



Office of the County Prosecutor

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April 8, 2019

John W. Schmidt, Deputy County Clerk
Office of the County Clerk – Election Division
Elections & Archive Center
100 University Ct
PO Box 218
Blackwood, New Jersey 08012-0218

Re: Challenge to the Nomination Petitions of Freeholder Candidate Jerome A. Taylor, Sr.

Deputy County Clerk Schmidt:

This Office received the Challenge to the Nomination Petitions of Freeholder Candidate Jerome A. Taylor, Sr., pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:13-10. The challenge relates to the three Petitions filed in support of Mr. Taylor's nomination filed on April 1, 2019. Mr. Taylor signed each Petition and in so doing, swore the Petitions were signed by each of the signers "in his/her own proper handwriting." The Challenge set forth the reasonable belief that the signatures at lines 10 through 12 on the Petition designated with the letter "C" were signed by the same person, one of whom was Mr. Taylor. The Challenge set forth the same belief with regard to the signatures at lines 15 through 17 and lines 39 through 42 on that same petition. Finally, the Petition set forth the reasonable belief that the signatures at lines 19 and 20 on the Petition designated with the letter "H" were signed by the same person.

This Office conducted an investigation into these allegations. The investigation revealed that the signatures at lines 19 and 20 on the "H" Petition were in fact signed by the same person, Ms. Judy Robinson. In a tape-recorded statement, Ms. Robinson admitted to signing Hester Holloway's name on her behalf, in Ms. Holloway's presence. In addition, with regard to lines 39 and 40 on the "C" Petition, Ataya Pitts admitted that she signed on behalf of her mother at her place of employment, after seeking her mother's permission to do so. Ms. Pitts' mother was not present at the time Ataya Pitts signed her name, but she was aware her daughter did so, according to Ataya Pitts' tape-recorded statement.

We are forwarding the results of our investigation to your office at this time for any action that you deem appropriate. If you have any further questions, please contact me at (856) 225-8587.

Regards,

Lesley Sokol

Lesley Sokol
Assistant Prosecutor
Special Prosecutions Unit