

hallwatch.org

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June 20, 2002

Ms. Beatrice Turner (Mary Mason)  
WHAT 1340 AM  
2471 N. 54th St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19131-1447

Dear Ms. Turner:

As you may know city officials—including Fairmount Park Commissioners—are required to file an annual Statement of Financial Interests form in which they disclose the sources of their income, their creditors, etc. The idea is to discourage—or at least make public—any possible conflicts of interest a high city official may have.

I have attempted to obtain copies of your forms for 2001, 2000 & 1999 without success. The Dept. of Records has completed forms for your colleagues, Commissioners Binswanger, Bloom, Nix and Pauciello, but not for you.

I'm going to assume that the fact that the City has no forms on file for you represents an honest mistake on your part. As a staunch defender of your community's interests, I'm sure you would agree that it is important that government officials play by the rules.

I plan on returning to the Dept. of Records June 27. I look forward to reviewing your documents at that time.

Sincerely,

Edmund Goppelt

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June 29, 2002

Ms. Beatrice Turner (Mary Mason)  
WHAT 1340 AM  
2471 N. 54th St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19131-1447

**Re: Financial Disclosure Forms**

Dear Ms. Turner:

I appreciate your taking the initiative and giving me a call on Wednesday.

Despite our conversation I am still unclear on a number of points:

1. What is your real (legal) name?
2. How long have you been a Commissioner?
3. When do you intend to file your Statements of Financial Interests Forms?

I'd appreciate it if you'd get back to me by July 10 with answers to these questions.

Sincerely,

Edmund Goppelt

August 3, 2002

Representative Beatrice Turner (Mary Mason)  
Mary Mason Show  
2471 N. 54th St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19131-1447

VIA FAX 215.581.5185

**Re: 2002 Statements of Financial Interests, Fairmount Park Commission**

Dear Ms. Turner:

As a courtesy, I am informing you of my intention to post Commissioners' financial disclosure reports, including your own, on Hallwatch on Monday, August 12. I hope publishing these reports will build public confidence in the Fairmount Park Commission as well as encourage Commissioners to deal responsibly with potential conflicts of interest.

The deadline for filing these reports with the City was May 1 for incumbent commissioners and July 3 for newly elected commissioners. To date I have reports for the following Commissioners and their Representatives:

Baum, E. Harris	Makadon, Marcia	Street, John F.
Binswanger, John K.	Nix, Robert N.C. III	Syrnick, Joseph R.
Bloom, James J.	Pauciello, Rosanne	Verna, Anna C.
Carapucci, William P.	Perez, Andres	
Kishinchand, Kumar	Richard, Victor N. III	

If you haven't filed but would like the public to see your report posted along with those of your colleagues, I will check one last time with the Dept. of Records next week. Any report filed by Thursday, August 8 will be included when I publish these documents on August 12. If there is anything you would like the public to know about why you haven't filed (e.g., a family or medical emergency), I would be happy to post a statement from you in place of your report.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Edmund Goppelt

August 12, 2002

Council President Anna Verna  
405 City Hall  
Broad and Market Streets  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

***Re: Ms. Mary Mason's Delinquent Annual Financial Disclosure Reports***

Dear Council President Verna:

As far as I can tell your representative to the Fairmount Park Commission, Ms. Mary Mason, has not filed a single financial disclosure report either for the six years she sat on the Commission as a member in her own right nor more recently as your representative to the Commission. Ms. Mason is the only returning Commissioner who hasn't filed their 2001 report.

I bring this to your attention only after having tried and failed to get answers from Ms. Mason herself (see attached correspondence). While Ms. Mason did call me, she refused to say when she was going to file. Nor would Ms. Mason say what her legal name is. Press reports and property records suggest that 'Mary Mason' is in fact a stage name for Ms. Beatrice Elmore Turner. Ms. Mason did not express any regret for having failed to publicly disclose her finances for seven years, nor did I have the sense that she felt in any hurry to make good on the missing reports: "I don't have to answer your questions. I will pay whatever fine is required [for late filing]."

As you know you recently named Ms. Mason as your representative to the Commission after the Board of Judges voted not to retain her. I would respectfully suggest that somebody who is uncomfortable disclosing the basic financial information asked for by the City is probably not cut out for public service. If Ms. Mason will be continuing as your representative, when will she file her reports? Do you know what Ms. Mason's legal name is? I'd appreciate a reply to these questions by August 19.

Sincerely,

Edmund Goppelt

Enclosed: Letters of 6/20/02, 6/29/02, and 8/12/02 to Mary Mason