

TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF
FANNIECE HAWKINS,
RESPONDENT

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BEFORE THE
TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION
SC-270450

ORDER and AGREED RESOLUTION

I. Recitals

The Texas Ethics Commission (the commission) met on August 21, 2007, to consider sworn complaint SC-270450. A quorum of the commission was present. The commission determined that there is credible evidence of a violation of section 254.064 of the Election Code, a law administered and enforced by the commission. To resolve and settle this complaint without further proceedings, the commission proposes this resolution to the respondent.

II. Allegation

The complaint alleges that the respondent failed to timely file a 30-day pre-election report in violation of section 254.064 of the Election Code.

III. Facts Supported by Credible Evidence

Credible evidence available to the commission supports the following findings of fact:

1. The respondent was an opposed candidate for Mayor of Beaumont in a May 12, 2007, election.
2. The due date for the 30-day pre-election report for the May 12, 2007, election was April 12, 2007.
3. The complainant alleges that the respondent filed her 30-day pre-election report on April 16, 2007.
4. The respondent acknowledges that she filed her 30-day pre-election report on April 16, 2007.

IV. Findings and Conclusions of Law

The facts described in Section III support the following findings and conclusions of law:

1. In addition to other required reports, for each election in which a person is a candidate and has an opponent whose name is to appear on the ballot, the person shall file a report not later than the 30th day before election day. The report covers the period beginning the day the candidate's campaign treasurer appointment is filed or the first day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed under this chapter, as applicable, and continuing through the 40th day before election day. ELEC. CODE § 254.064.
2. The respondent was an opposed candidate in the May 12, 2007, election. Therefore the respondent was required to file a 30-day pre-election report by April 12, 2007. The evidence shows that the respondent filed the 30-day pre-election report after the due date. Therefore, there is credible evidence of a violation of section 254.064 of the Election Code.

V. Representations and Agreement by Respondent

By signing this order and agreed resolution and returning it to the commission:

1. The respondent neither admits nor denies the facts described under Section III or the commission's findings and conclusions of law described under Section IV, and consents to the entry of this order and agreed resolution solely for the purpose of resolving this sworn complaint.
2. The respondent consents to this order and agreed resolution and waives any right to further proceedings in this matter.
3. The respondent acknowledges that in addition to other required reports, for each election in which a person is a candidate and has an opponent whose name is to appear on the ballot, the person shall file a report not later than the 30th day before election day. The report covers the period beginning the day the candidate's campaign treasurer appointment is filed or the first day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed under this chapter, as applicable, and continuing through the 40th day before election day. The respondent agrees to comply with this requirement of the law.

VI. Confidentiality

This order and agreed resolution describes a violation that the commission has determined is neither technical nor *de minimis*. Accordingly, this order and agreed resolution is not confidential under section 571.140 of the Government Code and may be disclosed by members and staff of the commission.

VII. Sanction

After considering the seriousness of the violation described under Sections III and IV, including the nature, circumstances, and consequences of the violation, and after considering the sanction necessary to deter future violations, the commission imposes a \$500 civil penalty.

VIII. Order

The commission hereby orders that if the respondent consents to the proposed resolution, this order and agreed resolution is a final and complete resolution of SC-270450.

AGREED to by the respondent on this _____ day of _____, 2007.

Fanniece Hawkins, Respondent

EXECUTED ORIGINAL received by the commission on: _____.

Texas Ethics Commission

By: _____
David A. Reisman, Executive Director