



New York City Campaign Finance Board

100 Church Street, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10007
212.409.1800 | www.nycffb.info

Rose Gill Hearn
Chair

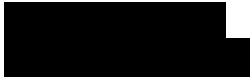
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Executive Director

Sue Ellen Dodell
General Counsel

Via C-Access
November 24, 2015

Godwin Williams
Godwin Williams for City Council



Dear Godwin Williams:

Please find attached the New York City Campaign Finance Board's ("CFB" or "Board") Final Audit Report for the 2013 campaign of Godwin Williams (the "Campaign"). CFB staff prepared the report based on a review of the Campaign's financial disclosure statements and documentation submitted by the Campaign.

This report incorporates the Board's final determination of June 11, 2015 (attached). The report concludes that the Campaign did not fully demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the Campaign Finance Act (the "Act") and Board Rules (the "Rules").

As detailed in the attached Final Board Determination, the Campaign was assessed penalties totaling \$1,446.

The full amount owed must be paid no later than **December 24, 2015**. Please send a check in the amount of \$1,446, payable to the "New York City Election Campaign Finance Fund," to: New York City Campaign Finance Board, 100 Church Street, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10007.

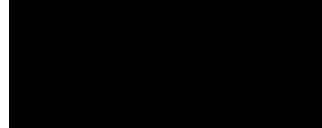
If the CFB is not in receipt of the full amount owed by **December 24, 2015**, the Candidate's name and the amount owed will be posted on the CFB's website. The CFB may also initiate a civil action to compel payment. In addition, the Candidate will not be eligible to receive public funds for any future election until the full amount is paid. Further information regarding liability for this debt can be found in the attached Final Board Determination.

The January 15, 2014 disclosure statement (#16) was the last disclosure statement the Campaign was required to file with the CFB for the 2013 elections. The Campaign is required to maintain its records for six years after the election, and the CFB may require the Campaign to demonstrate

ongoing compliance. *See* Rules 3-02(b)(3), 4-01(a), and 4-03. In addition, please contact the New York State Board of Elections for information concerning its filing requirements.

The CFB appreciates the Campaign's cooperation during the 2013 election cycle. Please contact the Audit Unit at 212-409-1800 or AuditMail@nyccfb.info with any questions about the enclosed report.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of Jonnathon Kline.

Jonnathon Kline, CFE
Director of Auditing and Accounting

signature on original

Attachments



EC2013 Final Audit Report

Godwin Williams for City Council

November 2015

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RESULTS IN BRIEF

The results of the New York City Campaign Finance Board’s (“CFB” or “Board”) review of the reporting and documentation of the 2013 campaign of Godwin Williams (the “Campaign”) indicate findings of non-compliance with the Campaign Finance Act (the “Act”) and Board Rules (the “Rules”) as detailed below:

Disclosure Findings

Accurate public disclosure is an important part of the CFB’s mission. Findings in this section relate to the Campaign’s failure to completely and timely disclose the Campaign’s financial activity.

- The Campaign did not report or inaccurately reported financial transactions to the Board (see Finding #1).
- The Campaign did not file, by the due date, a financial disclosure statement required by the Board (see Finding #2).

Other Findings

- The Campaign did not respond timely to the Initial Documentation Request and the Draft Audit Report (see Finding #3).

BACKGROUND

The Campaign Finance Act of 1988, which changed the way election campaigns are financed in New York City, created the voluntary Campaign Finance Program. The Program increases the information available to the public about elections and candidates' campaign finances, and reduces the potential for actual or perceived corruption by matching up to \$175 of contributions from individual New York City residents. In exchange, candidates agree to strict spending limits. Those who receive funds are required to spend the money for purposes that advance their campaign.

The CFB is the nonpartisan, independent city agency that administers the Campaign Finance Program for elections to the five offices covered by the Act: Mayor, Public Advocate, Comptroller, Borough President, and City Council member. All candidates are required to disclose all campaign activity to the CFB. This information is made available via the CFB's online searchable database, increasing the information available to the public about candidates for office and their campaign finances.

All candidates must adhere to strict contribution limits and are banned from accepting contributions from corporations, partnerships, and limited liability companies. Additionally, participating candidates are prohibited from accepting contributions from unregistered political committees. Campaigns must register with the CFB, and must file periodic disclosure statements reporting all financial activity. The CFB reviews these statements after they are filed and provides feedback to the campaigns.

The table below provides detailed information about the Campaign:

Name: Godwin Williams	Contribution Limit:
ID: 1422	\$2,750
Office Sought: City Council	
District: 45	Expenditure Limit:
	2010–2012: N/A
Committee Name: Godwin Williams for City Council	2013 Primary: \$168,000
Classification: Participant	2013 General: N/A
Certification Date: June 10, 2013	
	Public Funds:
Ballot Status: Primary	Received: \$0
Primary Election Date: September 10, 2013	Returned: \$0
Party: Democratic	
	Campaign Finance Summary:
	http://bit.ly/1yS76Hj

SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

Pursuant to Admin. Code § 3-710(1), the CFB conducted this audit to determine whether the Campaign complied with the Act and Rules. Specifically, we evaluated whether the Campaign:

1. Accurately reported financial transactions and maintained adequate books and records.
2. Adhered to contribution limits and prohibitions.
3. Disbursed funds in accordance with the Act and Rules.
4. Complied with expenditure limits.
5. Received the correct amount of public funds, or whether additional funds are due to the Campaign or must be returned.

Prior to the election, we performed preliminary reviews of the Campaign's compliance with the Act and Rules. We evaluated the eligibility of each contribution for which the Campaign claimed matching funds, based on the Campaign's reporting and supporting documentation. We also determined the Candidate's eligibility for public funds by ensuring the Candidate was on the ballot for an election, was opposed by another candidate on the ballot, and met the two-part threshold for receiving public funds. After the election, we performed an audit of all financial disclosure statements submitted for the election (see summary of activity reported in these statements at Appendix #1).

To verify that the Campaign accurately reported and documented all financial transactions, we requested all of the Campaign's bank statements and reconciled the financial activity on the bank statements to the financial activity reported on the Campaign's disclosure statements. We identified unreported, misreported, and duplicate disbursements, as well as reported disbursements that did not appear on the Campaign's bank statements. We also calculated debit and credit variances by comparing the total reported debits and credits to the total debits and credits amounts appearing on the bank statements. Because the Campaign reported that more than 10% of the dollar amount of its total contributions were in the form of cash contributions, we compared the total cash contributions reported to the total of cash deposits on itemized deposit slips.

As part of our reconciliation of reported activity to the bank statements the Campaign provided, we determined whether the Campaign properly disclosed all bank accounts. We also determined if the Campaign filed disclosure statements timely and reported required activity daily during the two weeks before the election. Finally, we reviewed the Campaign's reporting to ensure it disclosed required information related to contribution and expenditure transactions, such as intermediaries and subcontractors.

To determine if the Campaign adhered to contribution limits and prohibitions, we conducted a comprehensive review of the financial transactions reported in the Campaign's disclosure statements. Based on the Campaign's reported contributions, we assessed the total amount contributed by any one source and determined if it exceeded the applicable limit. We also determined if any of the contribution sources were prohibited. We reviewed literature and other documentation to determine if the Campaign accounted for joint activity with other campaigns.

To ensure that the Campaign disbursed funds in accordance with the Act and Rules, we reviewed the Campaign's reported expenditures and obtained documentation to assess whether funds were spent in furtherance of the Candidate's nomination or election. We also reviewed information from the New York State Board of Elections and the Federal Election Commission to determine if the Candidate had other political committees active during the 2013 election cycle. We determined if the Campaign properly disclosed these committees, and considered all relevant expenditures made by such committees in the assessment of the Campaign's total expenditures.

We also reviewed the Campaign's activity to ensure that it complied with the applicable expenditure limits. We reviewed reporting and documentation to ensure that all expenditures—including those not reported, or misreported—were attributed to the period in which the good or service was received, used, or rendered. We also reviewed expenditures made after the election to determine if they were for routine activities involving nominal costs associated with winding up a campaign and responding to the post-election audit.

To ensure that the Campaign received the correct amount of public funds, and to determine if the Campaign must return public funds or was due additional public funds, we reviewed the Campaign's eligibility for public matching funds, and ensured that all contributions claimed for match by the Campaign were in compliance with the Act and Rules. We determined if the Campaign's activity subsequent to the pre-election reviews affected its eligibility for payment. We also compared the amount of valid matching claims to the amount of public funds paid pre-election and determined if the Campaign was overpaid, or if it had sufficient matching claims, qualified expenditures, and outstanding liabilities to receive a post-election payment. As part of this review, we identified any deductions from public funds required under Rule 5-01(n).

We determined if the Campaign met its mandatory training requirement based on records of training attendance kept throughout the 2013 election cycle. Finally, we determined if the Campaign submitted timely responses to post-election audit requests sent by the CFB.

Following an election, campaigns may only make limited winding up expenditures and are not going concerns. Because the activity occurring after the post-election audit is extremely limited, the audit focused on substantive testing of the entire universe of past transactions. The results of the substantive testing served to establish the existence and efficacy of internal controls. The CFB also publishes and provides to all campaigns guidance regarding best practices for internal controls.

To determine if contributors were prohibited sources, we compared them to entities listed in the New York State Department of State's Corporation/Business Entity Database. Because this was

the only source of such information, because it was neither practical nor cost effective to test the completeness of the information, and because candidates could provide information to dispute the Department of State data, we did not perform data reliability testing. To determine if reported addresses were residential or commercially zoned within New York City, we compared them to a database of addresses maintained by the New York City Department of Finance. Because this was the only source of such data available, because it was not cost effective to test the completeness of the information, and because campaigns had the opportunity to dispute residential/commercial designations by providing documentation, we did not perform data reliability testing.

In the course of our reviews, we determined that during the 2013 election cycle a programming error affected C-SMART, the application created and maintained by the CFB for campaigns to disclose their activity. Although the error was subsequently fixed, we determined that certain specific data had been inadvertently deleted when campaigns amended their disclosure statements and was not subsequently restored after the error was corrected. We were able to identify these instances and did not cite exceptions that were the result of the missing data or recommend violations to the Board. The possibility exists, however, that we were unable to identify all data deleted as a result of this error.

The CFB's Special Compliance Unit investigated any complaints filed against the Campaign that alleged a specific violation of the Act or Rules. The Campaign was sent a copy of all formal complaints made against it, as well as relevant informal complaints, and was given an opportunity to submit a response.

The Campaign was provided with a preliminary draft of this audit report and was asked to provide a response to the findings. The Campaign responded, and the CFB evaluated any additional documentation provided and/or amendments to reporting made by the Campaign in response. The Campaign was subsequently informed of its alleged violations, and was asked to respond. The Campaign responded and the CFB evaluated any additional information provided by the Campaign. CFB staff recommended that the Board find that the Campaign committed violations subject to penalty. The Campaign chose to contest the CFB staff recommendations. The Campaign appeared before the Board on June 11, 2015. The Board's determinations are summarized as a part of each Finding in the Audit Results section.

AUDIT RESULTS

Disclosure Findings

1. Financial Disclosure Reporting - Discrepancies

Campaigns are required to report every disbursement made, and every contribution, loan, and other receipt received. *See* Admin. Code § 3-703(6); Rule 3-03. In addition, campaigns are required to deposit all receipts into an account listed on the candidate’s Certification. *See* Admin. Code § 3-703(10); Rule 2-06(a). Campaigns are also required to provide the CFB with bank records, including periodic bank statements and deposit slips. *See* Admin. Code §§ 3-703(1)(d), (g); Rules 4-01(a), (b)(1), (f).

The Campaign provided the following bank statements:

BANK	ACCOUNT #	ACCOUNT TYPE	STATEMENT PERIOD
Citibank	XXXXX4084	Checking	May 10, 2013 – Nov 12, 2013

Below are the discrepancies and the additional records needed, as identified by a comparison of the records provided and the activity reported by the Campaign on its disclosure statements.

- a) The Campaign did not provide copies of its itemized deposit slips.
- b) A review of the Campaign’s deposit slips revealed the following discrepancy:¹

TOTAL REPORTED CASH RECEIPTS	TOTAL CASH PER DEPOSIT SLIPS	DOLLAR VARIANCE	PERCENT VARIANCE
\$9,095.00	\$0.00	\$9,095.00	100%

See also Finding a) above.

¹ The percentage variance is determined by subtracting the Total Cash Per Deposit Slips from the Total Reported Cash Receipts, and then dividing by the Total Reported Cash Receipts. A positive variance indicates that the Total Reported Cash Receipts exceeds the Total Cash Per Deposit Slips. A negative variance indicates that the Total Reported Cash Receipts is less than the Total Cash Per Deposit Slips.

c) A comparison of the Campaign’s submitted bank statements with information reported in the Campaign’s disclosure statements revealed the following overall net discrepancies in reporting:²

RECEIPTS:

TOTAL REPORTED MONETARY RECEIPTS ³	TOTAL CREDITS PER BANK STATEMENTS	DOLLAR VARIANCE	PERCENT VARIANCE
\$10,595.00	\$10,080.00	\$515.00	5%

Previously Provided Recommendation

- a) The Campaign must provide copies of all itemized deposit slips.⁴
- b) To resolve the listed discrepancies, the Campaign must compare the cash receipts reported in its financial disclosure statements to supporting documentation, including deposit slips, bank statements, and any documentation not previously submitted. The Campaign should also review documentation to ensure that it correctly characterized the instrument type (i.e., Cash, Credit Card, Check, etc.) of each receipt it reported. The Campaign may need to amend its disclosure statements as a result.
- c) The Campaign must compare information reported on its financial disclosure statements to bank statements and supporting documentation for contributions and expenditures to identify and resolve the listed discrepancies. The Campaign may need to amend its disclosure statements and provide additional bank statements. The individual reporting errors and missing documentation identified in other parts of this finding are the source of some, or all, of the variance(s) cited, and as a result, responses to other parts of this finding will likely affect the cited variance(s). In responding to other parts of the finding, the Campaign should evaluate whether its response also addresses the overall discrepancies noted above.

Please note that any newly entered transactions that occurred during the election cycle (01/12/10—01/11/14) will appear as new transactions in an amendment to Disclosure Statement 16, even if the transaction dates are from earlier periods. Any transactions dated after the election cycle will appear in disclosure statements filed with the New York State Board of Elections. Also note that the Campaign must file an amendment for each disclosure statement in which transactions are being modified. Once all data entry is completed, the Campaign should run the Modified Statements Report in C-SMART to identify the statements for which the Campaign

² The percentage variance is determined by subtracting the Total Per Bank Statements amount from the Total Reported amount, and then dividing by the Total Reported amount. A positive variance indicates that the Total Reported amount exceeds the Bank Statements amount. A negative variance indicates that the Total Reported amount is less than the Bank Statements amount.

³ Total Reported Monetary Receipts includes monetary contributions, other receipts, transfers-in, loans, and expenditure refunds.

⁴ The Campaign previously provided deposit slips that were not itemized and were therefore insufficient.

must submit amendments. The C-SMART draft and final submission screens also display the statement numbers for which the Campaign should file amendments. If the Campaign added any new transactions, it must submit an amendment to Disclosure Statement 16.⁵

Campaign’s Response

- a) The Campaign failed to provide itemized deposit slips. In response to the Draft Audit Report, the Campaign stated that its bank does not provide itemized deposit slips.
- b) In response to the Draft Audit Report, the Campaign stated that its bank does not provide itemized deposit slips. In response to the Notice of Alleged Violations, the Campaign stated it would contest the finding, but failed to submit any explanation and/or documentation.
- c) The Campaign did not respond to this finding.

Board Action

- a) The Board has taken no further action on this matter other than to make this a part of the Candidate’s record with the Board.
- b) The Board found the Campaign in violation and assessed \$1,087 in penalties.
- c) The Board has taken no further action on this matter other than to make this a part of the Candidate’s record with the Board.

2. Failure to File and Late Filings

Campaigns are required to file disclosure statements on scheduled dates. *See* New York City Charter §1052(a)(8), Admin. Code §§ 3-703(6) and 3-708(8), and Rules 1-09(a) and 3-02.

The Campaign failed to file the following disclosure statement by the due date:

STATEMENT #	DUE DATE	# DAYS LATE
Statement 12	09/20/13	Missing

⁵ If the Campaign amends its reporting with the CFB, it must also submit amendments to the New York State Board of Elections.

Previously Provided Recommendation

The Campaign must explain the failure to file the statement listed above. The Campaign may provide documentation regarding the lateness of, or failure to file, statements if it was not previously submitted.

Campaign’s Response

In response to the Notice of Alleged Violations, the Campaign stated it would contest the finding, but failed to submit any explanation and/or documentation.

Board Action

The Board found the Campaign in violation and assessed \$359 in penalties.

Other Findings

3. Failure to Respond Timely

Campaigns are required to respond timely to requests from the CFB. *See* Admin. Code § 3-703(1)(d); Rules 1-09, 4-01.

The Campaign failed to submit, by the due date, a response to the following:

REQUEST	DUE DATE	DATE SUBMITTED	# DAYS LATE
Initial Documentation Request	12/26/13	01/24/14	28
Draft Audit Report	09/15/14	09/16/14	1

Previously Provided Recommendation

For each of the CFB’s requests listed above, the Campaign may provide a written explanation for the lateness of its response. The explanation must be accompanied by documentation, such as a certified mail receipt, or other relevant documentation regarding its lateness.

Campaign’s Response

In response to the Draft Audit Report, the Candidate explained that he was in a retreat in Maryland and inclement weather delayed his return. In response to the Notice of Alleged

Violations, the Campaign stated it would contest the finding, but failed to submit any additional explanation and/or documentation.

Board Action

The Board found the Campaign in violation, but did not assess a penalty.

We performed this audit in accordance with the audit responsibilities of the CFB as set forth in Admin. Code § 3-710. We limited our review to the areas specified in this report's audit scope.

Respectfully submitted,



Jonnathon Kline, CFE

Director of Auditing and Accounting
signature on original

Date: November 24, 2015

Staff: Hannah Golden

**New York City Campaign Finance Board
Campaign Finance Information System
Transaction Summary Report
Appendix 1**

Candidate: Williams, Godwin (ID:1422-P)**Office:** 5 (City Council)**Election:** 2013

1. Opening cash balance (All committees)		\$0.00
2. Total itemized monetary contributions (Sch ABC)		\$10,595.00
3. Total unitemized monetary contributions		\$0.00
4. Total in-kind contributions (Sch D)		\$0.00
5. Total unitemized in-kind contributions		\$0.00
6. Total other receipts (Sch E - excluding CFB payments)		\$0.00
7. Total unitemized other receipts		\$0.00
8. Total itemized expenditures (Sch F)		\$10,080.00
Expenditure payments	\$10,080.00	
Advance repayments	\$0.00	
9. Total unitemized expenditures		\$0.00
10. Total transfers-In (Sch G)		\$0.00
Type 1	\$0.00	
Type 2a	\$0.00	
Type 2b	\$0.00	
11. Total transfers-out (Sch H)		\$0.00
Type 1	\$0.00	
Type 2a	\$0.00	
Type 2b	\$0.00	
12. Total loans received (Sch I)		\$0.00
13. Total loan repayments (Sch J)		\$0.00
14. Total loans forgiven (Sch K)		\$0.00
15. Total liabilities forgiven (Sch K)		\$0.00
16. Total expenditures refunded (Sch L)		\$0.00
17. Total receipts adjustment (Sch M - excluding CFB repayments)		\$0.00
18. Total outstanding liabilities (Sch N - last statement submitted)		\$0.00
Outstanding Bills	\$0.00	
Outstanding Advances	\$0.00	
19. Total advanced amount (Sch X)		\$0.00
20. Net public fund payments from CFB		\$0.00
Total public funds payment	\$0.00	
Total public funds returned	\$0.00	
21. Total Valid Matchable Claims		\$6,830.00
22. Total Invalid Matchable Claims		\$1,385.00
23. Total Amount of Penalties Assessed		\$1,446.00
24. Total Amount of Penalty Payments		\$0.00
25. Total Amount of Penalties Withheld		\$0.00