

Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct

A resolution relating to ethical conduct; regarding the conduct of Senator Omar Fateh.

WHEREAS, the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct of the Committee on Rules and Administration, in response to two complaints submitted by Senators Justin Eichorn, Mark Koran, Mike Goggin, Andrew Mathews, John Jasinski, Scott Newman, and Mark Johnson met on June 8, June 15, July 7, and July 27, 2022, to consider whether the conduct of Senator Omar Fateh in regard to campaign promotions provided by Somali TV and the delivery of certain absentee ballots in the 2020 primary election constituted a violation of Senate Rule 56.3 or 56.4; and

WHEREAS, the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct makes the following findings:

1. Senator Fateh made payments of \$500.00 on June 20, 2020, and \$500.00 on July 4, 2020, to Somali TV for placement of campaign ads featuring Senator Fateh on the Somali TV YouTube channel. Both payments were from his personal accounts.
2. Senator Fateh did not make a concurrent and timely disclosure of the payment for the ads as a campaign expenditure. Senator Fateh filed an amendment with the Campaign Finance Board on June 7, 2022, that disclosed the payments described in paragraph 1.
3. Senator Fateh improperly commingled personal and campaign funds to make the payment for the ads placed on Somali TV.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct:

1. The portion of Complaint 1 alleging that Senator Fateh failed to report the value of advertising on Somali TV is sustained. The subcommittee's findings concerning Senator Fateh's failure to disclose payments for ads and his commingling of personal and campaign funds must be addressed by Senator Fateh. Accordingly, Senator Fateh must seek guidance and instruction from the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board regarding the requirements and best practices for campaign finance reporting.
2. The portions of Complaint 1 alleging an improper quid pro quo exchange of payment for the ads on Somali TV in exchange for the introduction of legislation proposing state funding for Somali TV are dismissed. The remaining portions of Complaint 1 alleging a conflict of interest are dismissed.
3. Complaint 2 is dismissed in its entirety.
4. Senator Fateh must seek guidance and instruction from the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board regarding the requirements and best practices for campaign finance reporting.

Dated: 08/26/2022, 2022

*Sen. David Osmek*  
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Senator David J. Osmek

Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct

Dated: 08/29/2022, 2022

*Sen. Bobby Joe Champion*  
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Senator Bobby Joe Champion

Dated: 08/26/2022, 2022

*Patricia J Ray*  
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Senator Patricia Torres Ray

Dated: 08/25/2022, 2022

*Mary Kiffmeyer*  
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Senator Mary Kiffmeyer