

August 29, 2017

Hamilton County Board of Elections
Sherry L. Poland, Director
4700 Smith Rd
Cincinnati, OH 45212

Dear Ms. Poland,

The purpose of this letter is to ask the Hamilton County Board of Elections (the "Board") to reject the protest petition filed by Patricia Horton-Sandmayr and to accept my certified nominating petition for Loveland City Council. My nominating petition substantially complies with all statutory requirements and should be accepted by the Board.

I understand the basis of the protest is related to the address listing of one of the committee members, Berney McGee. On the committee section of my petition it lists Mr. McGee's home address as "274 Shadow Ct" and it should read "274 Shadow Wood Ct."

The complainant cites Ohio Revised Code Section 3501.389(c) as the basis for her protest which provides that each "signer's" residence address "shall be the address appearing in the registration records at the board of elections." However, Mr. McGee is not a signer of my nominating petition. The Charter of the City of Loveland section 10.04 does require a "sponsoring committee of five qualified voters, whose names and addresses shall appear on each copy of the petition." I substantially complied with this requirement and the Board should accept the petition and not find any violation.

There was no purposeful intent to deceive or misrepresent Mr. McGee's address. Coincidentally, if you review the walking list on the Hamilton County Board of Elections' website you will see the address listed as 274 Shadow Ct. Before turning in my petition, I reviewed this list to make sure addresses were correct and it is possible that the Board employee certifying my nominating petition probably pulled up the same listing and saw the shortened address. It was simple human error, and again, I believe the nominating petition substantially complied with the requirements.

I would also like to note that I turned in the nominating petition on July 27th, well in advance of the August 11th filing deadline. If Mr. McGee's shortened address would have been noticed on the submitted petition, I would have been notified that there was a problem, and I would have had the opportunity to correct the issue and submit a new petition.

As it stands today, the petition has been certified. A protest complaint was filed on the last date allowable and now I am left with no opportunity, due to filing deadlines, to any type of remedy should the Board find this to be in error. Any action that would de-certify my petition would deny the voters of Loveland the opportunity to vote for a candidate that they willfully signed a petition to have on the ballot.

Again, the nominating petition substantially complies with the statutory requirements. There was no intent to deceive or misrepresent and does not materially affect any part of the petition or the ability of the voters to be informed.

Therefore, I respectfully request the Board reject the filed protest and let the certified petition stand. Thank you for your time, consideration and your service to our community.

Regards,

Pamela Gross
343 Huntington Dr.
Loveland, OH 45140