

**Barbara C. Deinhardt**  
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November 11, 2024

**DECISION**

Protest I-25-2024 (interference  
with campaigning)

By email dated November 7, 2024, Nasar Abdur-Rahman filed a Protest alleging that Members F1rst candidate Georgette Sterling interfered with candidate Quiana Davis, a candidate for Convention Delegate on the United Invincible Slate. The Protester alleges that during the course of an East New York Depot membership meeting Ms. Davis raised her hand to ask a question. She introduced herself to her colleagues and mentioned she was running for a convention delegate position. Ms. Sterling a candidate for Convention Delegate on the Members F1rst Slate and current Vice Chair of ENY Depot told her she couldn't talk. An argument ensued. The Protester also alleges that Ms. Sterling has repeatedly removed all of the campaign material from the United Invincible Slate while leaving the Members F1rst material

According to Ms. Sterling, the meeting referred to was a shop gate meeting, called to discuss safety and other work issues, not the election. When Ms. Davis introduced herself as a candidate, Ms. Sterling told her that that was not the forum and that she should not be campaigning while on the clock. Ms. Sterling asserts that Ms. Davis became aggressive and came toward her, pointing her finger, and Ms. Davis's husband had to restrain her. Ms. Sterling also denies removing United Invincible materials.

I find that the Protester has not proven that Ms. Sterling violated the Election Rules. Ms. Sterling was correct that that shop gate was not the place for election-related discussion, particularly if Ms. Davis was on the clock. There is no evidence or allegation that other candidates were permitted to campaign at the shop gate while Ms. Davis was not. An argument between members, regardless of who was the

aggressor, is not a violation of the Election Rules that comes within my jurisdiction. I note that the Rules are not intended to ensure the accuracy or tone of campaign materials or speech. As I held in I-23-15 (Ahmed), "My jurisdiction as Neutral Monitor is to ensure compliance with the Election Rules. I do not have the authority or the ability to regulate all speech between and among members. Generally the remedy for untrue or unwanted or defamatory or hostile speech is more, corrective speech." There is nothing in this exchange between Ms. Davis and Ms. Sterling that takes it out of this general rule. Finally, the Protester has not presented evidence in support of his allegation that Ms. Sterling improperly removed campaign material. He does not specify where the material was posted, when it was removed, or where the other campaign material was posted that was not removed.

Protest denied.

In accordance with the International Constitution and the Election Rules, any interested party unsatisfied with this determination may appeal to the Transport Workers Union of America Committee on Appeals. Any appeal shall be in writing and shall be filed in accordance with the procedure set forth in Article IV(B)(9) of the Election Rules and Article XXII of the International Constitution for the appeal to the International from decisions of Local Unions.



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By email:  
Nasar Abdur-Rahman  
John Chiarello  
Stuart Salles  
Arthur Schwartz  
Denis Engel

## Elections Committee