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January 15, 2020

Christopher E. Piper, Commissioner
Virginia Department of Elections
Washington Building, First Floor
1100 Bank Street
Richmond, VA 23219

RE: Alleged Violation of Campaign Finance Disclosure Act of 2006

Dear Commissioner Piper:

A complaint was recently brought to my office that an organization which calls itself the Virginia Beach Teachers' Association may have violated Virginia Election law in the 2019 Statewide and Virginia Beach local elections held on November 5, 2019.

On Election Day in Virginia Beach, fliers and signs were distributed and posted at voting precincts throughout the city endorsing candidates for the Virginia Beach School Board, Virginia Beach City Treasurer, Virginia Beach City Council, Virginia Beach Clerk of Court, Virginia State Senate and the Soil and Water Conservation Board. The names of the candidates being endorsed were all Republicans.

The Virginia Beach Teachers' Association did not file a Statement of Organization nor did they file the required financial disclosure statements of donations and expenditures.

As per our discussion on January 9, 2020, I am turning over the enclosed information for your investigation. After our review of the information, it appears that there may have been a violation of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act of 2006, specifically §§24.2-945 through 24.2-949.4; however, under Virginia code §24.2-946.3, the State Board of Elections, rather than the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, would have jurisdiction over this matter. As a result, I am forwarding this on to you for any action you deem appropriate.

Attached please find a copy of the campaign flyer and related news articles.

If you have any questions or need any other information, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Colin Stolle
Virginia Beach Commonwealth's Attorney

Encl.

cc: Donna Patterson, Registrar