

# *Fraternal Order of Police*

## *Metropolitan Police Department Labor Committee*

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### **I. ELECTION RULES**

#### **A. CAMPAIGN/ELECTION MATERIALS**

##### **1) GENERAL RULES**

Prior to any materials related to the election or campaign being posted or disseminated in any way, the Election Committee must approve all election/campaign materials, including, but not limited to, brochures, leaflets, literature, posters, signs, photographs, flyers, any electronic communications (including e-mails, texts, or other electronic transmissions), and any other materials related to the campaign or the election. This rule applies to all materials whether produced by a candidate or other party.

Election/Campaign Materials:

- a. Can not contain vulgar or offensive materials (pictures or prose);
- b. Can not make any personal attacks against any other candidate;
- c. Can not make any allegations against any member or candidate, either directly or anonymously;
- d. Can not in any way bring discredit to the D.C. Police Union, FOP Labor Committee or the MPD, nor in any way may they be construed to bring discredit to the FOP or the MPD
- e. Campaign literature can only be submitted after the nomination process is complete.

Due to content and commenting review issues, websites may not be used by candidates for campaigning.

##### **2) REVIEW PROCESS**

In order to have election/campaign materials approved, candidates must submit in writing, a request for the materials to be reviewed by the Election Committee.

The request shall include two copies of any materials to be approved and shall be submitted to the Election Committee in a sealed envelope, and dropped off at the D.C. Police Union, FOP Labor Committee office at 1524 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E., during normal business hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.).

Candidates must make an entry into a log book, which will be provided for that purpose, when dropping off election/campaign materials for review by the Election Committee. Access to the log book will be for the limited purpose of making an entry for review of materials, and shall not be removed from the front office of the FOP clerk.

After dropping off the request and filling out the log book, the candidate must send an e-mail (from the candidates personal email address – no government email addresses) shall be sent to the Election Committee, indicating the candidate's request for review and approval of election/campaign materials and informing the Election Committee that the materials for review have been dropped off. The e-mail message should include the following information:

- Candidates name and contact number
- Date and time materials were dropped off at the FOP office
- A brief description of the materials submitted
- Number of original copies submitted

Once materials are reviewed only one copy will be returned to the candidate, whether approved or not. The other copy will remain on file with the Election Committee. Materials will be stamped with the Seal of the Election Committee, and labeled either approved or disapproved. All materials must be approved and on file with the Election Committee prior to being posted, disseminated, or transmitted in any fashion.

Any approved materials that are changed or altered in any way, must be resubmitted to the Election Committee for approval.

A decision to approve or disapprove will be made and materials returned to candidates by the Election Committee, within three (3) business days.

Any materials that are disapproved will be returned, along with an e-mail message from the Election Committee, indicating that the materials can be

picked up from the FOP office, and a reason why the materials were not approved. Materials previously disapproved may be resubmitted to the Election Committee for review, once the corrections, and/or changes indicated by the Election Committee have been addressed or changed.

There will be no election/campaign materials review requests permitted on the day prior to the election.

Election Committee members have the right to, and shall remove any unapproved election/campaign materials from any location.

There will be no more than one (1) piece of election/campaign material per wall, per candidate at any location, at any one time.

Election/campaign material to be replaced by new election/campaign material must be removed and disposed of properly.

All election/campaign materials must be removed from MPD property and properly disposed of within twenty-four (24) hours, after the election.

## B. ROLL CALL VISITS

The Election Committee shall be notified by e-mail, 24 hours prior to any proposed roll call visit, so as to have an observer in the roll call being addressed. An e-mail confirmation of the roll call visit will be sent back by the committee.

Any candidate wishing to address roll calls must get the approval of an official (Lieutenant or above) of the District/Division and must provide the name, phone number, date and time of approval by the official to the Election Committee, in the e-mail notification to the Election Committee.

There will be no roll call visits permitted the day of election.

## C. ADDITIONAL RULES

No campaigning, in any manner, at any District/Division without the approval of an (Lieutenant or above) of the District/Division.

Any member campaigning must be off-duty at that time.

The rules applicable to the content of election/campaign materials apply to any verbal campaigning. There will be no personal attacks against any candidate or member while campaigning and addressing roll calls.

While polls are open, there will be no campaigning beyond the posted signs. Campaigning beyond the posted signs is prohibited.

No candidate will interfere with any other candidate's campaign, (e.g., tearing down posters, covering posters, defacing posters, writing or drawing on posters in any manner, or interfering with scheduled roll call addresses, etc.)

Candidates will at all times comport themselves to bring credit to the D.C. Police Union and MPD.

All candidates, their agents, or any member acting on behalf of any candidate must read, and familiarize themselves with the Election Rules, and strictly adhere to the rules governing the campaign process and the election. Ignorance of the election rules is not an excuse, and failure to adhere to these rules, knowingly or unknowingly, will be considered a violation.

Any candidate, their agent, or member who violates these rules, speaks or behaves in such a way to bring discredit to the D.C. Police Union or the MPD shall not only be subject to disciplinary actions as governed by the By-Laws of the D.C. Police Union, but shall also face election related sanctions imposed by the Election Committee as described below.

## **II. PENALTIES**

The Election Committee may impose sanctions for not following the above rules.

- Any notification of Election Rule violations by any party must be made in writing to the Election Committee.
- Any candidate who violates the rules (intentionally or otherwise) must notify the Election Committee, in writing, of any violation of the rules.
- Any candidate alleged to be in violation of the Election Rules shall be notified by the Election Committee of the alleged violation(s).

After notification, the Election Committee will make a determination whether or not the candidate's actions violated the rules, and whether penalties will be imposed.

Penalties, if determined to be applicable, will be assessed as described below. However, these rules shall not prevent the Election Committee from determining that a violation was so harmful and egregious that it would be permanently damaging to the election. In that case, the candidate involved shall be immediately disqualified, and removed from the ballot. This includes, but is not limited to, the following actions:

- 1) Violations of the electronic transmission rules; and
- 2) Any candidate or that candidates supports involved in the defacing, destroying, or tearing down of election materials;

In the case of a determined first violation of the Election Rules, an e-mail, written notice, a phone call, or an in person notification shall constitute proper notice to the candidate. This shall be deemed notice of the violation, with a warning that any further violation can result in the candidate being excluded from the Election Ballot.

A determined second violation of the Election Rules, at the sole discretion of the Election Committee, shall result in either; 1) Public notice of the violations being posted and disseminated by the Election Committee to all members and a final warning; or 2) the candidate being excluded from the election and his or her name being removed from the ballot.

### **III. NOTICE**

Any Grievances or complaints relating to campaigning and/or election/campaign materials will be handled by the Election Committee.

These rules will be strictly enforced.

A copy of these rules can be obtained from the D.C. Police Union office located at 1524 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E., or from the Election Committee.

Please maintain decorum and professionalism during the campaign and the election process, and bring honor to the D.C. Police Union and the MPD.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!