

The letters below call for an investigation to determine whether Brandon Todd's recent coordination and use of public resources for electoral purposes was illegal. The people of Ward 4 deserve to know whether their Councilman was violating our trust and breaching our privacy. We need to know whether we can trust our Councilman, whether he believes the rules apply to him, his staff, and his donors. Most of all, we must be able to trust that our government works for the people instead of working for elected leaders. As DC residents, if we want a government that works for us, we must strenuously resist corruption, appearances of corruption, and seek transparency and ethics in government.

In this google doc are two letters, nearly identical, the first to the Office of Campaign Finance and the other the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability. See next page for the first letter.

Director Cecily E. Collier-Montgomery
Office of Campaign Finance
1015 Half Street, SE, Suite 775
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Director Collier-Montgomery,

Residents of Ward 4 who had previously communicated with Councilmember Brandon Todd's city council office recently received email correspondence from a candidate for school board, Rhonda Henderson.¹ Contacting one's elected representatives is an essential part of democracy and comes with an expectation of privacy, as well as an expectation that such contact will not be used for political purposes. Councilmember Todd may have betrayed that trust and appears to have done it by misusing public resources.

The list used by Ms. Henderson to contact many Ward 4 residents was developed by Councilmember Todd's Council office (see appendix). The office collected constituents' personal information when residents corresponded with the office. Those correspondences were typically related to matters of public concern such as pending legislation and sometimes matters relating to constituent services. Residents trusted the office and shared their personal information with a government official for a public, non-political purpose. The information given to CM Todd to execute his governmental responsibilities was used for the purpose of advancing a political campaign.

Todd's office's support for Henderson was not limited to furnishing a government email list. Councilmember Todd's office has repeatedly used public resources to promote Henderson. Another example was the use of their Office's email list to promote her directly without noting her candidacy. An example of that email is attached as a PDF.

The above examples are just ones that several ANC 4C Commissioners know about from receiving the correspondence directly. CM Todd's office may have used staff time or other resources to illegally support Ms. Henderson's candidacy. As constituents, we should know whether any of the Council resources for Ward have been used for private campaigning.

The Office of Campaign Finance has previously identified five areas of campaign law infractions committed by Councilmember Todd. Therefore, the ANC is concerned that this potential misuse of public resources demonstrates the continuation of a pattern of noncompliance with District law.

¹ [Residents Say D.C. Council Member Improperly Used Email List To Support School Board Candidate](#)

We encourage Councilman Todd, his staff, and his campaign associates to be forthcoming with information, provide materials proactively and expediently so as to help a thorough investigation progress successfully. According to news sources, this did not occur in the past.²

We urge you to investigate whether there was coordination between his Council Office and Ms. Henderson's campaign, what parts of that coordination violated campaign finance laws, and what other activities violated campaign finance laws. Further, if this investigation determines any violation(s) has occurred, the ANC would urge the board to offer training as well as take appropriate actions necessary to prevent further violations.

This letter was approved for distribution by a vote of __-__-__, which constituted a quorum, at a properly noticed meeting of ANC on December 12, 2018.

Zachary Teutsch (or any subsequent representative of ANC 4C05 or officer of ANC 4C in his absence) has been authorized to represent ANC 4C in this matter by a vote __-__-__.

Sincerely,

Bennett Hilley, Chairperson, ANC 4C

CC: Karl Racine, Attorney General

Charles Allen, Council Member, Chair of Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety

² [Council member Todd gets minor fine for many campaign finance infractions](#)

Appendix:

Zachary Teutsch (Commissioner, 4c05) received the email reproduced below from Rhonda Henderson. He never subscribed to her list and received it via his personal (not ANC) address. He clicked on the link titled “Why did I get this?” and received the below information from MailChimp (the email list provider). He’d be happy to provide full documentation upon request. [Here](#) is a complete copy of an email CM Todd sent from his council office, using government resources, promoting Henderson days before she filed her candidacy.

Why I Support Rhonda Henderson For Ward 4 State Board of Education In Dec 4th Special Election inbox x

Brandon Todd brandon.todd.2017@gmail.com [x](#) mailchimpapp.net Fri, Nov 9, 2:23 PM

to me

November 9, 2018

Dear Neighbor,

This past Tuesday was an amazing Election Day and a testament to the power of voting. We here in Ward 4 have one more election to look forward to – the special election to fill the vacated seat on the State Board of Education, **Tuesday, December 4, 2018**.

I am proud to support **Rhonda Henderson**, an innovative and visionary advocate for public education. Today I ask for your support of Rhonda and her plan to move our kids and schools forward. Are you with her?

Main List

About Main List

[Unsubscribe](#) or [Update Profile](#)

You were subscribed to this list because:

You are receiving this email because you contacted Councilmember Todd in the past.

Rhonda Henderson for Ward 4 State Board of Education
207 Sheridan St, NW
Washington, DC 20011

[Add us to your address book](#)

Tameka Collier, Chairperson
Board of Ethics and Government Accountability
One Judiciary Square
441 4th Street, NW, 830 South, Washington, DC 20001

Dear Chairperson Collier,

Residents of Ward 4 who had previously communicated with Councilmember Brandon Todd's city council office recently received email correspondence from a candidate for school board, Rhonda Henderson.³ Contacting one's elected representatives is an essential part of democracy and comes with an expectation of privacy, as well as an expectation that such contact will not be used for political purposes. Councilmember Todd may have betrayed that trust and appears to have done it by misusing public resources.

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