

Members of the Minnesota Campaign Finance Board,

I am writing to file a complaint about a violation of Minnesota campaign finance law committed by the "Best Fair Foods" Committee of 7373 Memory Ln. NE. Fridley, MN 55432, at the 2019 Minnesota State Fair. Throughout the duration of the 2019 Minnesota State Fair the Best Fair Foods Committee collected official political contributions as payment for doughnuts it sold at its "Grandstand Mini Doughnuts" stand without verbally informing purchasers that they were making a political contribution and without a **prominent** sign providing notice that the money collected was a political contribution. This is a violation of Minnesota Statute 10A.271 Subdivision 1.:

Notice to contributors. A political committee, political fund, political party unit, or principal campaign committee that raises funds through the sale of goods or services must disclose to potential customers that the proceeds from the purchase are a political contribution and to whom the contribution is made. The notice may be provided verbally at the time of purchase, or through the prominent display of a sign providing the notice in immediate proximity to the point of sale at the location where the goods or services are sold.

The exception in Subdivision 2. does not apply as the fair is not a fundraising event and the main purpose of the State Fair is not to collect fundraising.

Included in the envelope this letter came in is a flash drive with photos showing that the two signs providing notice that all monies given to the booth are contributions to a political committee are absolutely **not prominent**. In fact, they are intentionally hidden, in relatively small print, under the ingredients list, off to the side of the sales windows. The print of the notices is less than 3/16" tall, which is 1/600th the height of the 9' 4" tall booth. It is the smallest print on the entire booth, even smaller than that of the ingredients list. In no way were the notices prominently displayed in a way that a person who just wanted tasty mini doughnuts would see them. I included videos on the flash drive of 4 people who agreed to be interviewed on camera stating that they bought doughnuts at the Grandstand Mini Doughnuts booth and had no idea they were making a political contribution to a political committee when they paid for their doughnuts. The photos and videos included in this complaint were all taken August 30th, 2019. Also, of the more than ten people I interviewed who had already bought doughnuts, not a single one knew they had made a political contribution. Only four people that I asked agreed to go on camera. This is further evidence that the hidden notice is not seen by people because it is

hidden and not at all prominent. If the sign was properly prominently displayed all of them would have known well in advance of making their purchase that they were making a contribution to a political committee, the Best Fair Food Committee. Some of these people, especially Andrew in the last video, were visibly upset when they found they had been tricked into making a political contribution to a cause they detested. The purpose of Minnesota Statute 10A.271 is clearly to make sure that any person making a political contribution while buying a product from a fundraising stand knows they are making a political contribution. Best Fair Foods violated both the intention and the letter of this law.

Collecting political contributions from persons who are unaware they are making a political contribution is completely unethical on its face. All political funds must collect money legally and ethically. The Best Fair Foods Committee thumbs it's nose at both requirements and must be reprimanded. The booth probably took in over \$221,000 in illegal contributions over the course of the Fair. (\$221,247.90 was the Committee's total reported received non-itemized contributions in their 2019 CFBMN Report)

We all need to play by the established rules.

Andrew Jacob Schmitz
AS4687@hotmail.com
952-564-9089
2515 Blaisdell Ave. S. Apt. #204
Minneapolis, MN 55404



2/29/2020

(I have also included the full text of this letter on the flash drive)

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Fresh & Delicious
MINI DONUTS
Fresh & Delicious

DOOR
PLEASE
DO NOT
BLOCK

struction

State Fair Grandstand

DRY INGREDIENTS:

enriched bleached flour (wheat flour, malted flour, niacin, iron, thiamine mononitrate, riboflavin, folic acid); sugar; vegetable shortening (partially hydrogenated soybean oil); nonfat dry milk; leavening (sodium acid pyrophosphate, sodium bicarbonate, monocalcium phosphate); soy lecithin; dried egg yolk; dextrose; salt; corn starch; corn flour; potato flour; lecithin; pure ground nutmeg; artificial flavor.

LIQUID INGREDIENT:

water

FRY LIQUID:

soybean oil – trans fat free

SUGAR MIX:

sugar, starch, cinnamon

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 10A.271 proceeds from the sale of these products are a political contribution to the Better Business Bureau of Ramsey County Foods Committee, which donates profits to better Ramsey County



GRANDSTAND MINI NUTS

INGREDIENTS

DRY INGREDIENTS:

enriched bleached flour (wheat flour, malted barley flour, niacin, iron, thiamine mononitrate, riboflavin, folic acid); sugar; vegetable shortening (partially hydrogenated soybean oil); nonfat dry milk; leavening (sodium acid pyrophosphate, sodium bicarbonate, monocalcium phosphate); soy flour; dried egg yolk; dextrose; salt; corn starch; yellow corn flour; potato flour; lecithin; pure ground nutmeg; artificial flavor.

LIQUID INGREDIENT:

water

FRY LIQUID:

soybean oil – trans fat free

SUGAR MIX:

sugar, starch, cinnamon

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 10A.271 proceeds from the purchase of these products are a political contribution to the Best Fair Foods Committee, which donates profits to better Ramsey County

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**GRANDSTAND MINI DONUTS
INGREDIENTS**

DRY INGREDIENTS:

enriched bleached flour (wheat flour, malted barley flour, niacin, iron, thiamine mononitrate, riboflavin, folic acid); sugar; vegetable shortening (partially hydrogenated soybean oil); nonfat dry milk; leavening (sodium acid pyrophosphate, sodium bicarbonate, monocalcium phosphate); soy flour; dried egg yolk; dextrose; salt; corn starch; yellow corn flour; potato flour; lecithin; pure ground nutmeg; artificial flavor.

LIQUID INGREDIENT:
water

FRY LIQUID:
soybean oil – trans fat free

SUGAR MIX:
sugar, starch, cinnamon

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 10A.271 proceeds from the purchase of these products are a political contribution to the Best Fair Foods Committee, which donates profits to better Ramsey County

DONUTS

\$5

A BAG

CASH ONLY

Four Bag Limit

Proud Sponsor of the Grandstand

Fresh & Delicious **Grandstand** MINI DONUTS Fresh & Delicious

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

DONUTS \$5 A BAG CASH ONLY

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

INGREDIENTS

DRY INGREDIENTS:

enriched bleached flour (wheat flour, niacin, iron, thiamine mononitrate, folic acid); sugar; vegetable shortening (hydrogenated soybean oil); yeast; leavening (sodium acid pyrophosphate, sodium bicarbonate, monocalcium phosphate, dried egg yolk; dextrose; salt; corn flour; potato flour; lecithin); artificial flavor.

LIQUID INGREDIENT:

water

FRY LIQUID:

soybean oil – trans fat free

SUGAR MIX:

sugar, starch, cinnamon

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 10A.271 products of these products are a political contribution of the Ramsey County Foods Committee, which donates proceeds to the purchase of the Best Fair in Ramsey County.



GRANDSTAND MINI DONUTS

INGREDIENTS

DRY INGREDIENTS:

enriched bleached flour (wheat flour, malted barley flour, niacin, iron, thiamine mononitrate, riboflavin, folic acid); sugar; vegetable shortening (partially hydrogenated soybean oil); nonfat dry milk; leavening (sodium acid pyrophosphate, sodium bicarbonate, monocalcium phosphate); soy flour; dried egg yolk; dextrose; salt; corn starch; yellow corn flour; potato flour; lecithin; pure ground nutmeg; artificial flavor.

LIQUID INGREDIENT:

water

FRY LIQUID:

soybean oil – trans fat free

SUGAR MIX:

sugar, starch, cinnamon

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 10A.271 proceeds from the purchase of these products are a political contribution to the Best Fair Foods Committee, which donates profits to better Ramsey County

DONUTS
\$5
A BAG

CASH ONLY

Four Bag Limit

GRANDSTAND DONUTS
INGREDIENTS

DRY INGREDIENTS:

enriched bleached flour (w/ flour, niacin, iron, thiamine, folic acid); sugar; vegetable hydrogenated soybean oil); leavening (sodium acid pyrophosphate, monocalcium phosphate, sodium bicarbonate, dried egg yolk, dextrose, salt, corn flour, potato flour, lecithin, artificial flavor.

LIQUID INGREDIENT:

water

FRY LIQUID:

soybean oil - trans fat free

SUGAR MIX:

sugar, starch, cinnamon

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 16A.274, the purchase of these products are a political campaign contribution to the Ramsey County Food Committee, which donates proceeds to the purchase of food for the Best Fair Ramsey.

Grandstand MINI DONUTS *Fresh & Delicious*

DONUTS
\$5
A BAG
CASH ONLY

271





Fresh & Delicious **MINI DONUTS** Fresh & Delicious

DEMO TEAM

MEXICAN HAT

MEX HAT

MEX HAT