



## Ohio Elections Commission

21 West Broad Street, Suite 600

Columbus, Ohio 43215

614•466•3205

June 6, 2002

Concerned Citizens for the Fair Treatment of Stray Animals  
Kim Cavnah, Treasurer

Re: OEC Case No. 2001E-076

Dear Ms. Cavnah:

At its meeting on May 30, 2002, the Ohio Elections Commission held a hearing on a complaint filed with it regarding alleged false statements in campaign materials which your committee circulated. After a full consideration of all evidence presented to it, the Commission found that your committee violated Ohio elections law based on the Ohio Revised Code's standard of clear and convincing evidence in false statement cases.

Specifically, a complaint was filed with the Commission alleging that your committee's campaign materials included a false statement when it stated that "... your current **ward 4 councilman** (Jon Snyder) actually authorized the spending of your tax dollars to trap 13 cats?" in one pamphlet and also stated that "... your current **ward council members** (Jon Snyder) & (Greg Sarbach) actually authorized the spending of your tax dollars to trap 13 cats?" in a second pamphlet. After a full presentation of the evidence to the Commission, these statements were determined to be false because the evidence demonstrated that city council never authorized such an expenditure. The Commission then found that by including these statement in the materials you violated Ohio Revised Code §3517.21(B)(10) by clear and convincing evidence.

As the penalty, the Commission found that good cause exists not to refer the matter for further prosecution to the Stark County Prosecutor, but instead determined to issue a letter of public reprimand to the committee, pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code 3517-1-14(D).

The Commission is issuing this letter to the committee as a public reprimand for the violation of R. C. §3517.21(B)(10). The Commission expects that you will not engage in such activities in future campaigns. The findings of the Commission and a copy of this reprimand will become a part of the permanent records of the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith Sheerer".

Judith Sheerer  
Chair

cc: Jon Snyder

Fax: 614•728•9408