

*This Letter was sent via UPS to President West his violations of union member's rights. President West received this letter via UPS on September 28, 2010 and failed to give copies to COBA Union Delegates. What is President Alonzo West hiding for the COBA executive board and the COBA membership?*

Alonzo West  
President  
Westchester COBA  
28 Claremont Ave.  
Thornwood, NY 10594

September 26, 2010

Dear Mr. President;

I am surprised that you would interrupt the process of Democracy by using union letterhead for your own political gain. As a dues-paying member of COBA, I find this to be unacceptable and unethical.

According to the Union Members Bill of Rights "*union officials cannot use union resources for campaigns*". Mr. President, you have violated the Union's Bill of Rights in attacking me by name in your letter dated August 24, 2010 to the COBA membership for your campaign as union President.

I will remind you that this is not the first time you have done this. As President, you also released a letter on COBA letterhead supporting Mr. Portella's campaign for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. This type of violation demonstrates a clear cut conflict of interest and will have an adverse effect on the election process and its potential outcome.

If you plan to continue to distribute your campaign literature to the entire COBA membership by mailings, it must be at your own cost and you must allow all other candidates the opportunity to do so at their own expense.

Mr. President, you have once again called into question the election process of the absentee ballot. There is no guarantee of in the safety of the ballots. The ballots are **not** kept in an independent vault or with an independent body; they are kept in the union office.

You cannot use the argument that it has always been this way. That does not mean it was or is the correct way. Now that you have violated union rules by using union resources for your own campaign, as a dues-paying member, I have the right to assure that my rights and that of the rights of other members will not be violated any further.

We are in Westchester County, NY not Ohio or Florida. We should not have to worry about whether elections are rigged and whether our absentee ballots will be counted correctly. We need to have a fair

and legitimate election process. If you are using union resources to “endorse” a candidate and for your own benefit, it is not a far stretch to believe that you may use union resources to “reject” other candidates for your own benefit.

To this end, as a dues-paying member of COBA, I am demanding an independent election body to handle our election process. This will be similar to the election process of NYC Corrections, AFL-CIO, NJ State Corrections and other notable unions. It’s time for COBA to come out of the “Stone Age” and be fair to its members!

Mr. President, if your character is for “True Accountability” and “True Transparency” for all COBA members, you and the executive board would agree and direct the election committee to retain an independent body to conduct, supervise, and certify COBA elections.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

*Damon K. Jones*

D.K. Jones #984

cc: Hon. Ken Jenkins  
County Legislator  
Chairman

Hon. Lyndon Williams  
County Legislator  
Vice Chairman

Hon. Bill Ryan  
County Legislator

N.Y. State Department of Labor

U.S. Department of Labor

COBA  
Executive Board

Membership