



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN & POLITICAL FINANCE

ONE ASHBURTON PLACE, ROOM 411
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108

MICHAEL J. SULLIVAN
DIRECTOR

TEL: (617) 979-8300
(800) 462-OCPF
FAX: (617) 727-6549

February 6, 2017

Ms. Sarah Hewins
52 Forest Street
Carver, MA 02330

Re: Public Buildings; CPF-16-134

Dear Ms. Hewins:

This office has completed its review of a complaint we received concerning the Committee to Elect Sarah Hewins (the "Committee"). The complaint alleged that an individual affiliated with the Committee solicited campaign contributions during a Committee event at the Wareham Public Library. The complaint included a link to an audio recording of the event.

On or about July 26, 2016, the Committee hosted a "meet-and-greet" at the Wareham Public Library. Based upon a close review of the audio recording, it is clear that, during the course of the event, an individual associated with the Committee initially addressed the audience by saying that, "...obviously, this is not all that interesting, but the main thing I want to point out is...donate." A few minutes later, that same individual, while demonstrating how to navigate the candidate's website, stated that the Committee "tried to make it easy for people" to get a sign, volunteer, or "to donate." He further declared that "we take [contributions via] credit cards."

M.G.L. c. 55, § 14 prohibits soliciting or receiving political contributions in any building occupied for state, county, or municipal purposes. "Governmental purposes" include those that directly relate to the health, welfare and safety of the public and to the administration or governance of the state, a county or a municipality. However, governmental services also include those that relate to purposes such as promoting the common good by providing public libraries, parks and recreational facilities. AO-01-13.



Hewins Committee

February 6, 2017

Page 2

Because the Wareham Public Library is a building occupied for a governmental purpose within the meaning of M.G.L. c. 55, the solicitation of funds to benefit the Hewins Committee did not comply with Section 14 of the campaign finance law. You credibly represented to OCPF, however, that the Committee did not receive any funds at or as a result of the July 26 event. Therefore, because we believe that the guidance provided in this letter will ensure future compliance with the campaign finance law, no further action is required and this matter may be closed at this time.

In accordance with the opinion of the Supervisor of Public Records, this letter is a matter of public record. A copy is being provided to the person(s) who brought this matter to our attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "M".

Michael J. Sullivan
Director

MJS/mc