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## **INSPECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

2018-OIG-17

On November 28, 2018, I received a complaint from an Alderman that a member of the City Administration had gone to the City Clerk's Office to review the Alderman's Nominating Petition. Additionally, the Alderman complained that the same Administration member's spouse had passed petitions for the Alderman's opponent. Finally, receipt of information that the Alderman's opponent's son was recently hired by CWLP as an outside janitor.

I will address these concerns in order.

Nominating Petitions for City elective offices are filed in the Office of the City Clerk and are public records, open to review by any person. The City Clerk does not require that a person seeking to review Nominating Petitions state a purpose for such review nor even state their name. The City Clerk, therefore, does not keep a record of who examined any Nominating Petitions. Therefore, there is no violation to investigate.

As to the allegation that the Administration member's husband passed petitions for the Alderman's opponent, that issue depends on whether or not the spouse was a City employee passing petitions on City time. Section 36.07(a)(3) states:

"No City officer or employee shall engage in any political activity while performing official duties or during work hours."

It has been determined that the Administration member's spouse is not a City employee. Therefore, there is no legal impropriety in the spouse passing Nominating Petitions.

As to the remaining allegation of the Alderman's opponent's son being employed by the City, I requested an in-depth review by City Human Resources, which disclosed that the opponent's son applied for a CWLP Security Guard position in January of 2017 and was not hired. The person was hired as a temporary worker for 7 weeks in the Summer of 2017 at Oak Ridge Cemetery and again in the Summer of 2018 as a temporary whose service ended October 6, 2018. During the 2 summers of temporary service at Oak Ridge, the person in question was paid \$11.00 per hour. Inasmuch as the person's temporary hiring in the Summer of 2017 and temporary hiring in the Summer of 2018 at Oak Ridge Cemetery, occurred far in advance of the filing period for the

current municipal elections, I found no nexus between that summer employment and the Alderman's opponent filing for elective office. Additionally, the allegation that the opponent's son was just hired at City, Water, Light & Power was incorrect.

Inasmuch as I have found no violations to City Code, any remaining issues are matters of politics which do not come within the purview of the Inspector General's role and, therefore, this matter is concluded with no further action being taken.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger W. Holmes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Roger W. Holmes, Inspector General