



**COUNTY OF CHEBOYGAN
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**



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MEDIA RELEASE

TO: News Media

FROM: Cheboygan County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

DATE: January 29, 2010

On Friday January 29, 2010, the Cheboygan County Prosecuting Attorney's Office filed a misdemeanor complaint against Dennis George Lennox II [25] of Topinabee. The complaint alleges in December 2009 that Lennox in his capacity as the Cheboygan County Drain Commissioner knowingly authorized county personnel and postage for the purpose influencing an election. The offense carries a maximum penalty of one year incarceration and \$1,000 fine.

The specific allegation is that Lennox sent 250 Christmas Cards using Cheboygan County postage on or about December 4, 2009. It was additionally discovered by Cheboygan County maintenance personnel that Lennox authorized the mailing of 74 more Christmas Cards using Cheboygan County postage on December 11, 2009. Some of the Christmas Cards contained campaign literature stating "Dennis Lennox for State House" and "I need YOUR vote on Tuesday August 3, 2010". Many of the mailings also referenced Lennox's State House candidate website "fixinglansing.com". The website features Lennox speaking on several matters, including his candidacy for the 105th District State House.

It is alleged that Lennox was initially asked to repay the postage costs, but Lennox refused. The matter was subsequently submitted to the Cheboygan Department of Public Safety for investigation. Lennox agreed to pay the expenses after Lennox was interviewed and the criminal investigation was commenced. It is reported that many of the mailings were being sent to locations outside Cheboygan County, Lennox's Drain Commissioner jurisdiction, but within the 105th State House District, including: Mancelona, Bellaire, Central Lake, Gaylord, Boyne City, Johannesburg, Charlevoix and Ellsworth. The investigation could not determine if or how much other campaign literature Lennox sent using Cheboygan County postage.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me at 231-627-8450.

Daryl Vizina