Tony Van Pelt
www.bordarissu.com



Dreanna Hill, Design House, adjusts her display before the event starts.



S.H.E. event founder Katina Washington did some shopping herself.

S.H.E. Event: The Black Marketplace

Hundreds of vendors and visitors crowded into the Avondale Meadows YMCA to experience the sixth annual She Has Everything (S.H.E.) Event — a network and showcase of Black-owned businesses and organizations. Founder Katina Washington said the S.H.E. event has grown from a three-woman event to a waiting list of participants throughout the Midwest. The event proves there is an opportunity for Black entrepreneurs to sell their products and for consumers to support local small businesses. Washington donated two \$500 scholarships to kidpreneurs through the YMCA.



Vendors took up most of the space in the Avondale Meadows YMCA. (Photos/Curtis Guynn)