

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND ETHICS**

In Re: One Minute Past  
Twelve Party

Administrative Hearing  
No. 07-005

Re: Application for Approval of  
the Name of a Political Party

**MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER**

**Introduction**

This matter came before the Board of Elections and Ethics (“the Board”) on Wednesday, July 11, 2007 pursuant to D.C. CODE § 1-1001.05(a) (14) and 3 DCMR § 1605, and involves an application for the approval of the name “One Minute Past Twelve Party” as a registered political party in the District of Columbia. The Chairman of the proposed party, Mr. He’lchie Watts, represented the political party before the Board. Chairman Charles R. Lowery, Jr. and Board member Dr. Lenora Cole presided over the hearing.

**Statement of the Facts**

Pursuant to 3 DCMR § 1605.3, Mr. Watts filed an application for the approval of the party name on June 14, 2007. The proposed designated name of the new party is “One Minute Past Twelve Party.” On June 25, 2007, Mr. Watts filed a Statement of Organization with the Director of Campaign Finance, pursuant to D.C. CODE § 1-1102.04(a).<sup>1</sup> During the hearing, the Board requested Mr. Watts to investigate and

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<sup>1</sup> D.C. CODE § 1-1102.4(a) states in relevant part: “each political committee shall file with the Director a statement of organization within 10 days after its organization.”

determine if the designated treasurer is a registered voter of the District of Columbia. Since a voter registration number of the proposed treasurer could not be provided, as required by 3 DCMR § 1605.3<sup>2</sup>, the Board concluded that the designated treasurer is not a registered voter of the District of Columbia. The Board consequently, accorded Mr. Watts leave to register the party's currently designated treasurer as a qualified District of Columbia voter, or in the alternative, designate a registered District of Columbia voter as the new treasurer of the proposed party.

On Friday July 13, 2007 Mr. Watts designated Ms. Jessica Cruz as the new treasurer of the proposed "One Minute Past Twelve Party". Ms. Cruz submitted her voter registration application, to the Registrar of the District of Columbia's Board of Elections and Ethics who subsequently issued her a preliminary voter registration number.

### Analysis

In the District of Columbia, pursuant to D.C. CODE § 1-1102.04(a) and 3 DCMR §§ 1605.2<sup>3</sup> and 1605.3, each proposed political party must comply with established procedural requirements for approval of its name. The Board finds that all of the procedural requirements were fulfilled. The proposed party then submitted a revised application which contained the requisite information on the prescribed form. Finally,

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<sup>2</sup> 3 DCMR § 1605.3 states: "The application for party approval shall include the name, address, telephone number, *and voter registration number of the chairperson, treasurer*, other principal officers and each member of the duly authorized local committee of such party in the District." (emphasis added).

<sup>3</sup> 3 DCMR § 1605.2 states: "Application for approval of the name of a political party shall be made on a form prescribed by the Board."

the proposed party timely filed a “Statement of Organization” with the Director of the Office of Campaign Finance.<sup>4</sup>

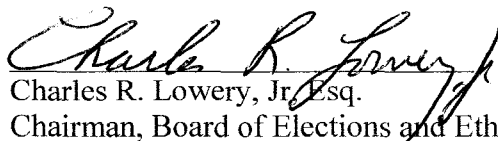
Once the Board determines that a proposed political party has fulfilled all of the procedural filing requirements, the Board then considers whether the proposed name for the political party would tend to confuse or mislead the public. Pursuant to 3 DCMR § 1605.4, “[t]he Board may reject any application for approval of a name that, in the judgment of the Board, tends to confuse or mislead the public.”

The Board finds that the designated name, “One Minute Past Twelve Party” is sufficiently distinguishable from every political party in the District of Columbia and does not tend to lead or cause confusion or mislead the public. Accordingly, the Board approves the name “One Minute Past Twelve Party” pursuant to D.C. CODE § 1-1001.05(a) (14) (2006 Repl.).

For the foregoing reasons, it is hereby:

**ORDERED** that the application for approval of the designated “One Minute Past Twelve Party” is hereby **APPROVED** as the Name of a Political Party in the District of Columbia.

July 19, 2007  
Date

  
Charles R. Lowery, Jr. Esq.  
Chairman, Board of Elections and Ethics

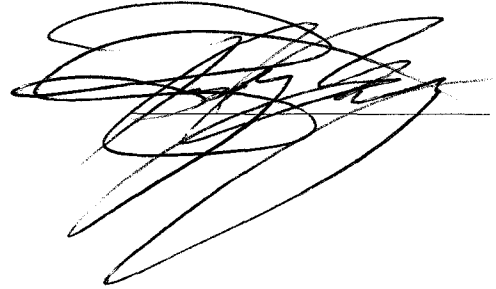
Dr. Lenora Cole, Ph.D.  
Member, Board of Elections and Ethics

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<sup>4</sup> Although the Statement of Organization was filed on June 25, 2007—eleven days after submission of the application—the deadline for submission fell on Sunday June 24, 2007, and the action was considered timely because it was taken on the next regular business day immediately thereafter, pursuant to D.C. CODE § 1-1021.01 (2006 Repl.).

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing order was delivered via first class mail this 19<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2007 to He'lichie Watts, 4811 Fourth Street, N.W. #4 Washington D.C. 20011.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and lines, positioned on the right side of the page.