

~~From: 503-873-7411~~

From: Rob Taylor [mailto:obetewic@msn.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 11:50 AM
To: FERRY Nancy E
Subject: Official Campaign Complaint

Hello Nancy,

I'm writing this in concerns with misappropriations of campaign funds. I think there should be an investigation into the campaign finances of Coos County Commissioner Mellissa Cribbins. She continues to spend money (past mid December) for what appears to be personal items. Mrs. Cribbins reported expenditures including about \$1,200 for food and liquor on an early July date for "fundraising". The fundraising that she claims resulted in not one cent of contributions, plus there are expenditures well into the new year.

Here is a link:

<https://secure.sos.state.or.us/orestar/cneSearch.do?cneSearchButtonName=search&cneSearchFilerCommitteeld=15616>

Below is an exchange between one other individual who has the same concerns and has contacted your office for some type of action. My contact information is at the bottom of this message and I want to officially file a complaint.

Please, let me know if there is any other information you need? Thank you and have a good day.

Sincerely,
Rob Taylor
PO Box 973
Bandon OR 97411
Phone: ~~541-847-9942~~
Email: ~~obetewic@msn.com~~

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RE: Official Campaign Complaint

From: **FERRY Nancy E** (nancy.e.ferry@state.or.us)
Sent: Tue 1/13/15 12:46 PM
To: Rob Taylor (obetewic@msn.com)
Cc: HERTEL Jennifer S (jennifer.s.hertel@state.or.us)

Mr. Taylor:

All complaints must be signed. You can print out this email, sign it and scan as a pdf and return to us. That will suffice.

Also, please reply all so that Jennifer Hertel gets a copy, or send scanned copy to this email address: orestar-support@sos.state.or.us

I will be out of the office on Thursday and Friday of this week and want to make sure your complaint does get processed.

Nancy Ferry
Compliance Specialist
Elections Division
Phone no. 503-986-1518
Fax no. 503-373-7414

From: Rob Taylor [mailto:obetewic@msn.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 11:50 AM
To: FERRY Nancy E
Subject: Official Campaign Complaint

KATE BROWN
SECRETARY OF STATE



JIM WILLIAMS
DIRECTOR
255 CAPITOL STREET NE, SUITE 501
SALEM, OREGON 97310-0722
(503) 986-1518

January 14, 2015

Robert E Taylor
PO Box 973
Bandon OR 97411

Case No. 15-C&E-01

Dear Mr. Taylor:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of complaint of possible election law violations. Your letter with signature was received in our office on January 14, 2015. We will contact you if further information is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Nancy Ferry'.

Nancy Ferry
Compliance Specialist

KATE BROWN
SECRETARY OF STATE



JIM WILLIAMS
DIRECTOR
255 CAPITOL STREET NE, SUITE 501
SALEM, OREGON 97310-0722
(503) 986-1518

January 14, 2015

Melissa Cribbins
410 Date Avenue
Coos Bay OR 97420

Case No. 15-C&E-01

Dear Ms. Cribbins:

This is to notify you that a written complaint alleging a possible violation of Oregon Election Law was received by the Elections Division on January 14, 2015. A copy of the complaint letter is enclosed.

Please review the complaint and send us a written response to the allegation in the letter within 10 days of the date of this letter, and feel free to include any documentation or other data which may help to support or explain your position, and response to the complaint. We may request additional information through a letter of inquiry. Please contact me at 503-986-1518 if you have any questions about the contents of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Nancy Ferry'.

Nancy Ferry
Compliance Specialist

c: Robert E Taylor

January 24, 2015

Nancy Ferry
Compliance Specialist
Office of the Secretary of State
Elections Division
255 Capitol Street NE, Suite 501
Salem, OR 97310-0722

RE: Case No. 15-C&E-01

Dear Ms. Ferry:

Thank you for your letter of January 14, 2015, forwarding to me the complaint from Mr. Robert E. Taylor of Bandon, Oregon, regarding campaign expenditures. Mr. Taylor's concerns appear to be focused on a fundraising event that was held on July 3, 2014. In May, 2014, I won my election for County Commissioner during the primary election. I was not sure whether I would win at that event, and I chose not to have any sort of celebration at that time. In June of 2014, I decided to hold a fireworks watching event on July 3 (the date of the fireworks at The Mill Casino, viewable from my home) to thank all of my donors, volunteers, and supporters. To save money, I held it at my house and prepared the food myself, except the desserts that were prepared by a local bakery. Donation envelopes were present, but no speech - besides brief appreciation - was made, and no donations were requested. Consequently, I did not receive any donations from this event, and none were reported. There were well over 100 people in attendance, and the food and drink cost per person was nominal. Page 31 of the Secretary of State campaign finance manual states that "a campaign party or thank you party for volunteers and supporters" is an exception to the personal use prohibition. This is the exception under which this event was held.

As to the second issue that Mr. Taylor points to, it is a vague allegation, but I believe that he is concerned about several fuel purchases I have made in recent months. On page 31 of the campaign finance manual, it states that it is acceptable to purchase "service and fuel for a leased or purchased vehicle" if directly these expenditures are related to an office holder's official duties. When I am travelling with my personal vehicle within the county to charitable events and county events I do not make any claim for mileage with the County, and these gasoline expenditures are not subject to reimbursement from any other source.

These gas purchases typically come from the Fred Meyer Gas Station, and I believe that this is the source of Mr. Taylor's confusion.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to Mr. Taylor's concerns. I am available at your convenience if you wish to have any further discussion.

Sincerely,

Melissa T. Cribbins
mtcribbins@hotmail.com

cc: Robert E. Taylor



JIM WILLIAMS
DIRECTOR

255 CAPITOL ST NE, SUITE 501
SALEM, OREGON 97310

ELECTIONS — (503) 986-1518
FAX — (503) 373-7414

March 4, 2015

Robert E Taylor
PO Box 973
Bandon OR 97411

Re: Case 15-C&E-01
Final Determination Letter
Melissa Cribbins for County Commissioner (15616)

Dear Mr. Taylor:

On January 14, 2015, the Elections Division received your complaint alleging a possible violation of election law. Specifically, you stated that you were concerned about "misappropriations of campaign funds" by Coos County Commissioner Melissa Cribbins. Her committee, Melissa Cribbins for County Commissioner, reported approximately \$1,200 in expenditures in July 2014 for food and liquor for fundraisers, yet she did not receive any contributions. A second complaint was received on January 15, 2015, from J. Fred Kirby, which basically states the same concern and which also questions the use of campaign funds to purchase fuel.

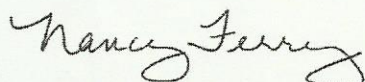
On January 14, 2015, Melissa Cribbins was notified of your complaint letter. The Elections Division received her response on February 6, 2015, in which she states that she had won her position at the Primary Election in May 2014 and decided to hold her celebration party in July, during an annual fireworks event. Attached to her response letter were the receipts from the various vendors. She had purchased food and liquor for over 100 people who attended. She did not receive any donations at the event.

Page 31 of the *2014 Campaign Finance Manual* states exceptions to the campaign violation of personal use of campaign funds, ORS 260.407. Two of the exceptions are "a campaign party or thank you party for volunteers and supporters", and "service and fuel for a leased or purchased vehicle". These are considered public office holder expenses. A campaign committee may remain open and use excess campaign funds for expenses incurred as an office holder if they are directly related to the office holder's official duties.

After reviewing the information submitted, the Elections Division finds no violation of election law and does not intend to pursue this matter further. This investigation is now closed.

Please contact me at 503-986-1518 if you have any questions about the content of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Ferry".

Nancy Ferry
Compliance Specialist

Enclosure

c: Melissa Cribbins, Candidate/Treasurer
J. Fred Kirby