



**Board of
Elections**

TEL 919 856 6240
FAX 919 856 5864

337 S. Salisbury Street
P.O. Box 695 • Raleigh, NC 27602-0695

November 8, 2005

Ms. Kim Westbrook Strach
Deputy Director, Campaign Finance
North Carolina State Board of Elections
Post Office Box 27255
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611-7255

Re: Formal Complaints by Vane Crandall and Marco Longo

Dear Kim:

Enclosed are two separate packets of documents brought into question today in regard to political activity in Holly Springs. Original complaint letters are expected via United States mail.

If I may be of assistance, please call me at 856-6742.

Thanks, Kim!

Sincerely,

Angela T. Pace
Campaign Finance Director

encs



Board of Elections

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337 S. Salisbury Street
P.O. Box 695 • Raleigh, NC 27602-0695

November 8, 2005

Mr. Vane A Crandall
4813 Salem Ridge Road
Holly Springs, North Carolina 27540

Re: Formal complaint, Holly Springs political activity

Dear Mr. Crandall:

We are in receipt of your faxed correspondence with accompanying letters purportedly written by Mr. Peter Atwell and Mr. Dick Sears which were distributed in Holly Springs.

Pursuant to North Carolina G. S. §163-278.23, Angela Pace, as Campaign Finance Director, has forwarded a copy to the North Carolina State Board of Elections for their investigation.

The State Board Campaign Reporting staff will respond to your concern and keep us informed of any action taken as well.

Sincerely,

John H. Gilbert, Chair

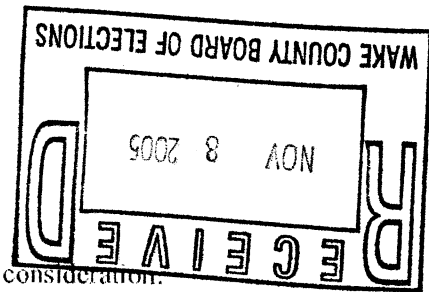
cc: Ms. Kim Strach, NC State Board of Elections
Mr. Peter Atwell
Mr. Dick Sears
Mr. Chet Van Fossen
Mr. Hank Dickson

Vane A. Crandall
4813 Salem Ridge Road
Holly Springs, North Carolina 27540
e-919-552-5902
d-919-552-5525

November 8, 2005

fax to: 919-856-5864
Page 1 of 3 pages total
No Cover Page

Mr. John H Gilbert
C/O Ms. Angela Pace
Wake County Board of Elections
P.O. BOX 695
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602-0695



Dear Mr. Gilbert:

I respectfully submit this written complaint for your review and consideration.

This complaint is associated with questionable and perhaps unlawful campaign activities related to the November 8, 2005 municipal election in Holly Springs, North Carolina. The complaint pertains to unidentified sources and related funding of distributed campaign materials.

The campaign materials in question that were widely distributed, appear to be jointly sponsored and/or endorsed by current Holly Springs elected officials, candidates pursuing re-election and a "write-in" candidate.

Specifically, on Monday, November 7, 2005, a two-sided flyer was attached to residential mailboxes within Holly Springs. Each side of the flyer appears to be authored by two current Holly Springs elected officials – one of which is running unopposed for re-election.

One side of the flyer is titled: "**ATTENTION VOTERS**", and is signed by "**Dick Sears, Mayor**". The second side of the flyer is titled: "**VOTE TUESDAY**" and is signed by "**Peter Atwell, Councilman**".

Neither page of the said flyer identifies who is responsible and paid for the flyer.

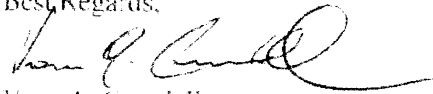
In this regard, I just completed a phone call with Ms. Angela Pace, Wake County Campaign Finance Director. Ms. Pace indicated that a formal written complaint would be necessary to review and address the issue. Ms. Pace indicated that she has already received copies of the campaign materials from other sources – which is the same rationale for this complaint.

This correspondence is being faxed to WCBOE at 919-856-5864, along with copies of the said flyer. I will also follow-up and send the same via U.S. Mail.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Best Regards,


Vane A. Crandall

The following is from a letter sent to the Holly Springs Sun. Due to limited space, the Sun was unable to include it in Thursday's issue.

Vote Tuesday!!!

We'll be electing 3 council members this Tuesday, November 8th. It's absolutely critical that you vote on Tuesday if you care about the future of Holly Springs. There's more at stake now than ever before, and the people who represent you are in positions of tremendous responsibility.

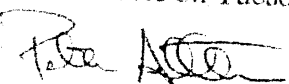
There's a lot of garbage in the air, and it has nothing to do with the town's endless efforts to prove to the world that putting a landfill in Holly Springs is a terrible economic decision (among other good reasons). No, this garbage is in the form of campaign propaganda. The largest generator of this garbage seems to be commercial realtor Vinnie Debenedetto. Vinnie campaigned hard for a seat on the town council 2 years ago and lost. It seems to me that his campaign never stopped. Without knowing him well, I initially supported Vinnie 2 years ago, even when he was running against me for my seat (and another seat) on the council. After he lost, I recommended Vinnie for appointment to the town's planning board. Having had 2 years to work with and watch him, I am confident that he's not a good choice for the Holly Springs town council. Also, I have never felt it wise to have any commercial realtor serve on the town council. There's too much potential for conflicts of interest, since the council is often aware of sensitive information about potential land sales and development.

It's essential that incumbents Hank Dickson and Chet VanFossen are re-elected. The issues that we've been dealing with for the past 4+ years are vitally important and often complicated. These issues include short and long range plans for water, wastewater treatment, parks and recreation, economic development, roads, downtown development, zoning and much more. We fundamentally changed the way the town ran by replacing our management team, putting more resources into infrastructure improvements and demanding results. Take town hall just as one example. Concept to completion took less than 2 years, and the landmark building was completed on time and under budget. It will be paid off about a decade from now and will last for a century or more.

You'll be voting for 3 councilmen on Tuesday. Please support Joe Signoretti for the third seat. Joe is a 10 year resident of Holly Springs and is a member of our planning board. Joe regularly attends town council meetings, and routinely interacts with the town council and staff. He has an outstanding work ethic and is respected in town hall. Joe's experience on the planning board and his interest and involvement in our parks and recreation department will be assets to the council. He decided to run for the third seat after the candidate filing deadline, and filed as a write-in candidate. Please support Joe by writing his last name, Signoretti, on the ballot.

This is an exciting time to be in Holly Springs. Over the past couple of years, we've enjoyed increased high quality commercial development, more varied housing options and a tremendous sense of community. We've cut the ribbons on a new town hall, new police station, new schools, Bass Lake and the wonderful visitors center there. We've broken ground on a new fire station, a high school, more new parks and groundbreaking on the library and cultural arts center is this afternoon. We've made dramatic infrastructure improvements in roads, sidewalks, water, wastewater treatment and environmental projects. State and federal officials recognized Holly Springs as the safest town in NC with a population over 10,000 too!

Please vote on Tuesday. Regardless of whom you support, your vote is priceless.


Peter Atwell
Councilman

(over)

ATTENTION VOTERS!

Over the past few days, many Holly Springs residents received a flyer from Mr. Jack Johnson. Unfortunately, the flyer is misleading and distorts the actions of your town council. Whether you received the flyer or not, please allow me to set the record straight.

Mr. Johnson said, in part:

"I have been following Holly Springs politics for some time and recently took the council members and the Mayor to task for their boondoggle trip to Boston at taxpayer expense and some budget decisions...two of our council members along with the Mayor (all of whose terms expired) frittered away \$6,000 of public funds for a vacation that they continue to spin as "networking"...What it suggests is Cheers, Fenway, and a good time!...I have personal knowledge of Vinnie DeBenedetto and firmly endorse him."

Mr. Johnson had the opportunity, without interruption, to express his concerns (a very nice way to put it) at a town council meeting. The minutes and audio recording of that meeting are freely available for review. Usually, the "public comment" period at the end of council meetings does not elicit a reply from council members. After hearing Mr. Johnson's comments, Councilman Pearson and VanFossen explained the trip and its purpose. This was not a "vacation" and there is no "spin". I did NOT go to Cheers or Fenway, and didn't really have such a great time. The town council certainly doesn't dedicate their time and energy to Holly Springs for money or "perks"! Mr. Johnson hasn't mentioned that the Mayor has worked approximately 40-45 hours a week for the last 4 years and is overpaid (\$15,000 per year). Any expenditure of the taxpayer's money is carefully reviewed by the town council. With all of the important issues facing our growing town (not just limited to the landfill fight, roads, sewer capacity and economic development), the value of this expenditure exceeded the cost.

It's sad that this campaign has gone far beyond political rhetoric. I am convinced that at least one candidate, Vinnie DeBenedetto, will do or say "anything" to be elected. In my opinion, if you can't win an election with truth alone, you shouldn't run. I also wonder if this candidate's efforts are for personal political gain and not really for the good of Holly Springs. I truly believe that all town officials must hold themselves to the highest standards. I believe the incumbents, Hank Dickson and Chet VanFossen, have done just that. I also believe that write-in candidate Joe Signoretto is also a person of character and holds himself to the highest standards.

In summary, at the beginning of the campaign, Vinnie asked me who I was supporting. I replied that I felt my responsibility was to encourage people to vote and that I would not actively support anyone. I'm sad that based on recent comments and harmful political rhetoric, I have no choice but to actively support three candidates. My complete support goes to Hank Dickson, Chet VanFossen, and Joe Signoretto. I also realize fully that whoever is elected will be working with the council and me for four years. It's essential that the council debate but seek consensus, and not be distracted by personal agendas. This campaign has cost personal friendships and caused a great deal of anxiety. It did not need to be this way. Holly Springs is a great town with great people and we need not tear it and the incumbents (including myself) apart in order to try to get votes.

Please vote!!! You decide what is best for Holly Springs.

Dick Sears
Mayor



(over)

WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

337 SOUTH SALISBURY STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 695
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27602-0695

Angela T. Pace
Campaign Finance Director

apace@co.wake.nc.us

(919) 856-6742
Fax (919)856-5864

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL

To: Kim Westbrook Strach

Total Pages including Transmittal Sheet: 4

Date: November 8, 2005

Fax Number: 715-8047

Hi, Kim – being faxed are Mr. Crandall's letter (to be followed by the original mailed) of complaint and the two letters attached as one flier to mailboxes in Holly Springs.

I will also be forwarding to you an email from another complainant.

Call me with any questions – and thank you!

Angela

Statement of Organization - Candidate Committee

Amendment
 Yes No

1. Committee Information			
a. Full Name		c. ID Number	
Committee to Re-Elect Hank Dickson		—	
b. Mailing Address (include City, State and Zip Code)		d. Date Organized	
504 Sandy Point Way Holly Springs NC 27540		7-8-05	
		e. Phone Number	
		919-552-5613	
2. Candidate Information		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Candidate's Primary Committee	
a. Full Name	c. Candidate ID Number	d. Party Affiliation	
Henry A. Dickson Jr		Nonpartisan	
b. Mailing Address (include City, State, and Zip Code)	e. Office Sought	f. Jurisdiction	
504 Sandy Point Way Holly Springs NC 27540	Councilman	Holly Springs	
<i>(If office sought is nonpartisan, write "Nonpartisan" in [d] Party Affiliation.)</i>			
3. Treasurer Information		4. Custodian of Books Information	
a. Full Name	a. Full Name		
Henry A. Dickson Jr	Henry A. Dickson Jr		
b. Mailing Address (include City, State, and Zip Code)	b. Mailing Address (include City, State, and Zip Code)		
504 Sandy Point Way Holly Springs NC 27540	504 Sandy Point Way Holly Springs NC 27540		
c. Phone Number	d. Email Address	c. Phone Number	d. Email Address
919-552-5613	hdickson89@earthlink.net	919-552-5613	hdickson89@earthlink.net
5. Assistant Treasurer Information		6. Account Information (incl. CRO-3500)	
a. Full Name	<input type="checkbox"/> Add <input type="checkbox"/> Remove	a. Financial Institution Full Name	<input type="checkbox"/> Add <input type="checkbox"/> Remove
—		Wachovia	
b. Mailing Address (include City, State, and Zip Code)		b. Purpose	
—		Campaign funds	
c. Phone Number	d. Email Address	c. Code	d. Type
—	—	1	Checking
CERTIFICATION			
I certify that the Committee is in compliance with all provisions of Article 22A, including that no funds are commingled with funds for a federal or out-of-state PAC. I further say that this report is complete, true and correct.			
Henry A. Dickson Jr		Henry A. Dickson Jr	7/11/05
Printed Name of Signer		Signature of Appointed Treasurer	Date

North Carolina
State Board of Elections
506 N. Harrison Street
Raleigh, NC 27603

Kimberly Westbrook
Deputy Director - Campaign Reporting

Mailing Address
PO Box 27255
Raleigh, NC 27611-7255
(919) 733-7173
Fax: (919) 715-8047

Certification of Threshold

FILED BY:

Committee Name:

Hank Dickson Re-Election Committee

Treasurer Name:

Henry Dickson

Treasurer Address:

504 Sandy PT Way

(include city, state, & zip)

Holly Springs NC 27540

Treasurer Phone:

919-552-5613

Check One:

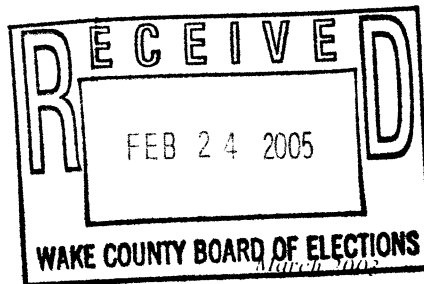
I certify that this committee intends to neither receive nor expend more than \$3,000 during the current election cycle under the procedures set forth in G.S. 163-278.10A. This certification will remain in effect until the end of the election cycle for this committee. If this committee exceeds \$3,000 in contributions or expenditures during this election cycle, I understand that I must immediately notify the appropriate board of elections and file required campaign finance reports.

I am withdrawing my Certification to remain under the \$3000 threshold. I will now be required to file the next scheduled report for all contributions and expenditures that have not been previously reported from the beginning of the current election cycle. I further agree to file all future reports required.

2/20/05

Date Signed

H. Dickson
Signature





North Carolina
 State Board of Elections
 506 N Harrington Street
 Raleigh, NC 27603

Kimberly Westbrook
 Deputy Director – Campaign Reporting

Mailing Address
 PO Box 27255
 Raleigh, NC 27611-7255
 (919) 733-7173
 Fax: (919) 715-8047

Certification of Treasurer

FILED BY:

Candidate Name: Henry A. (Hank) Dickson Jr
 Treasurer Name: Henry A. Dickson Jr.
 Treasurer Address: 504 Sandy Pt Way
 (include city, state, & zip) Holly Springs NC 27540

 Treasurer Phone: 919-552-5613

I certify that the above information is correct, and I, as candidate, appoint said treasurer to personally fulfill the duties and responsibilities imposed upon the appointed treasurer and subject to the penalties and sanctions in *Subchapter VIII. Regulation of Election Campaigns* of Chapter 163 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

I understand that if the above Treasurer changes, it will be necessary to certify a new treasurer and amend the existing Statement of Organization within 10 days of the vacancy.

7/11/05
 Date Signed

Henry A. Dickson Jr
 Signature of Candidate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001 SESSION LAW 2001-512
SENATE BILL 1014

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE LITTERING LAWS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:.....

SECTION 7. Article 3 of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

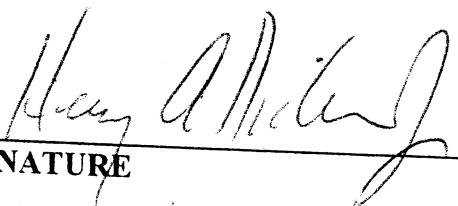
"§ 163-22.3. State Board of Elections littering notification. At the time an individual files with the State Board of Elections a notice of candidacy pursuant to G.S. 163-106, 163- 112, 163-291, 163-294.2, or 163-323, is certified to the State Board of Elections by a political party executive committee to fill a nomination vacancy pursuant to G.S. 163-114, is certified to the State Board of Elections by a new political party as that party's nominee pursuant to G.S. 163-98, qualifies with the State Board of Elections as an unaffiliated or write-in candidate pursuant to Article 11 of this Chapter, or formally initiates a candidacy with the State Board of Elections pursuant to any statute or local act, the State Board of Elections shall notify the candidate of the provisions concerning campaign signs in G.S. 136-32 and G.S. 14-156, and the rules adopted by the Department of Transportation pursuant to G.S. 136-18."

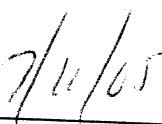
SECTION 8. Article 4 of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 163-33.3. County board of elections littering notification. At the time an individual files with a county board of elections a notice of candidacy pursuant to G.S. 163-106, 163- 112, 163-291, or 163-294.2, is certified to a county board of elections by a political party executive committee to fill a nomination vacancy pursuant to G.S. 163-114, qualifies with a county board of elections as an unaffiliated or write-in candidate pursuant to Article 11 of this Chapter, or formally initiates with a county board of elections a candidacy pursuant to any statute or local act, the county board of elections shall notify the candidate of the provisions concerning campaign signs in G.S. 136-32 and G.S. 14-156 and the rules adopted by the Department of Transportation pursuant to G.S. 136-18."

(Note: Only the sections pertaining to elections have been set out herein. The majority of the bill deals with increased criminal penalties for littering.)

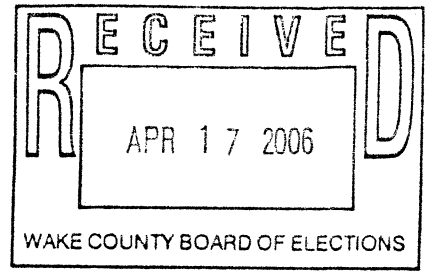
This is to certify that the Wake County Board of Elections has informed me of G.S. 163-33.3 as noted above.


SIGNATURE


DATE



North Carolina
 State Board of Elections
 506 N Harrington Street
 Raleigh, NC 27603



Kimberly Westbrook
 Deputy Director – Campaign Reporting

Mailing Address
 PO Box 27255
 Raleigh, NC 27611-7255
 (919) 733-7173
 Fax: (919) 715-8047

Certification of Inactive Status

FILED BY:

Committee Name: Committee to Re-Elect Hank Dickson
 Treasurer Name: Henry A. Dickson Jr.
 Treasurer Address: 504 Sandy Pt Way
 (include city, state, & zip) Holly Springs NC 27540

 Treasurer Phone: 919-552-5613

I certify that the above named candidate/political committee intends to receive no contributions, nor make any expenditures, until the committee resumes activity.

I understand that if the above circumstances change, it will be necessary for the person responsible for filing financial disclosure reports to file an amended Statement of Organization and the Certification to Return to Active Status form (CRO-3300) within ten days.

4/11/06
 Date Signed

Henry A. Dickson Jr.
 Signature