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National PTA Update on the Alliance for Maryland Parents, Teachers and Students/Maryland Congress of Parents and Teachers Inc.

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — National PTA continues to take legal action in the Maryland court to protect local and council PTAs and members in Maryland. The entity known as Maryland PTA and now referring to itself as either the Alliance for Maryland Parents, Teachers and Students or Maryland Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. has continued to provide confusing and misleading information to PTAs in the state. As a reminder, they are not affiliated with National PTA and have no authority over PTAs in the state of Maryland. National PTA's primary interest is in protecting the PTA name and goodwill for all local and county PTAs across the country, and those in Maryland that are now part of [Free State PTA](#).

On January 6, 2022, Defendant LaTonja Carrera was found in Contempt of Court for filing unauthorized Articles of Dissolution for 25 local and county council PTAs in Maryland and for making unauthorized requests for payments for these filings using local and county council PTA bank account information acquired by the former organization known as Maryland PTA.

This Contempt of Court ruling is based on a June 21, 2021 Consent Order entered in the State of Maryland court which enjoined Defendant Carrera and the Board of Directors from "any actions" "operating under the Maryland PTA bylaws," "withdrawing charters of Local PTAs" and "taking control of ... Local PTAs funds and/or bank accounts." At the hearing, the judge ruled that Carrera's "actions could not be more contemptuous" of the Consent Order provision prohibiting her from "withdrawing the charters of local PTAs" when she filed to dissolve them. And the Court further ruled that Carrera "certainly violated the Consent Order by using information that she had obtained in order to have funds transferred from local PTA accounts" to pay for the filings.

We applaud the local and council PTA volunteer leaders and members in Maryland who have, and continue to, work hand-in-hand with National PTA by sharing information, providing needed documentation, etc. Local PTAs have been working with their banks and National PTA continues to work through the courts to see that each of those PTAs recover 100% of the unauthorized withdrawal of their funds.

The Court has required Defendant Carrera to “notify [the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation] that Defendant had no authority to file Articles of Dissolution” and “provide an accounting of all monies taken.” The Court also ruled that “harmed Local PTAs may submit requests for reimbursement of any cost or damages incurred as a result of the filing of the Articles of Dissolution.” National PTA’s legal counsel continues to work with the affected PTAs.

Finally, the Court discussed how it learned through the lawsuit that Carrera did not set-up a separate new entity with new bylaws, as originally represented to the Court, but instead claims to be operating under amended bylaws that remove the Maryland PTA membership provision and make clear that there are no members and no membership rights. National PTA is disputing the validity of these purported “amended” bylaws and the lack of disclosure to local and council PTAs about them.

If you or your members have any concern that you may have unknowingly or—based on misinformation—submitted payments with the understanding that your payments were for membership in a state association affiliated with National PTA, or with the belief that you made payments to belong to an organization in which you have membership and voting rights, please contact us at fspta@pta.org.

Supporting Information:

- Copy of the June 21, 2021 Consent Order can be found [here](#).
- National PTA filed a motion to compel compliance with the Consent Order, and the Court issued to Defendant Carrera an Order to Show Cause for Contempt. A copy of the Order to Show Cause for Contempt with the detailed statement of the allegations of Contempt can be found [here](#).
- Copy of the written January 14, 2022 Order holding Carrera in Contempt of Court can be found [here](#).
- Copy of the purported newly amended bylaws can be found [here](#).
- Copy of the bylaws in effect for the Maryland Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. prior to the purported amendment can be found at [here](#).