

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

_____	)	
In Re:	)	
	)	Administrative Order
Dolores Bryant, Candidate	)	No. 26-049
	)	Appeal of Preliminary Determination
_____	)	

MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER

This matter came before the District of Columbia Board of Elections (“the Board”) at a special meeting on August 13, 2026. It is an appeal from the Board’s Executive Director’s preliminary determination that Dolores Miracle Bryant, candidate for the Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC”) Single Member District (“SMD”) 6/8F01 (“the Candidate”) in the November 3, 2026 General Election, did not meet the statutory requirements to be a candidate for this position based on information that she provided in her Declaration of Candidacy. Board Member Karyn Greenfield presided over the hearing on this matter.¹ The Candidate appeared at the hearing *pro se*.

BACKGROUND

On August 3, 2026, Dolores Miracle Bryant submitted a Declaration of Candidacy form (“Declaration”) for the office of ANC SMD 6/8F01. The Declaration must be filed by candidates seeking to have their names printed on the ballot. 3 DCMR § 601.1.

On the form, the Candidate listed her residences “for the last three (3) years,” and identified her current residence as “601 L Street WDC 20003.” Her Declaration stated that she

¹ An appeal of an adverse preliminary determination of candidate eligibility may be heard by a one-member panel of the Board. 3 DCMR § 601.13; *see also* D.C. Code § 1-1001.05(g).

had been at this address from “8/26 to present.” The Declaration includes a statement that “I swear or affirm that all of the information I have provided on this form is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.”²

Also on August 3, the Candidate completed two voter registration applications, one handwritten and one on-line. The handwritten application listed her new address as 601 L Street SE, with an apartment number of “1/2.” The online application listed the 601 L Street address but did not include an apartment number. The Candidate later said that she ended up with two registration forms because a Board staff member assisted her with the application.

D.C. law provides the following regarding qualifications for ANC positions:

No person shall be a member of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission unless the person:

- (A) Is a registered qualified elector actually residing in the single-member district from which the person was elected.
- (B) Has been residing in such district continuously for the 60 days immediately preceding the day on which the person files the nominating petitions as a candidate as such a member;
- (C) Holds no other elected public office[.]

D.C. Official Code § 1-309.05(a)(1).

The Candidate’s new address, 601 L Street, is within the boundaries of SMD 6/8F01. Because the Candidate’s Declaration stated that she only began living at that address in August 2026, however, the Board’s Executive Director issued a preliminary determination on August 10, 2026 that Ms. Bryant was not eligible to run for Commissioner of ANC SMD 6/8F01 because

² Until recently, Ms. Bryant was the ANC commissioner for SMD 8E06. On August 10, 2026, the BOE received a signed resignation from Ms. Bryant to give up her old seat.

she had not resided in that SMD continuously 60 days prior to submitting the nominating petition.³

On August 12, 2026, the Candidate timely filed an appeal of this preliminary determination.⁴ In her appeal, the Candidate stated that she signed a lease at 601 L Street in August 2025 and that she had made a mistake when she indicated on the Declaration that she had lived at that address starting in August “2026.” The Candidate provided a utility bill covering the period of May 28 to June 25, 2026. The bill was in her name (“Dolores Bryant”) and listed her address as “601 L Street SE # 218.” The Candidate said that she was not able to obtain a copy of her lease in time for the appeal.

On August 12, 2026, the Board’s Office of General Counsel (“OGC”) notified the Candidate that it would hold a prehearing conference that day on her appeal of the Executive Director’s preliminary determination. The Candidate was informed that the prehearing conference would allow her to discuss the evidence presented.

During the preconference hearing, OGC discussed with the Candidate her Declaration, her most recent voter registration forms, and the utility bill that she provided. The Candidate reiterated that she had mistakenly listed the wrong year on the Declaration. She said that although she signed the lease in August 2025, she did not move her items into the apartment (#218) until May 1, 2026. She said that, in updating her voter registration form, a Board representative had assisted her with completing the form online after she had filled out handwritten form. She said that the assistant

³ 3 DCMR § 601.6 (providing that the Board’s Executive Director or her designee will, three business days after the filing of a Declaration of Candidacy, issue a preliminary determination as to a candidate’s eligibility). The preliminary determination of eligibility set forth in the Board’s regulations goes to the candidate’s qualifications for office. *See* D.C. Code §1-1001.05(a)(14) (providing that the Board issue regulations necessary to determine that candidates meet the statutory qualifications for office). It does not concern the adequacy of the candidate’s nominating petition, which can be challenged by a registered District voter.

⁴ 3 DCMR § 601.11 (providing that the candidate must appeal a preliminary determination within three days after receipt of notice of an adverse determination of eligibility).

might have misread her handwriting as “1/2” for the apartment number, since her handwriting was not always clear.⁵ The online registration form does not include an apartment number.

The Candidate was duly notified that a hearing on her appeal of the Executive Director’s preliminary determination would be held on August 13, 2026.⁶ At the Board hearing, the assigned OGC attorney summarized the procedural history of the case and described the issues discussed during the prehearing conference, as well as the evidence in the matter.

The General Counsel swore the Candidate under oath to provide testimony about her address. The Candidate testified that her current address is 601 L Street, Apartment 218, Washington D.C. 20003. She said the “August 2026” date on her Declaration was an error, and that she had physically moved into the apartment on May 1, 2026.⁷ Regarding the “1/2” listed on her voter registration application, Ms. Bryant said she decided to put “1/2” as her apartment for security reasons, following a domestic matter. She said she did not realize how important it was to put the real apartment number down.

The General Counsel recommended that, in light of the Candidate’s testimony that the mistaken date on the candidate declaration form was an error, and the evidence that she had lived at the current address within District 6/8 F01 for more than 60 days prior to filing the nominating petition in support of her candidacy on August 5, 2026, that the Board waive this mistake and find that she was eligible to run for this position. The General Counsel noted that the petition was still subject to the challenge period that concludes on August 17. After hearing the evidence and the

⁵ Here, however, the apartment number on the handwritten form does appear to clearly show “1/2”: 

⁶ 3 DCMR § 601.12 (providing that the Board shall hold a hearing on preliminary determination appeals within three days after receipt of an appeal notice).

⁷ Ms. Bryant affirmed that she did not have a copy of her lease and that she signed it in August 2025. She said the apartment building uses a portal and that a copy of the lease was not yet available in time for the proceedings.

General Counsel’s recommendation, Member Greenfield made a motion to waive the error and to find Ms. Bryant was eligible to run for SMD 6/8F01 and subsequently approved the motion.

ANALYSIS

The Board has waived formal errors when a candidate mistakenly lists the wrong date on a petition or omits a date when the evidence shows that the actual dates involved met legal requirements. For example, in *Edmonson v. Todd*, BOE Administrative Order No. 15-002 at 7 (Mar. 2, 2015), the Board waived an error when a candidate entered the incorrect date for when he started residing at his residence and otherwise had resided there for the required amount of time. *See also In re Phillip Newland*, BOE Administrative Order No. 23-006 at 4-5 (Feb. 9, 2023) (waiving the failure of a circulator to list a date on an affidavit when the circulator appeared before the Board and testified under oath that the signatures had been gathered within the required circulation period); *In re Earl Douglas*, BOE Case No. 22-017 at 5 (Aug. 19, 2022) (waiving the defect of a missing date on a circulator affidavit where the circulator testified before the Board that the omission was an error).⁸

In addition to her sworn testimony, the Candidate provided a utility bill in her own name that showed she had been residing at an address within the ANC SMD more than 60 days immediately preceding the August 5, 2026 submission of the nominating petition in support of candidacy. *See* D.C. Code § 1-309.05(a)(1)(B).

⁸ This matter would also differ from the decision of the Board in *In re Kuduk*, BOE Administrative Order 26-014 (Mar. 30, 2026), where the Board required a candidate to use the last name printed on her Declaration of Candidacy form as her preferred last name, rather than picking a different preferred last name after the fact. As the Board noted, “Completing and filing the Declaration of Candidacy form is a critical part of the ballot access process. Candidates need to take seriously the information that they provide on their Declarations and be held to the representations made thereon.” *Id.* at 6 n.8. In that case, the Board did permit the candidate to use a different first name than her legal name, based on testimony and evidence about how she was known in the community. The candidate had listed this preferred first name on her candidate declaration form.

The Board notes that the Candidate provided incorrect information on both her Declaration (the start date of her new residence) and in her handwritten voter registration application (her apartment number). The date error on her Declaration appears to be due to haste and a lack of attention to detail. The different explanations the Candidate provided for the wrong apartment number, although not dispositive to the issues here, also point to a lack of care in completing forms where the signer is swearing or affirming that the information provided is accurate. The Board and the public rely on accurate information being provided in official election forms, sworn under oath. Although the date error can be waived by the Board in light of the candidate's sworn testimony and other evidence, the Board emphasizes the importance of candidates and the general public taking the time to carefully provide accurate information on Board forms, especially when the individual is stating that the information is correct under penalty of perjury.⁹

CONCLUSION

For these reasons, it is hereby

ORDERED that the Executive Director's preliminary determination that the Candidate did not meet the statutory requirements to run for Commissioner of ANC SMD 6/8F01 is **REVERSED**. Subject to any successful petition challenge that might be filed, the Candidate may run for the position listed on her Declaration filed on August 3, 2026.

⁹ Ms. Bryant should provide an updated voter registration form reflecting her correct apartment number. In addition, where appropriate, a voter may request that their residence and mailing address be made confidential under appropriate circumstances outlined in the law. *See* 3 DCMR § 510.9 (describing the procedure to designate an address confidential under the Address Confidentiality Act of 2018).

I issue this written order today, which is consistent with the Board's oral ruling rendered on August 13, 2026.

Dated: August 14, 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Greenfield", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Karyn Greenfield
Presiding Board Member