

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL ELECTION CHALLENGE FORM

I hereby submit my challenge for the MacArthur Park

Neighborhood Council Election held on 03/05/2014

I affirm that I am a stakeholder in this Neighborhood Council and that I have personal knowledge of the following challenge. check here

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REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Concerns regarding Ballots
Electioneering by candidates

Please state the facts for your challenge.
(max 500 words)

There are several complaints/reports about Lidia Aguilar of tampering with the voting process. At least one voter (with limited language reading/writing skills) was "assisted" by Mrs. Aguilar in "completing" the voting process without being authorized. Around 3:40 PM I personally complained to the person in charge of the event when I was informed that Lidia Aguilar had signed up as a volunteer. I informed the manager that Mrs. Aguilar had a conflict of interest and that she had been involved in unlawful behavior/practices as a volunteer and member of at least two committees of the MacArthur Park Neighborhood Council before, during and after the MPNC was subjected to exhaustive efforts and was instrumental in this process. I also stated that Mrs. Aguilar had a substantial interest in the outcome of the current elections because of her relationship with other members of the MPNC (some of who were also candidates in the election). I asked for her to be disqualified and/or removed from the area. I was assured that she would not be allowed to engage in any conversation pertaining the elections with any member(s) of the public (voters) and/or touch any ballots/registration forms etc. and that her only task was to direct people to facilitate traffic. I asked for Terrence Gomes or her supervisor to inform them of the situation. Around 7PM I was informed that Mrs. Aguilar had been interfering with the right to secrecy (in the vote) by inquiring into their candidate selection. I personally saw Mrs. Aguilar engaged into conversation with other voters in the voting area and complained to the manager I spoke with earlier in the afternoon. I was told that she had been warned by Mr. Gomes not to engage voters or she would be sent home and

that she had complied. However, the incident involving the voter with language reading/writing limitations occurred within the last 40 minutes before closing the polls (and after I left and had been given the assurances/promises by the election manager). I also received reports of a male member of the election team having assisted other voter(s) and inquired into their candidate choice. He was told by the person reporting this matter that he could not ask that type of questions (they are prohibited). I also received reports of individuals/candidates standing within the immediate voting area distributing a candidates' list to select on the ballot. Mrs. Aguilar needs to be questioned as to her involvement. To date, there are other reports of similar behavior and actions by Mrs. Aguilar from other individuals. It is likely that witnesses may feel at risk of harassment and/or retaliation as a result of coming forward to denounce the violations to their rights. Although I was told Mrs. Aguilar was under explicit instructions not to engage voters, nor assisting them (handling voter materials, registration forms, etc) I have attached a picture file sent to me which shows Mrs. Aguilar engaged in both actions she was not supposed to do.

In order to determine, appreciate and punish (if necessary) the number, degree and extent of Mrs. Aguilar actions (and those of others) an enquiry needs to take place to interview each registered voter in this NC election. Each voter needs to confirm whether he/she completed the pink voting ballot or if Mrs. Aguilar or someone else asked them about their choice of candidates. Any person(s) and/or candidate(s) associated with these or any other irregularities and/or violations should be penalized to the full extent of the law for interfering/tampering with voting and official business (and whatever else results).

Please state your desired remedy. (max 100 words)

Attach all supporting documentation:

Created: Apr 08, 2014 04:29:09 PM, IP: 107.14.25.35, By: Public