

Fair Election Practices Committee

Date: Thursday, August 30, 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Rome Celli
Voice: 585.732.1767

Fair Election Practices Committee Rules on Candidate Complaint

Monroe County, NY. August 30, 2007. The Fair Election Practices Committee (FEPC) handed out its first ruling of this year's election season today in the primary race for the Northeast City Council district seat between incumbent, Lovely A. Warren & challenger, James Bowers. This is the first time the FEPC has ruled on a complaint affecting a primary election.

In accordance with established FEPC procedures both candidates were invited to present information to the committee regarding the complaint. Afterwards the committee met in private to deliberate & decide the outcome.

After reviewing all materials, hearing the candidates' positions on the complaint and deliberating on the question the FEPC found the Fair Campaign Pledge has been violated.

With respect to the identified violation (Please refer to the official FEPC Decision Notification Form attached to this release.), the materials in question informally referred to as: "VOTE FOR CITY COUNCILMAN JIM BOWERS NORTHEAST DISTRICT" and "JIM BOWERS CITY COUNCIL NORTHEAST DISTRICT ELECT" the committee found that a reasonable citizen reading these materials would likely conclude Mr. Bowers is a current member of the Rochester City Council representing the northeast district. He is not.

The FEPC's role is to arbitrate complaints about alleged violations of the Fair Campaign Pledge. The committee is an independent, non-partisan body comprised of five members: Alan Bernstein, Rome Celli, John G. Curran, Thomas Frey and Channing Philbrick. The members were nominated & approved by the respective boards of the two co-sponsoring organizations.

Mr. Bowers is a signatory of the Fair Campaign Pledge -- co-sponsored & promoted by the Interfaith Alliance of Rochester & the League of Women Voters, Rochester Metropolitan Area. As of August 30, 2007 Ms. Warren has not signed the Fair Campaign Pledge. The FEPC & its sponsors believe candidates should be held to the Fair Campaign Pledge regardless of whether they signed the Pledge. The deadline for signing the Pledge is September 5, 2007.

NOTE: The committee will not comment on the content of the deliberations, vote totals or the precise reasoning behind its decisions. However, the FEPC chair, Rome Celli, will provide copies of the exhibits upon request as well as discuss the committee's history, standards and procedures.

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Decision Notification Form

Election: Primary Election on September 18, 2007

Race: Northeast District Council Seat, City of Rochester

Candidates: Lovely A. Warren (D) v. James Bowers (D)

Complainant: Lovely A. Warren (D)

Date Complaint Received: August 25, 2007

- The FEPC has decided **FOR** the complainant.

The Fair Election Practices Committee (FEPC) found the Fair Campaign Pledge” has been violated.

Date of Decision: August 30, 2007