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House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

June 12, 2024

Secretary Reggie McNeil
Department of General Services
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
515 North Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17125

Dear Secretary McNeil,

I am writing over concern that taxpayer-funded resources and employees, through the Department of General Services (DGS), have been inappropriately used for campaign purposes in contravention of state and departmental policy.

On June 5, 2024, a rally in support of President Joe Biden's reelection was held on the front Capitol Steps. This event included campaign signs and members of Democratic leadership from both chambers speaking about the importance of the upcoming Presidential election and attempting to influence voter choice.

In addition, on June 11, 2024, members of the Legislative Black Caucus, including members of legislative Democratic leadership from both chambers, held a press event "to launch the Black Pennsylvanians for Biden-Harris Coalition." The event took place on the South Lawn of the Irvis Office Building.

In video and pictures from the June 11, 2024, event, not only are rugs with "Commonwealth Media Services" labeling visible, but DGS employees are seen working sound equipment for the event.

As I am sure you are aware, the Department of General Services has limited the ability to hold political and campaign events with the use of DGS facilities and/or employees.¹

¹ "Members of the Executive, Legislative, or Judicial branch may request use of the Capitol Media Center for any non-campaign event, press conference, or interview only. Outside groups may only use the facility if a sponsoring agency or official attends and participates in the event, press conference, or interview.", Department of General Services, Commonwealth Media Services,
<https://www.dgs.pa.gov/CMS/Pages/default.aspx>

Without a doubt, these two events utilized Commonwealth—ultimately taxpayer—resources and employees in furtherance of clear campaign goals and political ends.

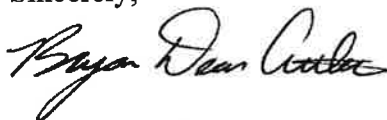
Unfortunately, the ability to use Commonwealth facilities and resources for campaign purposes has eased the ability of legislative Democratic leadership to then politicize proceedings of the House Floor by inviting campaign surrogates to be recognized by members of the General Assembly.

While we respect the First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of speech and expression, the use of official resources for campaign purposes is unethical and illegitimate.

It further erodes the faith and confidence taxpayers have in the use of their funded resources and the operation of their state government.

As we move forward in what is likely to be a contentious election year, please let us know what we can do to help you further scrutinize requests that may be of a political or campaign nature as we work together to restore the trust and confidence people should have in the management of their government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan D. Cutler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bryan" being the most prominent.

Bryan D. Cutler
Republican Leader
Pennsylvania House of Representatives