Advisory Opinion
Case No. 97032.A

Date: December 11, 1997
Re: Cash Contributions

Recently-adopted amendments to the Campaign Financing Ordinance (effective October 11, 1997) include a provision entitled "Cash Contributions," which states:

No person shall make any cash contribution to any candidate in an amount in excess of $250.

§ 2-164-041.

Since the passage of this section, a number of employees and officials have inquired about the meaning of "cash," which is not defined in the Ordinance. In response to these inquiries, staff has asked the Board to determine whether money orders and cashier’s checks fall under the intended meaning of "cash" in this provision.

Having reviewed the various monetary instruments by which campaign contributions can be made, the Board determines that "cash," within the intended meaning of § 2-164-041, includes money orders and cashier’s checks. This section therefore prohibits a person from making any contribution by cashier’s check or by money order in excess of $250.

The Board notes that additional documentation as to the source of a contribution by money order or cashier’s check does not take it out of this category.

Darryl L. DePriest
Chair

rec/CASHAO