

## APPROVED MINUTES

New Haven Democracy Fund Board

Special Meeting

July 10, 2007

Present: Maria Lamberto (chair), Dennis Curtis, Caleb Kleppner, Stephen H. Kovel, Lori Kozlowski (not yet approved by Board of Aldermen), Robert Wechsler (Administrator); one member of news media also attended.

Call to order and unanimous approval of minutes.

Public comments were requested, but the lone member of the public chose not to say or ask anything.

Discussion of and changes made to Administrator's draft press release concerning participating mayoral candidates. Press release will be sent out Monday, July 16, because the deadline for filing candidate contracts, that is, for participating in Democracy Fund program, is July 13, so we do not yet know who will be participating.

Discussion of possibility of future board meetings by phone; Administrator to research this and report back to Board chair.

Unanimous approval of the candidate contracts of John DeStefano, Jr. and Ralph Ferrucci.  
Unanimous approval of candidate contract of James D. Newton, provisional on receipt by administrator of a signed second page.

Discussion of possible contradictions between Sections 2-251(b)(2) and 2-254(h)(1) of Democracy Fund Ordinance, relating to the definition of "contested election."

Dennis Curtis moved that the Board declare the primary election "contested" upon a finding of sufficient evidence by the Administrator that another candidate has raised or spent \$5,000. After discussion of the motion, including a consideration of time limits, this motion passed unanimously.

Presentation by Administrator on how the City of New Haven deals with requests for the disbursement of matching funds and grants to mayoral campaigns. The situation appears to be

that checks are cut by the City and made available on Fridays at 3 p.m. In order to have a check cut, the request for disbursement must be made no later than Monday morning, so that it may be reviewed by the Voucher Review Committee, which meets every Monday at 2 p.m. Although the Ordinance requires sums to be disbursed by the Administrator within five calendar days of a request for disbursement, this would not be possible within the constraints of the City disbursement system, especially considering that the five calendar days falls on a Sunday, and that the Administrator must check whether each contributor is a registered New Haven voter, and that no matching funds have yet been given with respect to that voter.

Therefore, the Board unanimously approved a Matching Funds Disbursement Calendar that requires candidate committees to give the Administrator a request for disbursement of matching funds by noon on Friday in order to receive the disbursement the next Friday. Further, the approved Calendar provides for disbursements to be made every other week.

Discussion of hiring an Investigator. The Board asked the Administrator to do a phone interview of the two candidates for Investigator and report back to the Board.

Discussion of further meetings this summer and the quorum problem. The July 19 meeting was canceled, and replaced by a special meeting to be held on July 25 at 5:00 p.m.

At the end of the meeting, there were no members of the public present, and therefore no public comments.

Meeting adjourned.