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PRESS RELEASE

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RI Board of Elections is derelict in its duties to uphold clean elections by ignoring complaints regarding Dufault and others

Operation Clean Government (OCG) for the third time has sent a letter to the Board of Elections requesting a response as to the status of two complaints alleging violations of Board of Election reporting requirements that were filed on January 5, 2005. Among others, Guy Dufault and Citizens for Representative Government are named in these complaints due to their actions in the 2004 elections. OCG turned over materials from these complaints to the State Police last week in a complaint alleging fraud and forgery by Guy Dufault.

This third request, dated November 4, 2005 was to RI Board of Elections Executive Director, Robert Kando and copied to Roger Begin and Attorney General Patrick Lynch. To date, Mr. Kando has not responded to OCG's request to conduct a thorough investigation into the alleged violations outlined in the complaints as required by law under **Duties and powers of the board of elections § 17-25-5**.

Ten months have transpired since OCG filed two complaints detailing 21 alleged violations of Board of Election reporting requirements regarding Ballot questions in the 2004 elections. Bob Arruda, Chairman of OCG states: "we have yet to receive clarification as to the status of these verified complaints which have gone through rigorous research by OCG's legal team. If the RI Board of Elections refuses to enforce the laws governing clean elections, then citizens have no assurance that elections are not being compromised."

The reason that OCG is requesting that Mr. Kando initiate a preliminary investigation, states Arruda, is that "Chairman Roger Begin's only response to the written verified complaints has been to personally attempt to contact me several times and suggest that he and I meet to discuss these complaints." Arruda claims that "meeting with the chairman of the Board of Directors to discuss a verified complaint before that Board would be a conflict. The complaints that were painstakingly constructed with the supporting documentation that would normally be compiled as a result of a thorough investigation should stand on their merit and any discussion should be in an open session or closed session of the full Board." Arruda continues, "If Begin suggests that these complaints have been dismissed due to lack of merit, then he must explain away the overwhelming evidence that was attached as exhibits and produce the minutes of the meeting in which the complaints were reviewed."

"The RI Board of Elections cannot just pick and choose the complaints that they will pursue based on political motivation" says Arruda, "This is a serious matter and citizens in Rhode Island must be assured that elections are not compromised, and if so, that the RI Board of Elections will

conduct the due diligence and move swiftly to rectify the impropriety.” Ten months is not moving swiftly and OCG warns that these complaints will not just go away by ignoring them.

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