

Samuel D. Lashman, Esq. (ID No. 024801988)  
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Margate, N.J. 08402  
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Attorney for Plaintiff A.C. Democratic Committee

Atlantic City Democratic Committee,	:	SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
Plaintiff,	:	ATLANTIC COUNTY
vs.	:	LAW DIVISION
	:	
	:	CIVIL ACTION
Atlantic City Residents for Good	:	
Government, Inc., Unnamed Petition	:	DOCKET NO.
Committees 1-2, being fictitious names,	:	
Clerk of City of Atlantic City in her official	:	VERIFIED COMPLAINT
capacity, and John Does 1-25, individuals	:	IN LIEU OF PREROGATIVE WRIT
who were circulators or others being	:	
fictitious names.	:	
Defendants.	:	
	:	

Atlantic City Democratic Committee c/o Gwendolyn Lewis Chairwoman 1502 Penrose  
Ave., Atlantic City, N.J. 08401 Plaintiff by way of complaint says:

#### FIRST COUNT

1. Plaintiff is a political organization representing the Democratic Party in the City of Atlantic City, N.J., it has 42 members elected every two years with a man and a woman representing each of Atlantic City's 21 precincts and upon information and belief approximately 10,000 Registered Democrats.
2. Atlantic City Residents for Good Government Inc. ("ACRGG") is a New Jersey Political Action Committee registered with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission and is located at 1 Convention Blvd., Suite 2, No. 328, Atlantic City, NJ 08401 also known as "Atlantic

City Residents for Good Government.”

3. The organizers of ACRGG were Farook Hossain, Bob McDevitt, Cristian Moreno-Rodriguez and Felicia Potts.

4. Unnamed Petition Committees 1-2 (“UPCs 1-2”) are fictitious names of committees which circulated and or submitted petitions to change the form of government in Atlantic City to a Council Manager form pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:79-1 et seq., the exact names of the Committees and or sponsors not being on the petitions the true names and addresses are unknown at this time. In addition two forms of petitions were utilized making it unknown whether or not there was more than one committee.

5. Defendant Clerk of the City of Atlantic City is Paula Geleti who is joined in her official capacity as the person who certified the Petition, scheduled the Special Election and would conduct the Special Election on the question submitted.

6. John Does 1-25 being fictitious names are persons whose true names are currently unknown who should be parties to this action because they were circulators of the Petition, or individual pages, and used illegal, improper and fraudulent means to obtain signatures.

7. On December 11, 2019 Atlantic City Residents for Good Government, Unnamed Petition Committees 1-2 and or Bob McDevitt submitted change of government petition(s) to the Clerk of the City of Atlantic City containing approximately 3,033 signatures and about 1,670 pages. It is believed that Atlantic City Residents for Good Government, Inc. left out the “Inc.” in some of its paperwork but is the same entity however there may be more than one committee, e.g. Defendant UPCs 1-2 or individuals who actually submitted the petitions. See exhibit “C.”

8. The stated question and purpose of the petition was:

Shall subtitle 5 of the title Municipalities and Counties of the Revised Statutes (N.J.S.A.

40:79-1 et seq.), providing for the Municipal Manager Form of Government, with five (5) council members all to be elected at-large for concurrent terms at elections held in May, with the mayor elected from among the council members, and a municipal manager appointed by the municipal council, be adopted by the City of Atlantic City?

9. On or about January 9, 2020 the Clerk of Atlantic City rejected the Petition, see exhibit “D.”
10. On or about January 14, 2020 the Clerk accepted the Petition and scheduled a Special Election to be held on March 31, 2020 in the City of Atlantic City.
11. The City of Atlantic City currently operates under the Faulkner Act as a Mayor Council form of government pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:69A-1 et seq. with 6 wards, 6 ward council persons, 3 at-large council persons, and 1 Mayor elected at-large.
12. Sample petition pages are attached hereto as exhibits “A” and “B.” The basic question is similar. However Type “A” petitions are made up of about 6-7 pages and contain space for 50 signatures and a circulator and notary affidavit. Type “B” petitions are one page with a title and with room for 5 signatures and the circulator affidavit with notary. See exhibits “A” and “B” attached hereto redacted.
13. Neither the Committee members, any sponsors nor the ACRGG committee is listed on the petition as the sponsor.
14. The space for the circulator is empty so that it does not have to be filled in before voters sign the petition meaning that the voters are not informed of the sponsor, committee or circulator before signing which is misleading or concealing.

#### COUNT ONE - Petition is Legally and Facially Defective

15. Plaintiff repeats each and every allegation of the preceding Count(s) and paragraphs above and incorporates the same into each and every other Count and paragraph herein as if set forth at

length herein.

16. The petition is defective as a matter of law.

17. The petition in question was required, as a matter of law to follow some of the prerequisites of N.J.S.A. 40A:69A-186 which sets out requirements for initiatives for Faulkner Act municipalities namely including the circulator on each page of the petition.

18. The subject of the Petition requests a change in the form of government to the Council Manager form of government under N.J.S.A. 40:79-1 et seq.

19. N.J.S.A. 40:79-1 et seq. expressly sets forth the forms for petition in a recall , i.e. N.J.S.A. 40:84-12 and to abandon the Council Manager form of government , N.J.S.A. 40:85-1 et seq. but, provides no other description for the form of petition to change the existing form of government into a Council Manager form of government.

20. The petition requirements for identification of circulators should be read in pari materia with N.J.S.A. 40:79-1 et seq. or with the Faulkner Act N.J.S.A. 40A:69A-186 and other provisions that require identification of the circulators and sponsors on its face as does N.J.S.A. 40:84-12, 40:85-1 or 40A:69A-186.

21. In this case no sponsors or committee was actually named or identified on the petition forms and in this case the omission was misleading especially since there were two formats.

22. The petitions are required to have the circulator listed and in fact do have space for the circulator.

23. The petitions are required to be of uniform type to be legal which they are not since there are Type “A” and Type “B” formats.

24. Only one format is acceptable for one committee at a time.

25. If more than one entity submitted a set of petitions only one can be accepted.

26. Upon information and belief after December 11, 2019 the City Clerk continued to accept additional pages and the circulators or committees continued to obtain additional signatures.
27. The petition is defective because it is believed that additional pages were accepted.
28. There is no 10 day corrective period under 40:79-1 et seq., the Petition needs to be complete when submitted.
29. In some cases the notary certificate was attached to more than one set of petition pages which is a fatal defect for those pages.
30. In some cases the true circulators were not registered voters.
31. In some cases minors were circulators.
32. Circulators were required to be New Jersey registered voters at the time they obtained signatures.
33. Petition pages circulated by minors and or non voters are void.
34. The Clerk ruled in certain cases that some pages of the Petition were defective because the Notary improperly executed the affidavit, or executed it as the circulator, see letter of January 9, 2020. In addition the Clerk invalidated signatures in other cases because the notary was not in good standing at the time of notarization. The Clerk's acceptances and rejections have not been released to Plaintiff and therefore are subject to challenge or are arbitrary and capricious.
35. The City of Atlantic City Clerk's Office has not released a complete copy of the pages submitted by ACRGG, UPCs 1-2 or any other entity which submitted the Petition or pages of the Petition and the Plaintiff is entitled as a matter of law to review the materials in the Clerk's office as well as materials used in the signature gathering effort as regular election materials.
36. Many or most circulators were paid to obtain signatures on the basis of being paid by obtaining a minimum number, three (3) signatures, which is improper and or illegal just as if a

campaign worker was paid to obtain mail in ballots and was paid per ballot obtained or to register voters and was paid per voter registered. Red Cloud Strategies, LLC was a consultant and or vendor for ACRGG and is believed to have hired, managed and or paid circulators on the basis of signatures the circulators obtained rather than hourly. See exhibits “F,” “G,” and “H.”

36A. Any confidentiality provisions regarding circulators or solicitations on a public petition is void, against public policy, contrary to Campaign Finance Laws and or illegal. (“Ryan” named in exhibit H is believed to be the same Ryan on check 148, exhibit F, and Red Cloud Strategies is on check 148, among others.)

37. Petitions where the circulator was paid per signature are void and invalid and or the entire Petition is void because it was improperly obtained.

38. The number of other deficiencies, irregularities and illegalities is still under investigation and the examples above are representative not exclusive of the deficiencies which are subject to what continuing investigation and discovery will show. The other deficiencies include crossouts, deletions and other markings invalidating pages of the Petition.

39. The City of Atlantic City is also subject to the Municipal Recover and Stabilization Act, N.J.S.A. 52:27BBBB-1 et seq. at all relevant times.

40. Pursuant to the above cited act, the Petition is at best advisory and non binding. Further “dissolving, terminating, transferring, abolishing, or otherwise disposing of any municipal authority, board, commission...” is impossible without approval of the Director of the Local Finance Board, id. section 5(b).

41. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:37-1 et seq., Elections, Non binding referenda are to be scheduled for the general election which will be held in November, not a special election and the Council Manager Plan conflicts with Election Law and the Municipal Recovery and Stabilization Act and

is therefore legally void or the election must take place in November.

42. In the alternative a declaratory judgment on the effect of conflicting laws is requested pursuant to the Declaratory Judgment Act, N.J.S.A. 2A:16-51 et seq.,

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands relief as follows:

- A. The Court Issue an Order setting a suitable time and place for a hearing this complaint;
- B. That at the hearing, the Court determine if the petitions are legally deficient;
- C. That the Court determine whether malconduct, fraud or corruption occurred in obtaining signatures and the legality or illegality of any signatures and the Petition;
- D. That the Court, after the hearing, declare the Petition null and void, be set aside and election cancelled;
- E. That all books, papers, documents and forms relating to the Petition in possession or control of Defendants, the City of Atlantic City and its Clerk, ACRGG, JPCs 1-2, John Does 1-25 or other entities with possession of the same be maintained and produced for discovery and an order be entered permitting Plaintiff discovery, including on Red Cloud Strategies and declare its “Nondisclosure Agreement” null and void, and for inspection and copying of the documents and materials upon an expedited schedule to be determined by the Court including a schedule for production of witnesses and their depositions;
- F. An Order for such other relief as the Court deems reasonable and just.

#### SECOND COUNT - Fraud

43. Plaintiff repeats each and every paragraph and allegation of the First Count above and incorporates the same as if set forth at length herein into each and every other paragraph and Count of the Complaint.

44. ACRGG, UPCs 1-2 their committee members and the circulators, and John Does 1-25 are

liable for FRAUD in that the entire petition gathering process was so replete with errors, intentional misconduct, concealment, misrepresentations and other malconduct that the entire Petition is void.

45. Specifically ACRGG, UPCs 1-2 their committee members and the circulators, and John Does 1-25 and defendants misrepresented the contents of the petition by concealing and omitting their names as sponsors or their roles in obtaining signatures.

46. In certain cases the Notary signed as the circulator which was fraud.

47. In certain cases the actual circulators were not persons who signed the Petition or represented themselves as the circulators.

48. In certain cases the circulators lied or misrepresented their identities.

49. In certain cases to induce voters to sign the contents of the petition was misrepresented.

50. In certain cases ACRGG, UPCs 1-2 their committee members knowingly used minors and ineligible persons to circulate the petition.

51. ACRGG, UPCs 1-2 their committee members concealed the true identities of the actual circulators fraudulently.

52. In certain cases the signatures were forged or were not the persons whose names and signature was given, in one case the person has been in living in the State of Florida for years and has not returned to Atlantic City and could not have signed the Petition.

53. In at least one case the address given for the circulator does not exist and it was known to be given fraudulently.

54. Some petitions were circulated correctly but then additional signatures were fraudulently appended to the correct signature pages or other persons than the circulator who was correctly listed obtained additional signatures.



55. Signatories have been shown photos of circulators listed on the Petition and reported to the Plaintiff's investigator that the correct circulator was not the same person.

56. It is believed that certain petition pages were left unattended for voters to sign which the circulators then fraudulently or falsely represented they personally witnessed.

57. The use of a "Nondisclosure Agreement" in gathering signatures is indicative of Fraud and illegal methods, is illegal and void ab initio.

58. The misstatements, concealment, errors and omissions by ACRGG, its committee members, the circulators and defendants were material, knowing and intentional.

59. As a result of the misstatements, concealment, errors and omissions by ACRGG, UPCs 1-2 their committee members and the circulators, and John Does 1-25 and or other defendants the signers were induced to sign petitions they would not have otherwise signed.

60. There was a pattern of fraud so rampant as to cause doubt in whole petition and process and

(a) illegal or improper signatures were collected;

(b) signatures which should have been rejected were accepted some not being eligible voters;

(c) signatures were not of the persons listed because they were either forged or the true persons were not the signers who were absent from the State;

(d) some affidavits were false;

(e) names and addresses given for signatories were false, in that those addresses do not exist or the persons did not sign the petitions.

61. As a result of these fraudulent and improper activities, errors, mistakes and problems which a continuing investigation will disclose, the basic safeguards of the petition process were

denied and the Petition was procured fraudulently.

62. The errors, mistakes and irregularities set forth above are representative of the fraud and errors in the Petition and are not exclusive since Petitioner has not completed its investigation and Plaintiff hereby reserves the right to supplement, amend and plead additional claims as they arise.

63. As a result fraudulent signatures were obtained and wrongly approved and a Special Election has been fraudulently called.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands relief as follows:

- A. The Court Issue an Order setting a suitable time and place for a hearing this complaint;
- B. That at the hearing, the Court determine the Petition is legally deficient;
- C. That the Court determine whether malconduct, fraud or corruption occurred in obtaining signatures and the legality or illegality of signatures;
- D. That the Court, after the hearing, declare the Petition be set aside and election cancelled;
- E. That all books, papers, documents and forms relating to the Petition in possession or control of Defendants, the City of Atlantic City and its Clerk, ACRGG, JPCs 1-2, John Does 1-25 or other entities with possession of the same be maintained and produced for discovery and an order be entered permitting Plaintiff discovery, including on Red Cloud Strategies and declare its "Nondisclosure Agreement" null and void, and for inspection and copying of the documents and materials upon an expedited schedule to be determined by the Court including a schedule for production of witnesses and their depositions;
- F. An Order for such other relief as the Court deems reasonable and just.

### THIRD COUNT - Civil Rights

64. Plaintiff repeats each and every paragraph and allegation of the First Count above and

incorporates the same as if set forth at length herein into each and every other paragraph and Count of the Complaint.

65. The form of government, Council Manager, N.J.S.A. 40:79-1 et seq. is unconstitutional as it would be implemented in the City of Atlantic City.

67. The City of Atlantic City currently contains 6 wards with council members elected from each ward. In addition the Mayor and 3 council members are elected at large.

68. Under the plan of the petition all Council Members would be elected on an at large, or city wide basis.

69. Atlantic City is home to a large number of citizens from diverse racial, social and ethnic groups and in fact no one group constitutes a majority group in the City.

70. If all Council Members were elected on an at large basis citizens would lose their voice and representation in government.

71. The present City council contains 1 Hispanic Member, 2 South Asians, 2 Caucasians and 4 African Americans.

72. The neighborhoods of the City tend to have one or two groups which do form majorities in their neighborhoods but are not of sufficient size that those groups would be able to elect a Council Member on an at large basis and the form of government proposed uniquely disenfranchises numerous groups.

73. As an example there is only one Hispanic Council Member although Hispanics represent 30% of the population.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>See [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlantic\\_City,\\_New\\_Jersey#Demographics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlantic_City,_New_Jersey#Demographics)  
As of the 2010 United States Census, there were 39,558 people.... The racial makeup of the city was 26.65% (10,543) White, 38.29% (15,148) Black or African American, 0.61% (242) Native American, 15.55% (6,153) Asian, 0.05% (18) Pacific Islander, 14.03% (5,549) from other races, and 4.82% (1,905) from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 30.45%

74. That would instead tend to equate to two council representatives out of nine on a percentage of population basis.

75. The South Asian representatives would most likely not be able to be elected due to language barriers and other circumstances on a City Wide Basis. Jimmy Cheung who previously represented the 5<sup>th</sup> ward was the first Council Member of Chinese ethnic descent would have been unable on an at large basis most likely to be elected.

76. At large districts under the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. § 10101 et seq.) are inherently suspect and discriminatory especially when going from a precinct district to an at large district.

77. As a result enactment of the petition and institution of 1 at-large city-wide voting district would be contrary to the Civil Rights of the people of Atlantic City and contrary to 42 U.S.C. 1983 and or the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination N.J.S.A. 10:6-1 et seq. which this Court has jurisdiction to enforce.

78. In the alternative the question presents a re-districting plan which would do away with all wards. Given that the U.S. Census will take place this year, 2020, and new districts will be drawn for New Jersey election districts based on the results, the Court does have jurisdiction to rule on whether a single at large district is permissible.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands relief as follows:

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(12,044) of the population. [citing DP-1 – Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2010 for Atlantic City city, Atlantic County, New Jersey, United States Census Bureau. Accessed January 12, 2012;  
<https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=bkmk>]

- A. The Court Issue an Order setting a suitable time and place for a hearing this complaint;
- B. That at the hearing, the Court determine if the petitions are legally deficient;
- C. That the Court determine that the Petition is a violation of the Civil Rights of the people of the City of Atlantic City, illegal and Unconstitutional;
- D. An Order for such other relief as the Court deems reasonable and just including costs and fees.

NOTICE PURSUANT TO RULES 1:5-1(a) and 4:17-4(c)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the above-cited Rules, the undersigned attorneys demand that parties serving pleadings and interrogatories and receiving responses thereto provide the undersigned attorneys with copies of the pleadings, interrogatories, documents, papers and materials received from other parties to this suit.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that this is a continuing demand.

SAMUEL LASHMAN, ESQ.

Dated:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Samuel Lashman, Esq.

CERTIFICATIONS PURSUANT TO R. 4:5-1, etc,

Samuel Lashman, Esq., pursuant to R. 1:4-5 hereby certifies as follows:

1. All parties who are indispensable to the within action have been named to the best of my information, knowledge and belief pursuant to Rules 4:28 and 4:29 except as to UPCs 1-2 and John Does 1-25.

2. The matter in controversy is not the subject of any other actions pending or contemplated, either in court or in any type of arbitration or alternate dispute resolution, to the best of my information, knowledge and belief except that a Federal Court Action is contemplated in the event this Court does not have or exercise Jurisdiction of all grounds.

3. I certify that confidential personal identifiers have been redacted from documents now submitted to the court, and will be redacted from all documents submitted in the future in accordance with Rule 1:38-7(b).

4. Pursuant to Rule 4:69-4 it is not believed any transcripts of meetings are necessary.

I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I understand that if any of the

foregoing statements are wilfully false, I am subject to punishment.

SAMUEL LASHMAN, ESQ.

Dated:

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Samuel Lashman, Esq.

# CERTIFICATION OF SAMUEL LASHMAN

1. I, Samuel Lashman, of full age certify as follows:
2. I am the attorney for Plaintiff in the above captioned matter.
3. Copies of documents obtained from investigation are attached to the complaint and are redacted copies of such information provided to me from the investigation of the petition including copies of circulation materials, flyers, and other information, without limitation as to other evidence to be produced, to illustrate specific facts and types of problems and incidents alleged in the amended complaint.
4. Copies of exhibits with names of voters on signatures or similar information is redacted confidential information is not publicly filed and an unredacted copy will be provided to Defendant upon appropriate Order of the Court.

I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

Dated:

---

Samuel Lashman



### VERIFICATION OF GWENDOLYN LEWIS

1. I, Gwendolyn Lewis, of full age, am the Chairwoman of the Plaintiff in the above captioned matter.
2. I have read the foregoing Complaint and am familiar with the facts alleged therein.
3. All of the allegations therein are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

Dated:

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Gwen Lewis, Authorized Officer  
Chairperson of the Atlantic City Democratic  
Committee

**PETICION PARA ADOPTAR UN MANAGER MUNICIPAL COMO FORMA DE GOBIERNO**

Nosotros, quienes firmamos abajo, solicitamos por la presente que se realice una elección en la ciudad de Atlantic City sobre la siguiente pregunta: **Deberá la ciudad de Atlantic City adoptar el subtítulo 5 del título de Municipalidades y Condados de los Estatutos Revisados (N.J.S.A. 40:79-1 et seq.) proveyendo un Manager Municipal como forma de Gobierno, con todos los cinco (5) miembros del consejo siendo elegidos en general para términos concurrentes en las elecciones realizadas en Mayo, eligiendo al Alcalde entre los miembros del Consejo y a un gerente municipal nombrado por el consejo municipal?**

1.	_____	_____	_____
	Nombre en letra imprenta	Domicilio	Dirección (Numero y Calle)
	_____	_____	_____
	Firma	Ciudad	Apartado Postal
2.	_____	_____	_____
	Nombre en letra imprenta	Domicilio	Dirección (Numero y Calle)
	_____	_____	_____
	Firma	Ciudad	Apartado Postal
3.	_____	_____	_____
	Nombre en letra imprenta	Domicilio	Dirección (Numero y Calle)
	_____	_____	_____
	Firma	Ciudad	Apartado Postal
4.	_____	_____	_____
	Nombre en letra imprenta	Domicilio	Dirección (Numero y Calle)
	_____	_____	_____
	Firma	Ciudad	Apartado Postal

**DECLARACION DE LA PERSONA CIRCULANDO LA PETICION**

Estado de New Jersey  
Condado de Atlantic s.s.

Yo, \_\_\_\_\_, siendo juramentado y después de mi juramento declaro que soy la única persona quien puso en circulación este papel personalmente; y que todas las firmas en la presente fueron escritas en mi presencia; y creo que dichas firmas son las firmas autenticas de las personas que ellos afirmaron ser.

Jurado y Suscrito ante mí este  
\_\_\_\_\_ día de \_\_\_\_\_, 2019

\_\_\_\_\_  
Firma de la persona circulando la Petición

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notario Publico / Abogado, Estado de New Jersey

\_\_\_\_\_  
Domicilio de la persona circulando la Petición

We, the undersigned, hereby request that an election be held in the City of Atlantic City upon the following question:  
Shall subtitle 5 of the title Municipalities and Counties of the Revised Statutes (N.J.S.A. 40:79-1 et seq.),  
providing for the Municipal Manager Form of Government, with five (5) council members all to be elected at-  
large for concurrent terms at elections held in May, with the mayor elected from among the council members,  
and a municipal manager appointed by the municipal council, be adopted by the City of Atlantic City?

REDACTED

Print Name

REDACTED

Residence Address (Number and Street)

REDACTED

Signature

City

Zip

2.

Print Name

Residence Address (Number and Street)

Signature

City

Zip

3.

Print Name

Residence Address (Number and Street)

Signature

City

Zip

4.

Print Name

Residence Address (Number and Street)

Signature

City

Zip

5.

Print Name

Residence Address (Number and Street)

Signature

City

Zip

6.

Print Name

Residence Address (Number and Street)

Signature

City

Zip

20

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Residence Address (Number and Street)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

21

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Residence Address (Number and Street)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

22

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Residence Address (Number and Street)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

23

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Residence Address (Number and Street)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

24

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Residence Address (Number and Street)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

49. \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Residence Address (Number and Street)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

50. \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Residence Address (Number and Street)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

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AFFIDAVIT OF PETITION CIRCULATOR

State of New Jersey  
County of Atlantic

I, Rhashonna C. Cosby, being duly sworn, upon my oath state that I am the only person who personally circulated this paper; that all of the signatures appended hereto were made in my presence; and that I believe said signatures to be the genuine signatures of the persons whose names they purport to be.

Sworn and subscribed to before me this

13 day of September, 2018  
2018

Rhashonna C. Cosby  
Signature of Circulator

14 Governor Highway, CH  
Residence Address of Circulator (Number and Street)

ELIZABETH, NJ, 07202  
City, State Zip of Circulator

[Signature]  
Notary Public / Attorney At Law, State of New Jersey

**RHASHONNA C. COSBY**  
**NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY**  
**My Commission Expires April 7, 2021**

RECEIVED  
CITY OF ATLANTIC CITY  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

2019 DEC 11 PM 4:35

City of Atlantic City  
Office of the City Clerk  
Petition to Adopt Municipal Manager Form  
of Government  
Receipt

I, PAULA GELETEL, CITY CLERK

Do hereby certify I have received the following  
petitions from:

Atlantic City Residents for Good Government

1,670 Signature Pages  
consisting of 3,033 Signatures

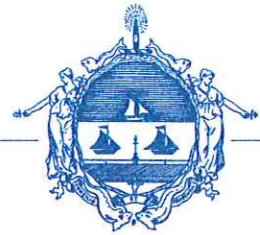
Signed Paula Gelete

Date 12/11/2019

# CITY OF ATLANTIC CITY

## OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

City Hall - Room 704  
1301 Bacharach Boulevard  
Atlantic City, NJ 08401-4603  
Office: (609) 347-5510  
Fax: (609) 347-6408



PAULA GELETEI, RMC, CMC  
City Clerk

January 08, 2020

Mr. C. Robert McDevitt  
Atlantic City Residents for Good Government  
2419 Formica's Way  
Atlantic City, NJ 08401

### RE: PETITION REVIEW

Dear Mr. McDevitt & Petitioners:

Please be advised that as City Clerk of the City of Atlantic City, I am required to review, for sufficiency, petitions which were submitted in support of a change of government under N.J.S.A. 40:79-1, et seq. the Municipal Manager Act of 1923 on December 11 and December 19, 2019. After a thorough and careful review of the submitted petitions by my office and legal counsel, it is my determination that the number of signatures required to satisfy the statutory requirement has not been met for the reasons set forth below:

1. All petitions which were notarized by Jayesh K. Sodha were deemed to be invalid due to information received by the State of New Jersey, Department of Treasury that Mr. Sodha is not a notary in good standing properly registered in the State of New Jersey.
2. A number of petitions notarized by Rhashonna C. Cosby were improperly executed such that the circulators' names were either not provided or the attestation reflected the notary name and not that of the circulator. Those which were improperly attested were deemed invalid.
3. Individuals on petitions who were unregistered as voters or whose information was not legible were eliminated.

The number of valid signatures required to advance the petition is 935. Petitioners have submitted 699 valid signatures. Because the threshold number of signatures has not been met, the petition cannot advance.

I certify that a proper inspection of the submitted Petitions has been performed and the results have been set forth above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paula Geletei".

Paula Geletei, RMC, CMC

Clerk of the City of Atlantic City

c:     Robert L. Tarver, Jr., Esq.  
         Michael Perugini, Esq., Solicitor



**FORM R-1****REPORT OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND  
EXPENDITURES****REPORT FILED:****NEW JERSEY ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION**

(2019-Q4) QUARTER 4 (JAN 15TH)

P.O. BOX 185, Trenton, NJ 08625-0185  
(609) 292-8700 or Toll Free Within NJ 1-888-313-ELEC (3532)  
Web site: <http://www.elec.nj.gov>

**Filed On**  
**1/15/2020 7:08:08 PM**

☐ Amendment**CANDIDATE OR COMMITTEE NAME**

ATLANTIC CITY RESIDENTS FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT

**STREET ADDRESS**

1 CONVENTION BLVD. SUITE 2 #328

**CITY**

ATLANTIC CITY

**STATE**

NJ

**ZIP CODE**

08401

**COUNTY**

ATLANTIC COUNTY

**ELECTION DISTRICT OR MUNICIPALITY**

ATLANTIC CITY

**POLITICAL PARTY, IF ANY**

NONPARTISAN

**OFFICE SOUGHT**

BALLOT QUESTION COMMITTEE

**ELECTION DATE**

11/05/2019

**ELECTION TYPE**

GENERAL

**RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES SUMMARY**

OPENING BALANCE *		\$30,046.63
RECEIPTS	(+)	\$58,380.17
EXPENDITURES	(-)	\$71,324.93
CLOSING BALANCE		\$17,101.87

\* Funds Transferred From Prior Campaign if First Report Filed

**NET FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

CLOSING BALANCE		\$17,101.87
Debt Owed to Committee	(+)	\$0.00
Debt Owed by Committee	(-)	\$0.00
Total Net Worth		\$17,101.87

EXHIBIT "F"

Check No.	Payee Name And Address	Date	Balance Amount	Date Disbursed	Amount Disbursed
105	POLITANO, PAT 17 OAK LANE, CRANFORD NJ 07016		\$0.00	08/04/2019	\$2,000.00
Purpose	MEDIA - CONSULTING		Comments		
Check No.	Payee Name And Address	Date	Balance Amount	Date Disbursed	Amount Disbursed
109	CIFUENTES, PABLO 4 TELEMAR DR., VERNON NJ 07462		\$0.00	08/09/2019	\$800.00
Purpose	GOTV-POLLWORKERS-ELECTION DAY ACTIVITIES		Comments		
Check No.	Payee Name And Address	Date	Balance Amount	Date Disbursed	Amount Disbursed
	TD BANK 15 NORTH PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, ATLANTIC CITY NJ 08401		\$0.00	08/13/2019	\$20.00
Purpose	BANK CHARGES		Comments		
Check No.	Payee Name And Address	Date	Balance Amount	Date Disbursed	Amount Disbursed
111	CIFUENTES, PABLO 4 TELEMAR DR., VERNON NJ 07462		\$0.00	08/16/2019	\$800.00
Purpose	GOTV-POLLWORKERS-ELECTION DAY ACTIVITIES		Comments		
Check No.	Payee Name And Address	Date	Balance Amount	Date Disbursed	Amount Disbursed
112	VASQUEZ, RYAN 108 N HARVARD AVENUE, APT B, VENTNOR NJ 08406		\$0.00	08/16/2019	\$2,800.00
Purpose	GOTV-POLLWORKERS-ELECTION DAY ACTIVITIES		Comments		
Check No.	Payee Name And Address	Date	Balance Amount	Date Disbursed	Amount Disbursed
118	ALVES, PATRICK 78 FAIRBANKS ST, ELIZABETH NJ 07202		\$0.00	08/23/2019	\$200.00
Purpose	GOTV-POLLWORKERS-ELECTION DAY ACTIVITIES		Comments		
Check No.	Payee Name And Address	Date	Balance Amount	Date Disbursed	Amount Disbursed
114	CIFUENTES, PABLO 4 TELEMAR DR., VERNON NJ 07462		\$0.00	08/23/2019	\$993.44
Purpose	GOTV-POLLWORKERS-ELECTION DAY ACTIVITIES - AND REIMBURSEMENT FOR OFFICE SUPPLIES		Comments		
Check No.	Payee Name And Address	Date	Balance Amount	Date Disbursed	Amount Disbursed
117	FLORES, WILSON FRANCISCO 205 BELMONT AVENUE, JERSEY CITY NJ 07304		\$0.00	08/23/2019	\$400.00
Purpose	GOTV-POLLWORKERS-ELECTION DAY ACTIVITIES		Comments		
Check No.	Payee Name And Address	Date	Balance Amount	Date Disbursed	Amount Disbursed
120	GARCIA, ANDREW 913 ELIZABETH AVENUE, 2ND FLOOR, ELIZABETH NJ 07201		\$0.00	08/23/2019	\$600.00

Purpose: GOTV-POLLWORKERS-ELECTION DAY ACTIVITIES

Check No.	Payee Name And Address	Date	Balance Amount	Date Disbursed	Amount Disbursed
147	JAVIER, MARIA 175 BELMONT AVENUE, JERSEY CITY NJ 07304		\$0.00	10/25/2019	\$325.00

Purpose: GOTV-POLLWORKERS-ELECTION DAY ACTIVITIES

Check No.	Payee Name And Address	Date	Balance Amount	Date Disbursed	Amount Disbursed
148	RED CLOUD STRATEGIES, LLC 29 TURNBERRY LANE, HAMBURG NJ 07419		\$0.00	10/26/2019	\$7,500.00

Purpose: CONSULTING - POLITICAL

Check No.	Payee Name And Address	Date	Balance Amount	Date Disbursed	Amount Disbursed
151	SALINAS, REBECCA 1100 N SALEM AVENUE, HILLSIDE NJ 07205		\$0.00	10/30/2019	\$560.00

Purpose: GOTV-POLLWORKERS-ELECTION DAY ACTIVITIES

Check No.	Payee Name And Address	Date	Balance Amount	Date Disbursed	Amount Disbursed
152	CIFUENTES, PABLO 4 TELEMAR DR., VERNON NJ 07462		\$0.00	11/02/2019	\$800.00

Purpose: GOTV-POLLWORKERS-ELECTION DAY ACTIVITIES

Check No.	Payee Name And Address	Date	Balance Amount	Date Disbursed	Amount Disbursed
153	JAVIER, MARIA 175 BELMONT AVENUE, JERSEY CITY NJ 07304		\$0.00	11/02/2019	\$300.00

Purpose: GOTV-POLLWORKERS-ELECTION DAY ACTIVITIES

Check No.	Payee Name And Address	Date	Balance Amount	Date Disbursed	Amount Disbursed
155	JAVIER, MARIA 175 BELMONT AVENUE, JERSEY CITY NJ 07304		\$0.00	11/07/2019	\$350.00

Purpose: GOTV-POLLWORKERS-ELECTION DAY ACTIVITIES

Check No.	Payee Name And Address	Date	Balance Amount	Date Disbursed	Amount Disbursed
156	CIFUENTES, PABLO 4 TELEMAR DR., VERNON NJ 07462		\$0.00	11/08/2019	\$800.00

Purpose: GOTV-POLLWORKERS-ELECTION DAY ACTIVITIES

Check No.	Payee Name And Address	Date	Balance Amount	Date Disbursed	Amount Disbursed
54127448-8	GROSE, ALFRED 10A CRESTMONT ST, SOMERS POINT NJ 08244		\$0.00	11/08/2019	\$252.00

Purpose: GOTV-POLLWORKERS-ELECTION DAY ACTIVITIES

Check No.	Payee Name And Address	Date	Balance Amount	Date Disbursed	Amount Disbursed
54127449-0	REILLY, EDWARD 1464 W RIVERSIDE DRIVE FL 1, ATLANTIC CITY NJ 08401		\$0.00	11/08/2019	\$168.00

Purpose: GOTV-POLLWORKERS-ELECTION DAY ACTIVITIES

Check No.	Payee Name And Address	Date	Balance Amount	Date Disbursed	Amount Disbursed
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## **WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY**

In consideration of the risk of injury while participating in "Canvassing" (the "Activity"), and as consideration for the right to participate in the activity, I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, assigns, or personal representatives, knowingly and voluntarily enter into this waiver and release of liability and hereby waive any and all rights, claims or causes of action of any kind whatsoever arising out of my participation in the Activity, and do hereby release and forever discharge RED CLOUD STRATEGIES LLC. their affiliates, managers, members, agents, attorneys, staff, volunteers, heirs, representatives, predecessors, successors and assigns, for any physical or psychological injury, including but not limited to illness, paralysis, death, damages, economical or emotional loss, that I may suffer as a direct result of my participation in the aforementioned Workshop Series, including traveling to and from an event related to this Activity.

I AM VOLUNTARILY PARTICIPATING IN THE AFOREMENTIONED ACTIVITY AND I AM PARTICIPATING IN THE ACTIVITY ENTIRELY AT MY OWN RISK. I AM AWARE OF THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH TRAVELING TO AND FROM AS WELL AS PARTICIPATING IN THIS ACTIVITY, WHICH MAY INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, PHYSICAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL INJURY, PAIN, SUFFERING, ILLNESS, DISFIGUREMENT, TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT DISABILITY (INCLUDING PARALYSIS), ECONOMIC OR EMOTIONAL LOSS, AND DEATH. I UNDERSTAND THAT THESE INJURIES OR OUTCOMES MAY ARISE FROM MY OWN OR OTHERS' NEGLIGENCE, CONDITIONS RELATED TO TRAVEL, OR THE CONDITION OF THE ACTIVITY LOCATION(S). NONETHELESS, I ASSUME ALL RELATED RISKS, BOTH KNOWN OR UNKNOWN TO ME, OF MY PARTICIPATION IN THIS ACTIVITY, INCLUDING TRAVEL TO, FROM AND DURING THIS ACTIVITY.

I agree to indemnify and hold harmless against any and all claims, suits or actions of any kind whatsoever for liability, damages, compensation or otherwise brought by me or anyone on my behalf, including attorney's fees and any related costs, if litigation arises pursuant to any claims made by me or by anyone else acting on my behalf. If RED CLOUD STRATEGIES LLC incur any of these types of expenses, I agree to reimburse RED CLOUD STRATEGIES LLC. I acknowledge that RED CLOUD STRATEGIES LLC, and their directors, officers, volunteers, representatives and agents are not responsible for errors, omissions, acts or failures to act of any party or entity conducting a specific event or activity on behalf of RED CLOUD STRATEGIES LLC. I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THIS ACTIVITY MAY INVOLVE A TEST OF A PERSON'S PHYSICAL AND MENTAL LIMITS AND MAY CARRY WITH IT THE POTENTIAL FOR DEATH, SERIOUS INJURY, AND PROPERTY LOSS. The risks may include, but are not limited to, those caused by terrain, facilities, temperature, weather, lack of hydration, condition of participants, equipment, vehicular traffic and actions of others, including but not limited to, participants, volunteers, spectators, coaches, event officials and event monitors, and/or producers of the event.

## **QUALITY CONTROL STANDARDS**

I acknowledge and willingly accept the following daily shift requirements which must be met to be eligible for payment for each canvassing shift: All canvassers must return 3 verified signatures per shift. Release of check is dependent on the successful notarization of petitions. I accept that all petition affidavits for my petitions must be notarized at the time of payment for the activity.

I understand and accept that the event of proven fraud on my petition, or, the petitions of others as a result of my actions, will result in the immediate forfeiture of any and all payment due to me for the activity.

## **NONDISCLOSURE AGREEMENT**

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into by and between RED CLOUD STRATEGIES and \_\_\_\_\_, (hereinafter referred to as "Canvasser"). RED CLOUD STRATEGIES and Canvasser, by and on the date of their respective authorized signatures below, hereby agree as follows:

1. RED CLOUD STRATEGIES has agreed to data and voting records of a confidential and proprietary nature to the Canvasser solely for the purpose of utilizing internally and within the given tasks of the Canvassers employment with RED CLOUD STRATEGIES. It is agreed that the information and data transferred by RED

CLOUD STRATEGIES to the Canvasser shall be considered "Confidential Information" and subject to the provisions of this Agreement.

2. The Canvasser agrees that it shall keep in confidence and not disclose to any other person, firm, business or entity any of the Confidential Information provided by RED CLOUD STRATEGIES and its partners, clients, employees and associates.

3. All Confidential Information is furnished upon the condition that it shall remain the property of RED CLOUD STRATEGIES and shall be returned to RED CLOUD STRATEGIES promptly at its request, or in the event Canvasser discontinues its relationship with RED CLOUD STRATEGIES.

4. This is the entire Agreement between the parties concerning Confidential Information and it supersedes any prior written or oral agreements thereon and may not be amended or modified except by subsequent agreement in writing signed by the parties hereto.

5. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of New Jersey.

6. Nothing in this Agreement shall grant to either party the right to make commitments of any kind, for or on behalf of the other party. This Agreement is not intended to be, nor shall it be construed, so as to create or imply the existence of a joint venture, partnership, or other business organization.

7. Neither party shall assign or sublicense its rights or obligations under this Agreement.

8. This Agreement shall be effective upon the date of acceptance and agreement by both parties ("Effective Date"), and except for the obligations of Paragraphs 1 and 2 above, which shall remain effective perpetually with respect to any Confidential Information transmitted under this Agreement, shall (unless extended by mutual agreement in writing) terminate upon thirty (30) days, written notice by one party to the other. Upon any such termination, all Confidential Information shall immediately be returned to RED CLOUD STRATEGIES.

9. The undersigned represent and warrant that they have the authority to execute this Agreement on behalf of themselves and their respective parties.

I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS "WAIVER AND RELEASE" AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY. I EXPRESSLY AGREE TO RELEASE AND DISCHARGE AND ALL OF ITS AFFILIATES, MANAGERS, MEMBERS, AGENTS, ATTORNEYS, STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, HEIRS, REPRESENTATIVES, PREDECESSORS, SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, FROM ANY AND ALL CLAIMS OR CAUSES OF ACTION AND I AGREE TO VOLUNTARILY GIVE UP OR WAIVE ANY RIGHT THAT I OTHERWISE HAVE TO BRING A LEGAL ACTION AGAINST FOR PERSONAL INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE.

To the extent that statute or case law does not prohibit releases for negligence, this release is also for negligence on the part of RED CLOUD STRATEGIES LLC, its agents, and employees. In the event that I should require medical care or treatment, I agree to be financially responsible for any costs incurred as a result of such treatment. I am aware and understand that I should carry my own health insurance. In the event that any damage to equipment or facilities occurs as a result of my willful actions, neglect or recklessness, I acknowledge and agree to be held liable for any and all costs associated with any actions of neglect or recklessness.

Full Name (please, print): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Atlantic City  
Residents for Good  
Government  
@betterwayforac

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3.4

3.4 out of 5

Based on the opinion of 5 people



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Recommended by 5 people

MOST HELPFUL

MOST RECENT



**Duck'em Quay** doesn't recommend Atlantic City Residents for Good Government.

December 2, 2019 ·

terrible boss named ryan , treats employees like there poor , couldnt even get our checks on time after working for two weeks , very unprofessional , never will work for him again

1



**Ben Albert** recommends Atlantic City Residents for Good Government.

August 27, 2019 ·

Atlantic City Deserves better! Residents are standing up to demand a form of government that's accountable to the people not the political class and their select few cronies.

2

2 Comments 2 Shares

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**Jerome Gates** False advertising they said the don't have quotas or are they're not based on how many signatures you get they said in the message that they pay by the hour but when you get the job they will have sign a contract saying its in fact they are based off a quota and how many signatures you get its a scam and I worked 21hours and now I feel I'm being cheated out of my time and effort.

10w



**Kathryn Elsayed** recommends Atlantic City Residents for Good Government.

July 19, 2019 · 🌐

The citizens of Atlantic City have the right to decide their own government. By signing this petition you're making it possible for people to choose which form of government they want; a special election will be held called a referendum. Your signature will help make this referendum possible, so please sign.

1

2 Comments 2 Shares



**Jerome Gates** False advertising they said the don't have quotas or are they're not based on how many signatures you get they said in the message that they pay by the hour but when you get the job they will have sign a contract saying its in fact they are based off a quota and how many signatures you get its a scam and I worked 21hours and now I feel I'm being cheated out of my time and effort.

10w



**Major Edward Drinks** replied · 1 Reply



**Iris June Weingarten** recommends Atlantic City Residents for Good Government.

November 22, 2019 · 🌐

Anything is better than what we have now