

## CAMPAIGN VIOLATION REPORTED FOR CLEAN SLATE FOR COLLEGE OF DUPAGE COMMITTEE

Dear friends and supporters,

Normally, I would not engage in a campaign complaint against another committee, especially when I have been on the receiving end of such complaints. However, it was brought to my attention that the Clean Slate had a significant campaign disclosure violation and was encouraged to pursue it. I have filed a complaint with the State Board of Elections and have sent a letter to the Clean Slate as required by the process.

I hope that you are as concerned as I am that the Clean Slate demands that people strictly adhere to policies and rules, yet they are not interested in compliance themselves. I have been told that there may be other campaign disclosure violations as well. At this time, I do not personally plan to investigate others. My point has been made, the so-called Clean Slate is not clean. I also hope that you will stay tuned in to what is happening at the college because these are the people who were elected to be stewards of our resources.

Also, in case you missed news reports, the [Higher Learning Commission postponed their accreditation visit for today after the Edgar County Watchdogs posted a negative article about one of the peer reviewers.](#)

Press release follows:

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JUNE 29, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Darien resident Kim Savage filed a Complaint for Violation of the Campaign Disclosure Act against the Clean Slate for College of DuPage Committee. The complaint cites that the committee failed to file a Schedule A-1 report for a \$20,000 loan within 5 business days of receipt. The filing indicates the money was received on 4/27/2015 but it was not reported until 5/17/2015.

“While maintaining the timing required by the Campaign Disclosure Act can be a difficult challenge for small campaigns in the closing days before an election, this \$20,000 was filed

three weeks after the money was reported received and more than one month after the election.” Savage said. “The Clean Slate ran on a very vocal platform of total transparency and to end all alleged violations of policy, yet their own campaign clearly failed to follow one of the simplest requirements of the Campaign Disclosure Act.”

During the campaign and since taking office, the trustees elected as part of the Clean Slate Committee, along with new Board Chair Kathy Hamilton, have focused on holding others to a stringent interpretation of Board Policies and have placed a number of staff members on Administrative Leave for suspected violations. Intensified coverage of the college in the months leading up to the recent election by state-wide government oversight and political organizations that ultimately supported the Clean Slate drew the attention of local and Chicago media, the state legislature, law enforcement, and the Higher Learning Commission. However, in Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>'s *Daily Herald*, Dr. Joseph Collins, the college's interim president, indicated that media reports were “exaggerated” and Board Chair Hamilton stated that “a lot of the articles were political”.

“Coincidentally, the day after the Clean Slate campaign complaint was mailed, I was alerted to a new blog post by one of the organizations that had been reporting on the college prior to the election that alleges impropriety in my own campaign based on an **illegally released email** thread between the Board’s attorney and myself. Considering the intense scrutiny the college was under during the same time I was in the middle of an election campaign, I had legal and fiduciary responsibility **to avoid compromising the college’s legal position in any statements I made** as both a candidate and a sitting board member. I was also subject to the Board’s ethics ordinance at the time, and **anything I released had to be in compliance**. Unlike other candidates, sitting members of the board had to ensure that their actions and statements didn't create any legal ramifications for the college. Any suggestion that my campaign materials were prepared by the college's legal counsel are demonstrably false. Exercising my responsibility to the public trust by **agreeing to submit materials for review** to protect the college actually hampered my campaign by not being able to respond appropriately to what is now being reported as the "exaggerated" and "political" claims of others. These organizations are advancing an old standard in Illinois politics - freely volunteering your time and professional experience to your community exposes you to never ending personal attacks and political smears.”

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Paid for by Savage for Student Success. A copy of our report is available from the Illinois State Board of Elections.

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