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Contact: Diane.Shinn@dc.gov, 202-727-8991

Auditor Welcomes Court Decision on ANC Misappropriation

Action based on 2019 ODCA report and findings

July 27, 2026 (WASHINGTON) – D.C. Auditor Kathy Patterson today welcomed action by the D.C. Superior Court which awarded a default judgment totaling \$81,064 against Rhonda Edwards-Hines for unauthorized spending while she served as treasurer of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 8C in 2017 and 2018.

The civil judgment was announced Friday by Associate Judge Darlene M. Soltys and includes \$42,564 in treble damages for \$14,188 in misappropriated funds and \$38,500 in civil penalties for seven violations of the District of Columbia False Claims Act (D.C. Code § 2-381.02(a)). The lawsuit was filed by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) based on audit findings published in the 2019 Office of the D.C. Auditor (ODCA) report, [ANC 8C Misappropriated Funds](#).

The ODCA report found that Edwards-Hines, acting as the former ANC 8C treasurer, together with the former ANC chairperson misappropriated funds resulting in \$15,688 in unauthorized spending and \$14,188 in what appeared to be fraudulent spending. The \$14,188 was comprised of checks made out to Edwards-Hines and signed by her and the former chairperson with no documentation to support the checks.

ODCA referred the matter to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in 2019, the OIG referred the matter to the OAG in 2021, and OAG filed the suit in 2024. The second Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner who was implicated in the ODCA report passed away in 2022.

“We appreciate the follow-up by the Office of the Attorney General,” Patterson said. “Holding elected officials accountable for mishandling taxpayer money is a critical undertaking, and we are glad the good work of the ODCA team in 2019 has brought us this result.”

The ANC audit was requested in February 2019 by the then-incoming chairman of ANC 8C who expressed concerns with questionable transactions by his predecessors that had occurred in 2017 and 2018, asking at the time for an audit to be done quickly.

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