

Darlene Booker-Jones, Chair Person & Tyrone Booker, Co-Chair Person
Local 696, 2023 Election Committee
3001 Walnut St, Philadelphia, PA 19104

Cc: AFSCME International

Monday, April 3, 2023

Dear Chair Person Booker-Jones & Co-Chair Person Booker,

My name is Evelyn Flint. I am a member in good standing of Local 696, and am writing to file an official protest regarding the Local 696 Election held on March 30, 2023, in accordance with Appendix D, Section 4, Sub-section B of the AFSCME International Constitution.

On March 9, 2023, Anthony Dinkins (current Business Agent, and candidate for President on the SBU slate) had Sherar Lewis send out an SBU campaign email for him, from an email address named sheraemdinkins@gmail.com. Many members who received this email have never known a Sherar Lewis or Sherar Dinkins, let alone ever given Sherar their personal email addresses. The only way Sherar could have obtained all of these otherwise disparate personal email addresses on one list was from a member of the Local 696 Executive Board, like Anthony Dinkins.

Additionally, on March 14, 2023, Fatina El (incumbent and SBU candidate for Treasurer) sent out an SBU campaign email from an email address named fatinael696@gmail.com. Many members who received this email do not know Sister El outside of her capacity as Local 696 Treasurer, and have not ever given her their personal email addresses for any use other than official Local 696 business.

And since most of those same members who received these emails never gave Brother Dinkins, Sister El, or any other elected member of Local 696 their personal email address in any capacity other than for strictly union related business, it's only possible for them to have accessed that email list through a Local 696 Officer, who violated Appendix D, Section 1, Sub-section A by using "other resources" of the "subordinate body" to obtain that email list for SBU use. The specific resource in question that was mis-used is the Local 696 email list, collected by Local 696 officers, for Local 696 business only, which was instead used here to support the candidacy of a "member for any elective office," specifically all 23 candidates on the SBU slate with the image of their mailers, and Anthony Dinkins in particular with a headshot of him above the mailer image.

Furthermore, page 11 of the AFSCME Local Union Election Manual, which the Local 696 Election Committee stated everyone must follow in the Rules for the Local 696 Election flyer they published on February 27, 2023, clarifies this by stating "Note also that the candidate is not entitled to a mailing list for the candidate's own use."

Now if this email mailing list had been obtained in a manner consistent with the AFSCME and Local 696 Constitutions, then the Local 696 Election Committee would have been bound to give the Rabble Rousers slate the same access to send a mailer through that list as the SBU slate had. But when I reached out to the Election Committee on March 10, 2023 and asked to have a Rabble Rouser slate mailer sent out through the same email list that the SBU one was sent, the Election Committee stated "The election committee does not have access to local 696 members email addresses. The election committee **does not** and **will not** provide local 696 members information in any form to **any** candidate(s)." Which further confirms that the SBU slate had unequal access to

someone's unauthorized use of the membership mailing list and that the SBU slate unconstitutionally used that list for their own campaign purposes.

I am therefore filing this protest within the required ten day period and exercising my right to be heard in front of the Election Committee concerning this matter, per Appendix D, Section 4, Sub-section B of the AFSCME International Constitution.

Fair and free elections are the cornerstone of all democratic institutions, and we must diligently work to preserve the integrity of our union. Our membership is our greatest strength, and their voices must be heard. Thank you.

In Solidarity,

Evelyn Flint

Candidate, Local 696 Executive Board & Steward/Delegate, Rabble Rouser Slate

Attachments:

Campaign email from the SBU slate via Sherae, 3/9/23

Campaign email from the SBU slate via Fatina, 3/14/23