

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

POST FINDINGS REPORT

IN THE MATTER OF THE BOARD INVESTIGATION OF THE MINNEAPOLIS DFL COMMITTEE

The Minneapolis DFL Committee is a political party unit registered with the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board. The Board opened an investigation of the Minneapolis DFL on March 6, 2020, after the party unit stated that its 2017 year-end report included significant discrepancies that it could not explain. The party unit also asked for a \$1,242.51 downward adjustment to the beginning cash balance on its 2016 year-end report to account for discrepancies that pre-dated January 1, 2016.

On January 8, 2021, the Board issued findings concluding that inadequate recordkeeping had occurred in 2017 because the party unit had not taken steps to ensure that all required records were retained during the three treasurer transitions that occurred during that year. The findings gave the executive director the authority to work with the party unit to file an amended 2017 report that correctly disclosed its transactions. The order also granted the requested balance adjustment.

After the findings became public, Tim Bonham, who was the party unit's treasurer until September of 2017, contacted the Board to offer records that he believed would explain the discrepancies on the party unit's 2017 report. Mr. Bonham stated that the party unit had a third bank account that contained a certificate of deposit that was worth approximately the same amount as the amount of the balance discrepancy. Further, Mr. Bonham submitted emails documenting his prior statements to the Board that he had transferred all records in his possession to one of the new party unit treasurers when he left office. The information regarding the party unit's 2017 financial transactions and the fact that records had been transferred were already part of the investigation record. The existence of the third bank account, however, was new information, as was the information about the extent of the records transferred.

Board staff brought the new information to the Board at the March 3, 2021, meeting for consideration, and provided the option to reopen the investigation if the Board believed that action was warranted. Mr. Bonham also addressed the Board at that meeting and explained the steps he took to maintain records for the party unit, and his efforts to transfer records to the new officers for the party unit. After discussion, no Board motion was made to reopen the matter or to reconsider the findings.

Board staff will work with the Minneapolis DFL Committee to incorporate the amount in the third bank account into an amended year-end report for 2017. The amount in the third account will largely negate the need for the cash balance adjustment provided to the party unit in the January findings.