

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

Cc: AFSCME International

Friday, April 7, 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 of the AFSCME International Constitution.

On March 20, 2023, when longtime members started calling AAA for a replacement ballot backside they never received their first one, many were told that their current mailing addresses was not their address on record. This is despite them already receiving mail from DC 33 H&W at their correct current addresses.

In November of 2022, Evelyn Flint confirmed that Local 696 was not utilizing the most recent membership mailing list available from DC 33, and probably hadn't been doing so since at least June 2022. Sister Flint did receive a ballot at her new address right away, but only after she spent over three months asking 696 leadership to update her address in their own mailing list.

Shannon Ballou, however, did not receive her 696 ballot at her new address, despite living there since at least 2022, and despite having already received DC 33 mail at her current address. Sister Ballou's difficulty with getting a ballot sent to her most up to date and correct address is representative of the experience of over a dozen other longtime members who were not afforded a fair opportunity to vote because 696 was not using the most up to date membership mailing list available to them.

Throughout mid March, Local 696 members also started receiving a campaign mailer from the SBU slate, and ballots from Local 696, via USPS mail. These flyers and ballots, however, were sent by Local 696 using the out of date 696 mailing list discussed above, instead of using the most up to date mailing list that they knew to be available from the DC 33 Health & Wellness Department.

Not only did the mailers and ballots read "Philadelphia, Pennsylvania" instead of the "Philadelphia, PA" which all mailers from the District Council show, but Meggie Tzoneva, the Benefits Administrator for DC 33 Health & Wellness, said she believes that type of address formatting could not have come from the DC 33 database. DC 33 Secretary-Treasurer Frank Halbherr also confirmed in a conversation with Sharon Thorpe (RR candidate for President) that no one from

Local 696 had ever authorized DC 33 to give anyone in 696 access to their current membership list for the purpose of 2023 Election Mailers.

This failure to use the most current mailing list is a violation of Appendix D, Section 2, Sub-section D of the AFSCME International Constitution, which states “Not less than fifteen days prior to the holding of nominations for local union officers, a notice of the nominations and elections shall be mailed to each member at the member’s last known home address.”

In Solidarity,

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

Attachments:

Email from Meggie Tzoneva to Evelyn Flint, 3/16/23