



● **McQUISTON ASSOCIATES**

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CF 11-0600 S23 & 11-1912 S1 ✓

ITEMS 2, 3 & 6, E&N Cmte 5/15/12

R. Williams

**STATEMENT of J.H. McQUISTON on
FUNDING for NEIGHBORHOOD-COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

Honorable President and Members of the Committee:

Charter Section 906 prescribes that residents, workers, and property-owners are Neighborhood-Council stakeholders. I am "stakeholder" in three N.C.s, but I never get notices of their elections nor of any other of their N.C. issues.

1. DONE only counts "residents" to determine if a N.C. area has "20,000 stakeholders". More accurately, there are at least 40,000 legal stakeholders, on average, per N.C, and every one is entitled to notices. To print 40,000 notices costs about \$800.

Elections only draw a minute percentage of the 40,000 eligible voters, as you know. To print sufficient ballots for the election, plus tallies, costs about \$20.

Circulating information may be accomplished by N.C. stakeholders themselves at no cost, with the added benefit gained by contacting stakeholders ignorant-of or foreign-to the N.C. movement.

Thus a N.C. election can be run by volunteers at *de minimus* cost and with a substantial public benefit.

2. Charter Section 906(a)(6) requires each Neighborhood Council to permit each stakeholder to participate in its election.

Thus an election requires the Neighborhood Council to spend *its own* funds to effectuate its election.

3. Charter Section 901(c) prescribes that DONE "shall assist neighborhood councils with the election or selection of their officers". It does not say "DONE shall conduct" the election or selection.

Therefore, if the Neighborhood Council does not affirmatively-request DONE to "conduct" the election or selection of its officers, then DONE may not use any of the Neighborhood Council's funds for DONE's assistance in the Neighborhood Council's election or selection of officers, and DONE may not fund the election nor selection of a neighborhood council's officers.

The above is a substantial answer to the issue of funding sources for neighborhood-council elections or selections. Publicity regarding election or selection of officers is solely the responsibility of the Neighborhood Council, and it must fund such itself. They may use funds appropriated as a lump-sum by the City for their yearly-operation, but unless they enlist extraordinary work from DONE their yearly-funds may not be utilized by DONE for "assistance" regarding election or selection of officers.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. McQuiston

c: Interested parties