

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD**

**PRIMA FACIE  
DETERMINATION**

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT OF STEVE DRAZKOWSKI REGARDING THE NEIGHBORS FOR ILHAN (OMAR) COMMITTEE:

On July 19, 2018, the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board received a complaint submitted by Rep. Steve Drazkowski regarding the Neighbors for Ilhan (Omar) committee. Neighbors for Ilhan (Omar) is the principal campaign committee of Rep. Ilhan Omar. Rep. Drazkowski's complaint states that the Omar committee's 2016 year-end report of receipts and expenditures shows that the committee made a payment to the Kjellberg Law Office on November 20, 2016, in the amount of \$2,250. The complaint further states that Carla C. Kjellberg of the Kjellberg Law Office served as the attorney of record in Rep. Omar's 2017 marital dissolution. The complaint alleges that the committee's payment to the Kjellberg Law Office was for services related to the marital dissolution, and therefore constituted conversion of committee funds to personal use in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.12.

**Determination**

Minnesota Statutes section 211B.12 states, in relevant part, "[m]oney collected for political purposes and assets of a political committee or political fund may not be converted to personal use." The Omar committee's 2016 year-end report shows that on November 20, 2016, the committee made a \$2,250 payment to the Kjellberg Law Office for legal fees. The committee's report does not identify the purpose of the legal fees. The complaint included a Register of Actions from the court records for Rep. Omar's 2017 marital dissolution. The Register of Actions shows that Carla C. Kjellberg was the attorney of record for Rep. Omar in that matter. Using committee funds to pay legal expenses for a matter that is not related to the committee would be a conversion of committee funds to personal use. The chair therefore concludes that the complaint states a prima facie violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.12.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 10A.022, subdivision 3, paragraph (1), this prima facie determination is made by a single Board member and not by any vote of the entire Board. This prima facie determination does not mean that the Board has commenced, or will commence, an investigation or has made any determination of a violation by any of the individuals or entities named in the complaint.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 10A.022, subdivision 3, paragraph (2), within 45 days of the date of this determination the Board will make findings and conclusions as to whether probable cause exists to believe the disclaimer and the inappropriate political contribution alleged in the complaint warrants a formal investigation. The complainant and the respondent named in this prima facie determination will be given an opportunity to be heard by the Board prior to any decision on probable cause.

Until the Board makes a public finding or enters into a conciliation agreement, this matter is subject to the confidentiality requirements of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.022, subdivision 5.

/s/ Carolyn Flynn  
Carolyn Flynn, Chair  
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Date: July 24, 2018