

THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF ADMINISTRATIVE FINE CASE #3752



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
SECRETARIAT

2019 NOV 18 PM 3:40

November 18, 2019

MEMORANDUM

SENSITIVE

TO: The Commission

THROUGH: Alec Palmer *AP by MATH*
Staff Director

FROM: Patricia C. Orrock *PCO*
Chief Compliance Officer

Debbie Chacona *DC*
Assistant Staff Director
Reports Analysis Division

BY: *KDR* Kristin D. Roser/Ben Holly *BH*
Reports Analysis Division
Compliance Branch

SUBJECT: Reason To Believe Recommendation – 2019 September Monthly Report for the Administrative Fine Program

Attached is the name of a political committee and its treasurer who failed to file the 2019 September Monthly Report in accordance with 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a). The September Monthly Report was due on September 20, 2019.

The committee listed on the attached RTB Circulation Report failed to file the report. In accordance with the schedule of civil money penalties for reports at 11 CFR 111.43, the committee should be assessed the civil money penalty highlighted on the attached circulation report.

Recommendation

1. Find reason to believe that the political committee and its treasurer, in his official capacity, listed on the RTB Circulation Report violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty would be the amount indicated on the RTB Circulation Report.
2. Send the appropriate letter.

Federal Election Commission
Reason to Believe Circulation Report
2019 SEPTEMBER MONTHLY Not Election Sensitive 09/20/2019 P_UNAUTH

AF#	Committee ID	Committee Name	Candidate Name	Treasurer	Threshold	PV	Receipt Date	Days Late	LOA	RTB Penalty
3752	C00172510	REPUBLICAN STATE COMMITTEE OF DELAWARE		DENNIS CINI	\$119,098	0		Not Filed	\$17,013 (est)	\$684

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Reason To Believe Recommendation - 2019	)	
September Monthly Report for the	)	
Administrative Fine Program:	)	
REPUBLICAN STATE COMMITTEE OF	)	AF# 3752
DELAWARE, and CINI, DENNIS as	)	
treasurer;	)	

CERTIFICATION

I, Laura E. Sinram, Acting Secretary and Clerk of the Federal Election Commission, do hereby certify that on June 29, 2020, the Commission took the following actions on the Reason To Believe Recommendation - 2019 September Monthly Report for the Administrative Fine Program, as recommended in the Reports Analysis Division's Memorandum dated November 18, 2019, on the following committee:

AF#3752 Decided by a vote of 4-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that REPUBLICAN STATE COMMITTEE OF DELAWARE, and CINI, DENNIS, in his official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty would be the amount indicated on the report; (2) send the appropriate letter. Commissioners Hunter, Trainor, Walther, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision.

Federal Election Commission
Certification for Administrative Fines
June 29, 2020

Page 2



July 8, 2020

Date

Attest:

Laura
Sinram

Digitally signed by Laura
SinramDate: 2020.07.08
18:33:43 -04'00'

Laura E. Sinram
Acting Secretary and Clerk of the
Commission



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

AF

July 10, 2020

Dennis Cini, in official capacity as Treasurer
Republican State Committee of Delaware
3408 Lancaster Pike, Suite A
Wilmington, DE 19805

Response Due Date

08/19/2020

C00172510

AF#: 3752

Dear Mr. Cini,

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"), requires that your committee file a September Monthly Report of Receipts and Disbursements covering the period August 1, 2019 through August 31, 2019. This report shall be filed no later than September 20, 2019. 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a). Because records at the Federal Election Commission ("FEC") indicate that you did not file this report within thirty (30) days of the due date, the report is considered not filed for the purpose of calculating the civil money penalty. You should file this report if you have not already done so.

The Act permits the FEC to impose civil money penalties for violations of the reporting requirements of 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a). 52 U.S.C. § 30109g(a)(4). On June 29, 2020, the FEC found that there is reason to believe ("RTB") that Republican State Committee of Delaware and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) by failing to file timely this report on or before September 20, 2019. Based on the FEC's schedules of civil money penalties at 11 C.F.R. § 111.43, the amount of your civil money penalty calculated at the RTB stage is \$684. Please see the attached copy of the Commission's administrative fine regulations at 11 C.F.R. §§ 111.30-111.55. Attachment 1. The Commission's website contains further information about how the administrative fine program works and how the fines are calculated. See <http://www.fec.gov/af/af.shtml>. 11 C.F.R. § 111.34. Your payment of \$684 is due within forty (40) days of the finding, or by August 8, 2020, and is based on these factors:

Sensitivity of Report: Not Election Sensitive

Level of Activity: \$17,013

Number of Days Late: Not Filed

Number of Previous Civil Money Penalties Assessed: 0

At this juncture, the following courses of action are available to you:

1. If You Choose to Challenge the RTB Finding and/or Civil Money Penalty

REPUBLICAN STATE COMMITTEE OF DELAWARE

Page 2 of 5

If you should decide to challenge the RTB finding and/or calculated civil money penalty, you must submit a written response to the FEC's Office of Administrative Review. Your response must include the AF# (found at the top of page 1 under your committee's identification number) and be received within forty (40) days of the Commission's RTB finding, or August 10, 2020. 11 CFR § 111.35(a). Your written response must include the reason(s) why you are challenging the RTB finding and/or calculated civil money penalty, and must include the factual basis supporting the reason(s) and supporting documentation. The FEC strongly encourages that documents be submitted in the form of affidavits or declarations. 11 CFR § 111.36(c).

Please note, on June 18, 2020, the Federal Election Commission began the initial phase (Phase I) of its return to normal operations. At this stage, the agency's offices will remain closed to visitors and most of its employees will continue to telework in an effort to limit the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). The Commission is processing some documents submitted by mail, though processing will not occur on a daily basis until the agency resumes normal mail operations. Nevertheless, a challenge to an RTB finding and/or calculated civil money penalty must be received on time. Thus, all written responses and supporting documentation should be converted to PDF (Portable Document Format) and must be emailed to administrativefines@fec.gov. The Commission encourages the use of electronic signatures on electronically submitted documents, but scanned copies of ink signatures will be accepted. Electronically submitted challenges will be deemed received on the date it is electronically received by staff.

The FEC will only consider challenges that are based on at least one of three grounds: (1) a factual error in the RTB finding; (2) miscalculation of the calculated civil money penalty by the FEC; or (3) your demonstrated use of best efforts to file in a timely manner when prevented from doing so by reasonably unforeseen circumstances that were beyond your control. 11 CFR § 111.35(b). In order for a challenge to be considered on the basis of best efforts, you must have filed the required report no later than 24 hours after the end of these reasonably unforeseen circumstances. *Id.* Examples of circumstances that will be considered reasonably unforeseen and beyond your control include, but are not limited to: (1) a failure of Commission computers or Commission-provided software despite your seeking technical assistance from Commission personnel and resources; (2) a widespread disruption of information transmissions over the Internet that is not caused by a failure of the Commission's or your computer systems or Internet service provider; and (3) severe weather or other disaster-related incident. 11 CFR § 111.35(c). Examples of circumstances that will not be considered reasonably unforeseen and beyond your control include, but are not limited to: (1) negligence; (2) delays caused by vendors or contractors; (3) treasurer and staff illness, inexperience or unavailability; (4) committee computer, software, or Internet

REPUBLICAN STATE COMMITTEE OF DELAWARE

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service provider failures; (5) failure to know filing dates; and (6) failure to use filing software properly. 11 CFR § 111.35(d).

The "failure to raise an argument in a timely fashion during the administrative process shall be deemed a waiver" of your right to present such argument in a petition to the U.S. District Court under 52 U.S.C. § 30109. 11 CFR § 111.38.

If you intend to be represented by counsel, please advise the Office of Administrative Review. You should provide, in writing, the name, address and telephone number of your counsel and authorize counsel to receive notifications and communications relating to this challenge and imposition of the calculated civil money penalty.

2. If You Choose Not to Pay the Civil Money Penalty and Not to Submit a Challenge

If you do not pay the calculated civil money penalty and do not submit a written response, the FEC will assume that the preceding factual allegations are true and make a final determination that Republican State Committee of Delaware and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess a civil money penalty.

Unpaid civil money penalties assessed through the Administrative Fine regulations will be subject to the Debt Collection Act of 1982 ("DCA"), as amended by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, 31 U.S.C. § 3701 et seq. The FEC may take any and all appropriate action authorized and required by the DCA, as amended, including transfer to the U.S. Department of the Treasury for collection. 11 CFR § 111.51(a)(2).

3. If You Choose to Pay the Civil Money Penalty

If you should decide to pay the calculated civil money penalty, follow the payment instructions on page 4 of this letter. Upon receipt of your payment, the FEC will send you a final determination letter.

NOTICE REGARDING PARTIAL PAYMENTS AND SETTLEMENT OFFERS**4. Partial Payments**

If you make a payment in an amount less than the calculated civil money penalty, the amount of your partial payment will be credited towards the full civil money penalty that the Commission assesses upon making a final determination.

5. Settlement Offers

Any offer to settle or compromise a debt owed to the Commission, including a

REPUBLICAN STATE COMMITTEE OF DELAWARE

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payment in an amount less than the calculated civil money penalty assessed or any restrictive endorsements contained on your check or money order or proposed in correspondence transmitted with your check or money order, will be rejected. Acceptance and deposit or cashing of such a restricted payment does not constitute acceptance of the settlement offer. Payments containing restrictive endorsements will be deposited and treated as a partial payment towards the civil money penalty that the Commission assesses upon making a final determination. All unpaid civil money penalty amounts remaining will be subject to the debt collection procedures set forth in Section 2, above.

This matter was generated based on information ascertained by the FEC in the normal course of carrying out its supervisory responsibilities. 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(2). Unless you notify the FEC in writing that you wish the matter to be made public, it will remain confidential in accordance with 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(4)(B) and 30109(a)(12)(A) until it is placed on the public record at the conclusion of this matter in accordance with 11 CFR § 111.42.

As noted earlier, you may obtain additional information on the FEC's administrative fine program, including the final regulations, on the FEC's website at <http://www.fec.gov/af/af.shtml>. If you have questions regarding the payment of the calculated civil money penalty, please contact Ben Holly in the Reports Analysis Division at our toll free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5) or (202) 694-1130. If you have questions regarding the submission of a challenge, please contact the Office of Administrative Review at our toll free number (800) 424-9530 (press 0, then ext. 1158) or (202) 694-1158.

Sincerely,



James E. "Trey" Trainor III
Chair

ADMINISTRATIVE FINE PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS

In accordance with the schedule of penalties at 11 CFR § 111.43, the amount of your civil money penalty calculated at RTB is \$684 for the September Monthly Report.

You may remit payment by ACH withdrawal from your bank account, or by debit or credit card through Pay.gov, the federal government's secure portal for online

REPUBLICAN STATE COMMITTEE OF DELAWARE

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collections. Visit www.fec.gov/af/pay.shtml to be directed to Pay.gov's Administrative Fine Program Payment form. Please use the details below to complete the required fields. For additional payment options, please contact Ben Holly in the Reports Analysis Division at our toll free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5) or (202) 694-1130.

FOR: Republican State Committee of Delaware

FEC ID#: C00172510

AF#: 3752

PAYMENT DUE DATE: August 8, 2020

PAYMENT AMOUNT DUE: \$684

RECEIVED

By Office of the Commission Secretary at 7:45 am, Oct 30, 2020



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

SENSITIVE

October 29, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Commission

THROUGH: Alec Palmer *AP*
Staff Director

FROM: Patricia C. Orrock *PCO*
Chief Compliance Officer

Debbie Chacona *NcfA for DC*
Assistant Staff Director
Reports Analysis Division

BY: *KDR* Kristin D. Roser/Ben Holly *BH*
Reports Analysis Division
Compliance Branch

SUBJECT: Administrative Fine Program – Final Determination Recommendation for the 2019 September Monthly Report

Attached is a list identifying a political committee and its treasurer against which the Commission has found reason to believe (RTB) and assessed a proposed civil money penalty calculated at RTB for failure to file or failure to timely file the 2019 September Monthly Report. The committee has not paid the civil money penalty requested at RTB and has been given at least forty (40) days from the date of the Commission's RTB finding to remit payment.

In accordance with 11 CFR § 111.40, the Commission shall send a final determination notice to the respondent that has not paid the civil money penalty.

RAD Recommendation

- (1) Make a final determination that the political committee and its treasurer, in his official capacity, listed on the attached report violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess the final civil money penalty so indicated.
- (2) Send the appropriate letter.

Federal Election Commission
FD Circulation Report Fine Not Paid
2019 SEPTEMBER MONTHLY Not Election Sensitive 09/20/2019 P_UNAUTH

AF#	Committee Name	Candidate Name	Committee ID	Treasurer	Receipt Date	Days Late	LOA	PV	RTB Date	RTB Penalty	Days Since RTB	FD Penalty
3752	REPUBLICAN STATE COMMITTEE OF DELAWARE		C00172510	DENNIS CINI	08/05/2020	*Not Filed	\$23,023	0	06/29/2020	\$684	122	\$684

* The committee filed their report more than thirty (30) days after the due date; therefore, the report is considered not filed.

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
)
 Administrative Fine Program - Final)
 Determination Recommendation for the)
 2019 September Monthly Report:)
 REPUBLICAN STATE COMMITTEE OF) AF# 3752
 DELAWARE, and CINI, DENNIS as)
 treasurer;)

CERTIFICATION

I, Laura E. Sinram, Acting Secretary and Clerk of the Federal Election Commission, do hereby certify that on January 07, 2021, the Commission took the following actions on the Administrative Fine Program - Final Determination Recommendation for the 2019 September Monthly Report as recommended in the Reports Analysis Division's Memorandum dated October 29, 2020, on the following committee:

AF#3752 Decided by a vote of 6-0 to: (1) make a final determination that REPUBLICAN STATE COMMITTEE OF DELAWARE, and CINI, DENNIS in his official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess the final civil money penalty so indicated; (2) send the appropriate letter. Commissioners Broussard, Cooksey, Dickerson, Trainor, Walther, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision.

Attest:

**Laura
Sinram**

Laura E. Sinram
Acting Secretary and Clerk of the
Commission

Digitally signed by
Laura Sinram
Date: 2021.02.03
19:56:13 -05'00'



February 3, 2021

Date



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

AF

February 12, 2021

Dennis Cini, in official capacity as Treasurer
Republican State Committee of Delaware
3408 Lancaster Pike
Suite A
Wilmington, DE 19805

C00172510
AF#: 3752

Dear Mr. Cini,

On June 29, 2020, the Federal Election Commission ("the Commission") found reason to believe ("RTB") that Republican State Committee of Delaware and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) for filing late or failing to file the September Monthly Report. By letter dated July 10, 2020, the Commission notified you of the RTB finding and the civil money penalty calculated at the RTB stage to be \$684 in accordance with the schedule of penalties at 11 CFR § 111.43. Within forty (40) days of the FEC's RTB finding, you were required to either transmit payment of the calculated civil money penalty or submit a written response challenging either the RTB finding or the calculated civil money penalty.

The FEC did not receive payment of the calculated civil money penalty or a written response within the time permitted. Since that time, the amount of the level of activity has been changed to reflect the actual level of activity of the September Monthly Report. The FEC made a final determination on January 7, 2021 that Republican State Committee of Delaware and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assessed a civil money penalty in the amount of \$684 in accordance with 11 CFR § 111.43. The civil money penalty is based on these factors:

Election Sensitivity of Report: Not Election Sensitive

Level of Activity: \$23,023

Number of Days Late: Not Filed (reports not filed within thirty (30) days of the due date are considered not filed for the purposes of calculating the penalty)

Number of Previous Civil Money Penalties Assessed: 0

At this juncture, the following courses of action are available to you:

1. If You Choose to Appeal the Final Determination and/or Civil Money Penalty

If you choose to appeal the final determination, you should submit a written

REPUBLICAN STATE COMMITTEE OF DELAWARE

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petition, within 30 days of receipt of this letter, to the U.S. District Court for the district in which the committee or you reside, or transact business, requesting that the final determination be modified or set aside. See 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(4)(C)(iii). Your failure to raise an argument in a timely fashion during the administrative process shall be deemed a waiver of the respondents' right to present such argument in a petition to the district court under 52 U.S.C. § 30109. 11 CFR § 111.38.

2. If You Choose Not to Pay the Civil Money Penalty and Not to Appeal

Unpaid civil money penalties assessed through the Administrative Fine regulations will be subject to the Debt Collection Act of 1982 ("DCA") as amended by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 ("DCIA"), 31 U.S.C. § 3701 et seq. If you do not pay this debt within 30 days (or file a written petition to a federal district court - see below), the Commission will transfer the debt to the U.S. Department of the Treasury ("Treasury") for collection. Within 5 days of the transfer to Treasury, Treasury will contact you to request payment. Treasury currently charges a fee of 30% of the civil money penalty amount for its collection services. If the age of the debt is greater than or equal to two years old, Treasury will charge a fee of 32% of the civil money penalty amount for its collection services. The fee will be added to the amount of the civil money penalty that you owe. Should Treasury's attempts fail, Treasury will refer the debt to a private collection agency ("PCA"). If the debt remains unpaid, Treasury may recommend that the Commission refer the matter to the Department of Justice for litigation.

Actions which may be taken to enforce recovery of a delinquent debt by Treasury may also include: (1) offset of any payments, which the debtor is due, including tax refunds and salary; (2) referral of the debt to agency counsel for litigation; (3) reporting of the debt to a credit bureau; (4) administrative wage garnishment; and (5) reporting of the debt, if discharged, to the IRS as potential taxable income. In addition, under the provisions of DCIA and other statutes applicable to the FEC, the debtor may be subject to the assessment of other statutory interest, penalties, and administrative costs.

In accordance with the DCIA, at your request, the agency will offer you the opportunity to inspect and copy records relating to the debt, the opportunity for a review of the debt, and the opportunity to enter into a written repayment agreement.

3. If You Choose to Pay the Civil Money Penalty

If you should decide to pay the civil money penalty, follow the payment instructions on page 4 of this letter. You should make payment within 30 days of receipt of this letter.

NOTICE REGARDING PARTIAL PAYMENTS AND SETTLEMENT OFFERS

REPUBLICAN STATE COMMITTEE OF DELAWARE

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4. Partial Payments

If you make a payment in an amount less than the civil money penalty, the amount of your partial payment will be credited towards the full civil money penalty that the Commission assessed upon making a final determination.

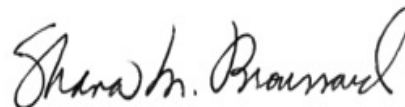
5. Settlement Offers

Any offer to settle or compromise a debt owed to the Commission, including a payment in an amount less than the civil money penalty assessed or any restrictive endorsements contained on your check or money order or proposed in correspondence transmitted with your check or money order, will be rejected. Acceptance and deposit or cashing of such a restricted payment does not constitute acceptance of the settlement offer. Payments containing restrictive endorsements will be deposited and treated as a partial payment towards the civil money penalty that the Commission assessed upon making a final determination. All unpaid civil money penalty amounts remaining will be subject to the debt collection procedures set forth in Section 2, above.

The confidentiality provisions at 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(12) no longer apply and this matter is now public. Pursuant to 11 CFR §§ 111.42(b) and 111.20(c), the file will be placed on the public record within thirty (30) days from the date of this notification.

If you have any questions regarding the payment of the civil money penalty, please contact Jacqueline Gausepohl at Federal Election Commission, 1050 First St., NE, Washington, DC 20002, or our toll free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt, press 5) or (202) 694-1130.

On behalf of the Commission,



Shana M. Broussard
Chair

ADMINISTRATIVE FINE PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS

In accordance with the schedule of penalties at 11 CFR § 111.43, the civil money penalty is \$684 for the September Monthly Report. The payment is due within 30 days of receipt of this letter.

You may remit payment by ACH withdrawal from your bank account, or by debit or credit card through Pay.gov, the federal government's secure portal for online

REPUBLICAN STATE COMMITTEE OF DELAWARE

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collections. Visit www.fec.gov/af/pay.shtml to be directed to Pay.gov's Administrative Fine Program Payment form. Please use the details below to complete the required fields. For additional payment options, please contact Jacqueline Gausepohl in the Reports Analysis Division at our toll free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5) or (202) 694-1130.

COMMITTEE NAME: Republican State Committee of Delaware

FEC ID#: C00172510

REPORT: September Monthly

AF#: 3752

PAYMENT AMOUNT DUE: \$684

THIS IS THE END OF ADMINISTRATIVE FINE CASE #3752