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TELEPHONE: (213) 978-1551



ERIC GARCETTI
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EMPOWER LATM
Department of
NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

20TH FLOOR, CITY HALL
200 NORTH SPRING STREET
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

TELEPHONE: (213) 978-1551
TOLL-FREE: 3-1-1
FAX: (213) 978-1751
E-MAIL: EmpowerLA@lacity.org

GRAYCE LIU
GENERAL MANAGER

www.EmpowerLA.org

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL ELECTION CHALLENGE RESOLUTION

May 30, 2014

Dear Ms. Olomajeye:

On May 16, 2014 you submitted a challenge for the Palms Neighborhood Council election, addressing concerns regarding Campaign Material Issues and Electioneering by Candidates.

After thorough review, it has been determined that your challenge does not qualify as a valid challenge.

At issue is a Candidate's use of a booth for campaigning purposes as a Neighborhood Council event held on May 10, 2014. The booth was paid for and provided by the Neighborhood Council to organizations from the community. The Neighborhood Council also provided a Candidates Table where candidates could display their campaign materials and talk to the public.

Tanya Leal, the organizer of the event emailed all certified candidates on April 23, 2014 and advised them "Finally, if you are affiliated with an organization in the community and will be hosting a table at the Bike Rodeo, I encourage you to find someone else in your organization to oversee the table-that way everyone can received a fair share of exposure as a Candidate.

Alisa Smith, the Independent Election Administrator email all certified candidates and the all Palms Neighborhood Council Board Members on April 24, 2014 and advised them, "I'm just writing to confirm, that the Candidates table is an open table, that any Candidates may bring their materials, at any time, and hang out there when, and for how long, they are able. The NCs "Welcome" table is the one that you are scheduling shifts for-and any Candidate cannot campaign while working at the NCs Welcome table. Candidates who are affiliated with another organization, should have the organizations okay if they are going to campaign while working for them. But that is really at the discretion of the organization."

Subsequent discussions between the Tanya Leal and Alisa Smith focused on the need for event volunteers and it does not appear that anyone from the Palms Neighborhood Council or the Palms Bike Rodeo contradicted the permissive statement that candidates "should have the organizations okay if they are going to campaign while working for them."

It is common practice for Neighborhood Councils to create space at their events for candidates to display their election materials and meet the public. As in all election events and candidate events and outreach events, all candidates must be given the same access and notification as all other candidates to ensure that no candidate or slate of candidates has an advantage.

No candidates have claimed that they asked for an organizational booth and were denied permission from the Palms Neighborhood Council. No members of the Palms Neighborhood Council responded to the April 24, 2014 email to correct the implicit permission given to candidates to campaign while working from their organizations. No claim was made of the Neighborhood Council's wish to exclude the campaigning from the organizational booths.

As such, the challenge is not valid.

Thank you for your commitment to the integrity of the Neighborhood Council electoral process.

Sincerely,

Stephen Box
Senior Project Coordinator
Neighborhood Council Elections Administration
Department of Neighborhood Empowerment

Cc: Alisa Smith, Independent Election Administrator
Darren Martinez, Deputy City Attorney
Grayce Liu, General Manager