

**Regular Meeting of the Cincinnati Elections Commission  
Minutes of January 11, 2024**

**CEC members present:** Nick Klingensmith, Sally Krisel, and Terry Rath

**City representatives present:** Christopher Liu, Law; Teninnah Ross, Law

**Old Business:**

**1. Approval of the December 14, 2023 meeting minutes**

Ms. Krisel moved for approval of the December 14, 2023, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Klingensmith. A vote was taken and the December 14, 2023, minutes were approved by the three votes of Mr. Rath, Ms. Krisel, and Mr. Klingensmith.

**New Business:**

**1. Appointment of New CEC Member Eric Cook**

Mr. Rath noted that Mr. Cook was not present for the meeting. As such, the introduction of Mr. Cook was held for the next regular meeting.

**II. Review of the Post Election Campaign Finance Reports**

Mr. Liu opened the discussion providing an overview of the 2023 City of Cincinnati Council election. All ten candidates filed their post-election campaign finance reports on time. However, numerous amendments were filed after the deadline.

Mr. Liu provided a brief explanation of CEC Rule 22—If the CEC can make a preliminary determination that a report filed is incomplete or inaccurate, or shows excess contributions, it shall conditionally accept the report and notify the filer. Within seven days, the filer may submit an addendum. If no addendum is submitted, the CEC shall conduct further proceedings to review the violation.

Mr. Liu noted that no individual contribution exceeded the contribution limit. However, a handful of individuals and CODE PCE donated multiple times in 2022 and 2023. Putting those together, some of the reports showed excess contributions, and the candidates needed to take corrective action. They did so prior to the CEC meeting on December 14, 2024. Those addendums were uploaded to the CEC database (and marked accordingly).

Mr. Liu indicated these addendums or amendments had rectified the potential excess contribution violations. In some cases, it was merely a data entry error or webform error. In other cases, donations should have been allocated differently between spouses. There were a couple instances of “same name” donors that were actually different people. There were also some refunds that needed to be issued.

Mr. Rath summarized that all candidates filed on time, there were no egregious violations, and any overages have been refunded. He further inquired about the next step of the process.

Mr. Liu indicated the CEC could investigate further or ask for more information. In the alternative, the CEC could vote to accept the campaign finance reports and take no further action. Mr. Rath agreed with the second option.

Mr. Rath then asked for a motion to accept the campaign finance reports and take no further action. Mr. Klingensmith made that motion and Ms. Krisel seconded the motion. A vote was taken and approved by three votes of Mr. Rath, Ms. Krisel, and Mr. Klingensmith

## **I. Discussion of the Five-Month Report**

Mr. Liu opened the discussion presenting a copy of the five-month report from the last election cycle. Mr. Liu noted there was one question posed to the CEC in this election cycle and later withdrawn. He also noted the report should include a summary of CEC activities in the present election cycle.

Ms. Krisel indicated the report should make mention of the Law Department staff that helped to process the campaign finance reports and put them online.

Mr. Liu explained it is his goal to have a completed draft at the February meeting and review for edits and revisions. This will allow time to submit the report in March.

## **II. Boards Training**

Mr. Liu provided a brief description of the Boards Training that was put together by the City Manger's office. That training is for all civic boards and commissions. There are two modules. The first module covers Legal Requirements and Responsibilities. The second module discusses city budget and finance. CEC Members are encouraged to attend either online or in-person.

Ms. Krisel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Mr. Klingensmith. Meeting adjourned.

### **Next meeting:**

The next meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

### **Meeting Adjourned:**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:28pm.