RECEIVED

By Office of the Commission Secretary at 3:28 pm, Oct 27, 2021

SENSITIVE



October 28, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Commission

THROUGH: Alec Palmer

Staff Director

FROM: Patricia C. Orrock

Chief Compliance Officer

Debbie Chacona \mathcal{DC} Assistant Staff Director Reports Analysis Division

Reports Analysis Divisi

BY: Kristin D. Roser

Compliance Branch

SUBJECT: Reason to Believe Recommendation -

Failure to File 48-Hour Notices under the Administrative Fine Program

Attached is the name of a principal campaign committee that has failed to file 48-hour notices with the Commission for contributions of \$1,000.00 or more received from the close of books for the Mississippi 12-Day Pre-General Report up to 48 hours before the November 3, 2020 General Election in accordance with 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and 11 CFR. § 104.5(f). The committee, FRIENDS OF MICHAEL GUEST, represents a candidate who won the General Election. The committee is being referred for failing to file 48-hour notices for contributions totaling \$30,300.00.

A 48-hour notice is required to report all contributions of a \$1,000.00 or more, to any authorized committee of a candidate, including contributions from the candidate, loans from the candidate and other non-bank sources and endorsements or guarantees of loans from banks, as per 11 CFR § 104.5(f).

We have attached an information sheet which includes the contributor name, date of receipt and amount of the contributions for which a 48-hour notice was not filed.

In accordance with the schedule of civil money penalties outlined within 11 CFR § 111.44, this committee should be assessed the civil money penalty so indicated.

Recommendation

- 1. Find reason to believe that FRIENDS OF MICHAEL GUEST and Paul V. Breazeale, in their official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that a civil money penalty of \$3,181 be assessed.
- 2. Send the appropriate letter.

Attachment

Contributions for Which a 48-Hour Notice Was Not Received

AF 4247

Committee ID: C00665752

Committee Name: FRIENDS OF MICHAEL GUEST

Report Type: 30-Day Post-General Report (10/15/2020 – 11/23/2020)

48-Hour Reporting Period: 10/15/2020 – 10/31/2020

CONTRIBUTOR	DATE	AMOUNT
EDDIE BRIGGS	10/27/2020	\$1,000.00
CORECIVIC, INC. POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (CORECIVIC PAC)	10/27/2020	\$2,500.00
JOHN EAVES	10/27/2020	\$1,000.00
ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATION OF MS	10/27/2020	\$5,000.00
SHAY GAY	10/27/2020	\$1,600.00
SHAY GAY	10/27/2020	\$2,800.00
STERLING GAY	10/27/2020	\$2,800.00
STERLING GAY	10/27/2020	\$2,800.00
JOEY HAVENS	10/27/2020	\$1,000.00
MISSISSIPPI POWER COMPANY FEDERAL PAC A/K/A MS PWR CO EMP COMM FOR RESP FED GOV	10/27/2020	\$5,000.00
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HOME BUILDERS	10/27/2020	\$1,000.00
JOE USRY	10/27/2020	\$1,000.00
ZA CONSTRUCTION, LLC	10/27/2020	\$2,800.00
	TOTAL	\$30,300.00

Proposed Civil Money Penalty: \$3,181 ((1 Notice Not Filed at \$151 each) + (10% of the Overall Contributions Not Reported))

Federal Election Commission Reason to Believe Circulation Report 48-Hour Notification Report

10/27/2021 8:55 AM

AF#	Committee ID	Committee Name	State	Election	Candidate Name	Treasurer	Prev Violations	Notices Not Filed	LOA	Penalty
4247	C00665752	FRIENDS OF MICHAEL	MS	2020	MICHAEL PATRICK GUEST	PAUL V BREAZEALE	0	1	\$30,300	\$3,181
		GUEST								

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of)	
)	AF 4247
Reason to Believe Recommendation -)	
Failure to File 48-Hour Notices under the)	
Administrative Fine Program: FRIENDS)	
OF MICHAEL GUEST and Paul V.)	
Breazeale, in their official capacity as)	
treasurer)	

CERTIFICATION

I, Laura E. Sinram, Acting Secretary and Clerk of the Federal Election Commission, do hereby certify that on October 29, 2021, the Commission decided by a vote of 6-0 to take the following actions in AF 4247:

- 1. Find reason to believe that FRIENDS OF MICHAEL GUEST and Paul V. Breazeale, in their official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that a civil money penalty of \$3,181 be assessed.
- 2. Send the appropriate letter.

Commissioners Broussard, Cooksey, Dickerson, Trainor, Walther, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision.



Attest:

Laura e Sinram Digitally signed by Laura e Sinram Date: 2021.11.01 11:59:40 -04'00'

Laura E. Sinram
Acting Secretary and Clerk of the
Commission



November 1, 2021

Paul V. Breazeale, in official capacity as Treasurer Friends of Michael Guest Post Office Box 470 Brandon, MS 39043

C00665752 AF#: 4247

Dear Mr. Breazeale,

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, 52 U.S.C. § 30101, et seq. ("the Act"), requires principal campaign committees of candidates for federal office to notify in writing the Federal Election Commission ("FEC") and the Secretary of State, as appropriate, of any contribution of \$1,000 or more, received by any authorized committee of the candidate after the 20th day, but more than 48 hours before, any election. 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a)(6)(A). The Act further requires notification to be made within 48 hours after the receipt of the contribution and to include the name of the candidate and office sought, the date of receipt, the amount of the contribution, and the identification of the contributor. Id. These notification requirements are in addition to all other reporting requirements. 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a). Our records indicate that Friends of Michael Guest did not submit 48-Hour Notices for contributions of \$1,000 or more, received between October 15, 2020 and October 31, 2020, totaling \$30,300, as required by 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a)(6)(A). Attachment 1.

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. § 30109(a)(4). On October 29, 2021, the FEC found that there is Reason to Believe ("RTB") that Friends of Michael Guest and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) by failing to file the 48-Hour Notices. Based on the FEC's schedule of civil money penalties at 11 CFR § 111.44, the amount of your civil money penalty calculated at the RTB stage is \$3,181. Please see the attached copy of the Commission's administrative fine regulations at 11 CFR §§ 111.30-111.55. Attachment 2. The Commission's website contains further information about how the administrative fine program works and how the fines are calculated. http://www.fec.gov/af/af.shtml. 11 CFR § 111.34. The amount of the civil money penalty is \$151 for each non-filed notice plus 10 percent of the dollar amount of the contributions not timely reported. The civil money penalty increases by 25 percent for each prior violation. Send your payment of \$3,181 within forty (40) days of the finding, or by December 8, 2021.

Page 2 of 5

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

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 December 8, 2021. 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, the Federal Election Commission's office remains closed to visitors and most of its employees are continuing 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 daily 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 administrative fines@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). 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

Page 3 of 5

computer, software, or Internet 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 Friends of Michael Guest 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 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

Page 4 of 5

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 including the final regulations, the FEC's website fine program, on http://www.fec.gov/af/af.shtml. If you have questions regarding the payment of the calculated civil money penalty, 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. 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.

On behalf of the Commission,

Sharah. Brownard

Shana M. Broussard

Chair

ADMINISTRATIVE FINE PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS

In accordance with the schedule of penalties at 11 CFR § 111.44, the amount of your civil money penalty calculated at RTB is \$3,181 for the 2020 General Election 48-Hour Notification 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 collections. Visit www.fec.gov/af/pay.shtml to be directed to Pay.gov's Administrative

FRIENDS OF MICHAEL GUEST

Page 5 of 5

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: Friends of Michael Guest

FEC ID#: C00665752

AF#: 4247

PAYMENT DUE DATE: December 8, 2021

PAYMENT AMOUNT DUE: \$3,181

Contributions for Which a 48-Hour Notice Was Not Received

AF 4247

Committee ID: C00665752

Committee Name: FRIENDS OF MICHAEL GUEST

Report Type: 30-Day Post-General Report (10/15/2020 – 11/23/2020)

48-Hour Reporting Period: 10/15/2020 – 10/31/2020

CONTRIBUTOR	DATE	AMOUNT
EDDIE BRIGGS	10/27/2020	\$1,000.00
CORECIVIC, INC. POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (CORECIVIC PAC)	10/27/2020	\$2,500.00
JOHN EAVES	10/27/2020	\$1,000.00
ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATION OF MS	10/27/2020	\$5,000.00
SHAY GAY	10/27/2020	\$1,600.00
SHAY GAY	10/27/2020	\$2,800.00
STERLING GAY	10/27/2020	\$2,800.00
STERLING GAY	10/27/2020	\$2,800.00
JOEY HAVENS	10/27/2020	\$1,000.00
MISSISSIPPI POWER COMPANY FEDERAL PAC A/K/A MS PWR CO EMP COMM FOR RESP FED GOV	10/27/2020	\$5,000.00
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HOME BUILDERS	10/27/2020	\$1,000.00
JOE USRY	10/27/2020	\$1,000.00
ZA CONSTRUCTION, LLC	10/27/2020	\$2,800.00
	TOTAL	\$30,300.00

Proposed Civil Money Penalty: \$3,181 ((1 Notice Not Filed at \$151 each) + (10% of the Overall Contributions Not Reported))

By Office of the Commission Secretary at 10:17 am, Mar 10, 2022



SENSITIVE

March 10, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Commission

Alec Palmer THROUGH:

Staff Director

Patricia C. Orrock FROM:

Chief Compliance Officer

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

Kristin D. Roser BY:

Reports Analysis Division

Compliance Branch

Administrative Fine Program - Final Determination Recommendation for SUBJECT:

Failure to File 48-Hour Notices

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 appropriate 48-Hour Notices for the 2020 General Election. 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 § 111.34, 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 their 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 Final Determination Circulation Report 48-Hour Notification Report

AF#	Committee ID	Committee Name	State	Election	Candidate Name	Treasurer	Prev Violations	Notices Not Filed	LOA	RTB Date	RTB Penalty	Days Since RTB	FD Penalty
4247	C00665752	FRIENDS OF MICHAEL GUEST	MS	2020	MICHAEL PATRICK GUEST	PAUL V BREAZEALE	0	1	\$30,300	10/29/2021	\$3,181	132	\$3,181

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

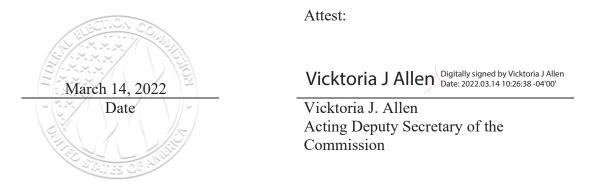
In the Matter of)	
)	AF 4247
Administrative Fine Program - Final)	
Determination Recommendation for)	
Failure to File 48-Hour Notices: Friends)	
of Michael Guest and Paul V. Breazeale)	
in their official capacity as treasurer)	

CERTIFICATION

I, Vicktoria J. Allen, Acting Deputy Secretary of the Federal Election Commission, do hereby certify that on March 11, 2022, the Commission decided by a vote of 6-0 to take the following actions in AF 4247:

- 1. Make a final determination that Friends of Michael Guest and Paul V. Breazeale in their official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess the final civil money penalty in the amount of \$3,181.
- 2. Send the appropriate letter.

Commissioners Broussard, Cooksey, Dickerson, Trainor, Walther, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision.





March 15, 2022

Paul V. Breazeale, in official capacity as Treasurer Friends of Michael Guest Post Office Box 470 Brandon, MS 39043

C00665752 AF#: 4247

Dear Mr. Breazeale,

On October 29, 2021, the Federal Election Commission ("the Commission") found reason to believe ("RTB") that Friends of Michael Guest and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) for failing to file 48-Hour Notices for contributions of \$1,000 or more, received between October 15, 2020 and October 31, 2020, totaling \$30,300. By letter dated November 1, 2021, the Commission notified you of the RTB finding and the civil money penalty calculated at the RTB stage to be \$3,181, in accordance with the schedule of penalties at 11 C.F.R. § 111.44. Within forty (40) days of the FEC's RTB finding, you, as treasurer, 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. The FEC made a final determination on March 11, 2022 that Friends of Michael Guest 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 \$3,181, in accordance with 11 C.F.R. § 111.44.

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 petition, within thirty (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 respondent's right to present such argument in a petition to the district court under 52 U.S.C. § 30109. 11 C.F.R. § 111.38.

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

Page 2 of 4

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 thirty (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 five (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 thirty (30) days of receipt of this 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 payment in an amount less than the civil money penalty assessed or any restrictive

Page 3 of 4

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 C.F.R. §§ 111.42(b) and 111.20(c), the file will be placed on the public record within 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 Street, 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,

Allen J. Dickerson

Chairman

ADMINISTRATIVE FINE PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS

In accordance with the schedule of penalties at 11 C.F.R. § 111.44, the amount of your civil money penalty calculated at RTB is \$3,181 for the 2020 General Election 48-Hour Notification 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 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: Friends of Michael Guest

FRIENDS OF MICHAEL GUEST

Page 4 of 4

FEC ID#: C00665752

AF#: 4247

PAYMENT DUE DATE: December 8, 2021

PAYMENT AMOUNT DUE: \$3,181