



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

**SENSITIVE**

March 20, 2024

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: The Commission

THROUGH: Alec Palmer *AP*  
Staff Director

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

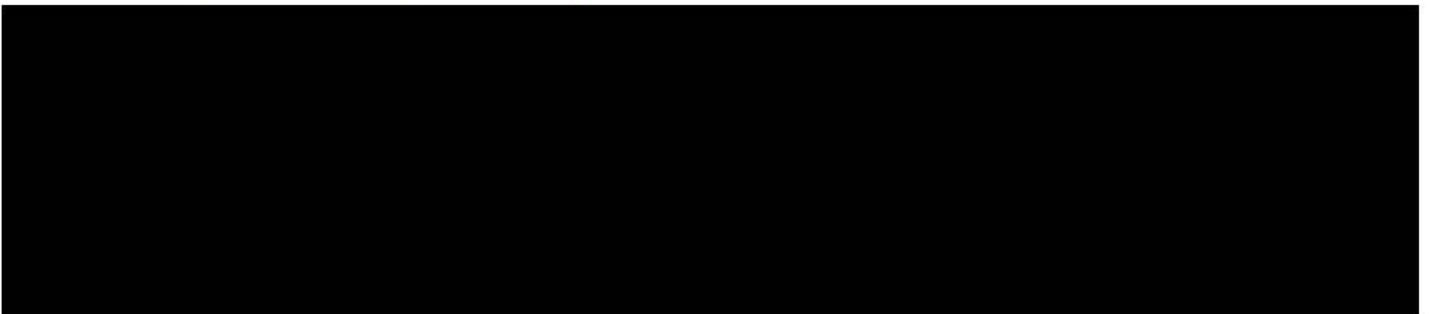
Debbie Chacona *DC*  
Assistant Staff Director  
Reports Analysis Division

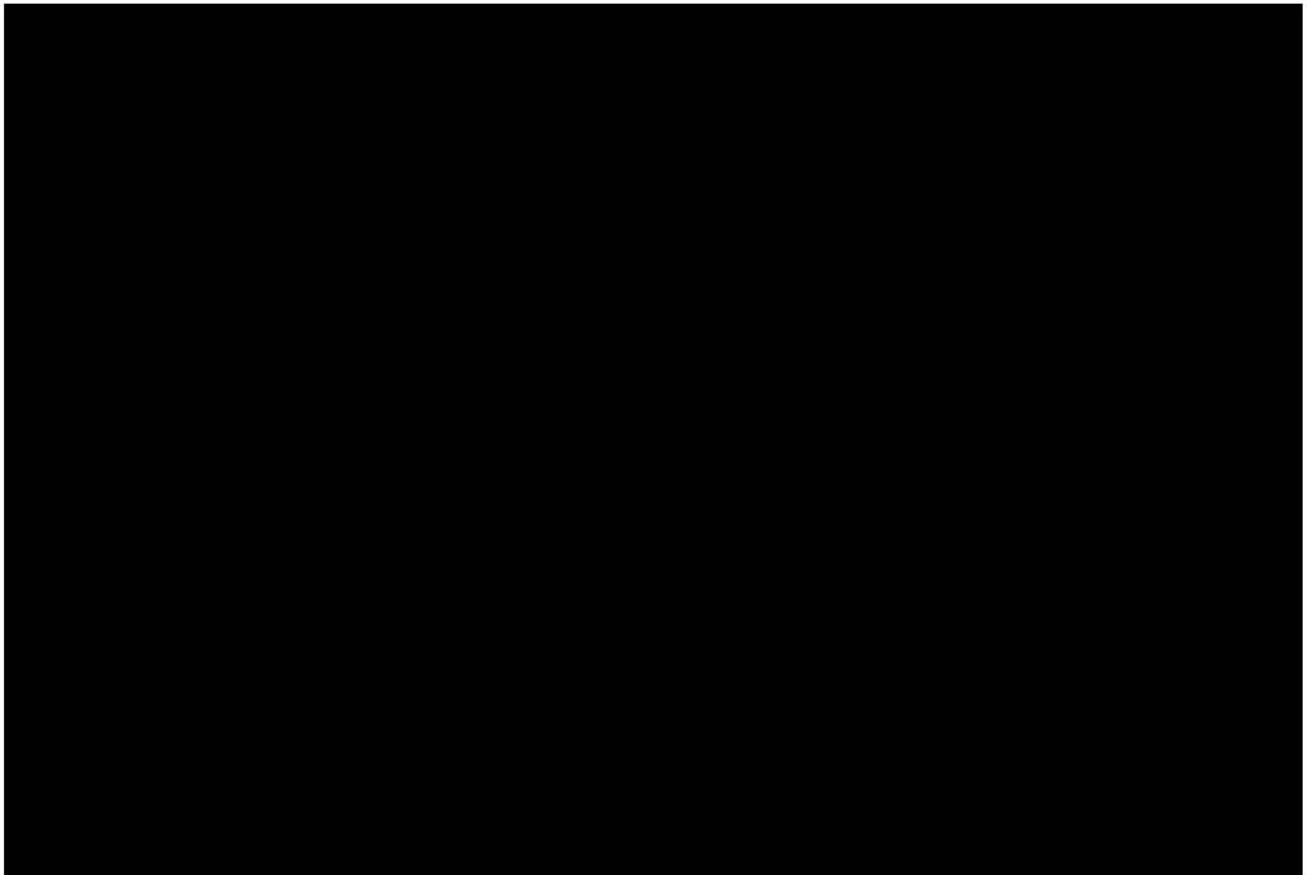
BY: *KDR BH*  
Kristin D. Roser/Ben Holly  
Reports Analysis Division  
Compliance Branch


SUBJECT: Reason To Believe Recommendation – 2023 Year-End Report for the  
Administrative Fine Program

Attached is a list of political committees and their treasurers who failed to file the 2023 Year-End Report in accordance with 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a). The Year-End Report was due on January 31, 2024.

The committees listed in the attached RTB Circulation Report either failed to file the report, filed the report [REDACTED] no more than thirty (30) days after the due date (considered a late filed report), or filed the report more than thirty (30) days after the due date (considered a non-filed report). In accordance with the schedule of civil money penalties for reports at 11 C.F.R. 111.43, these committees should be assessed the civil money penalties highlighted on the attached circulation report.



**Recommendation**

1. A black rectangular redaction box covers the text of the first recommendation item.
2. Find reason to believe that the political committees and their treasurers, in their official capacity, listed on the RTB Circulation Report violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that the civil money penalties would be the amounts indicated on the RTB Circulation Report.
3. Send the appropriate letters.

Federal Election Commission  
Reason to Believe Circulation Report  
2023 YEAR-END Not Election Sensitive 01/31/2024 H\_S\_P\_UNAUTH

AF#	Committee ID	Committee Name	Candidate Name	Treasurer	Threshold	PV	Receipt Date	Days Late	LOA	RTB Penalty
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4691	C00833665	SOCIAL PROGRESS IN UNION WITH ECONOMIC GROWTH		TRINA ESTELLE	\$121,000	0	2/19/2024	19	\$120,000	\$5,258
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BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

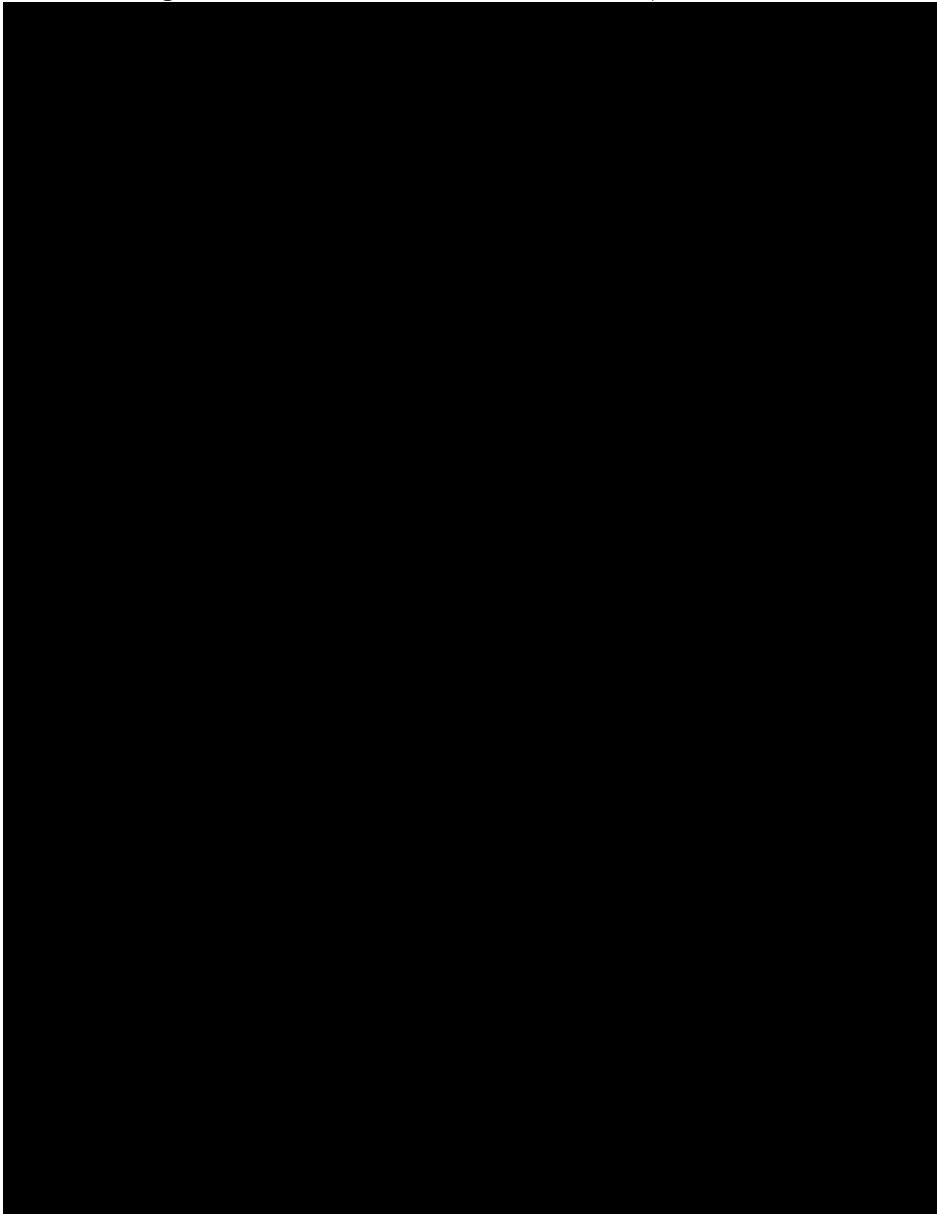
In the Matter of )

)

Reason To Believe Recommendation - 2023 )

Year-End Report for the Administrative )

Fine Program: )



SOCIAL PROGRESS IN UNION WITH )

ECONOMIC GROWTH, and ESTELLE, )

TRINA as treasurer; )

AF# 4691

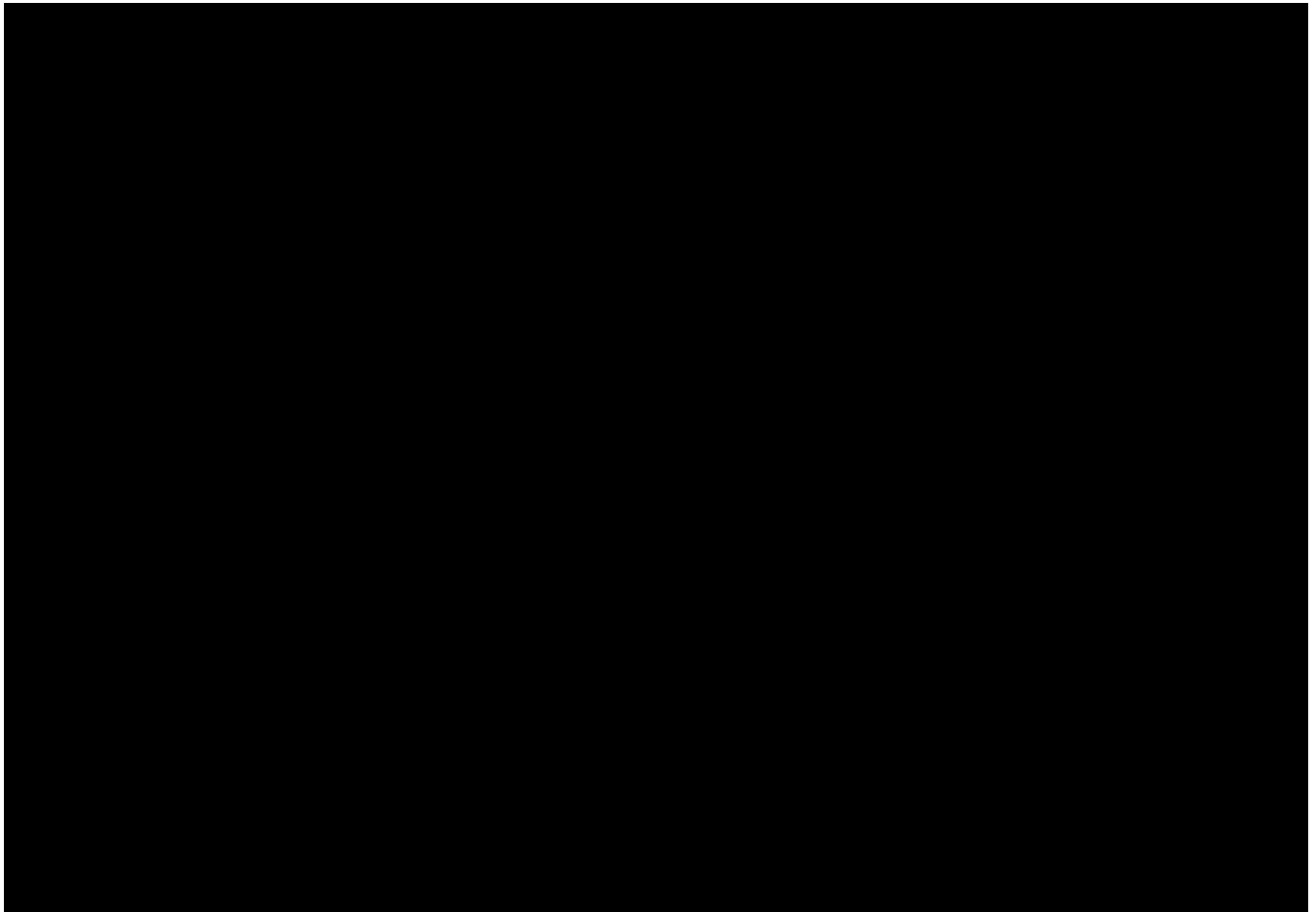
Federal Election Commission  
Certification for Administrative Fines  
March 22, 2024

Page 2



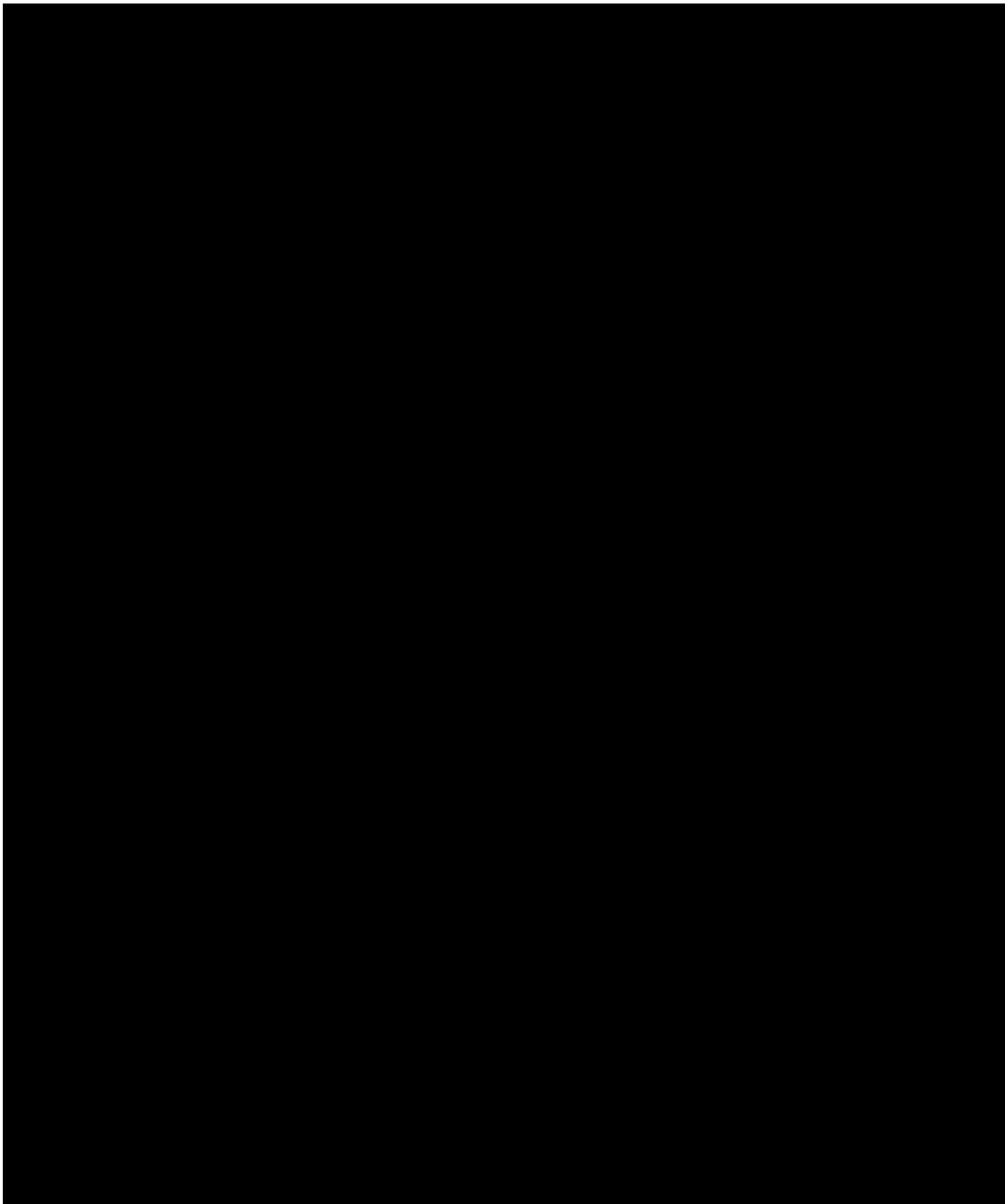
CERTIFICATION

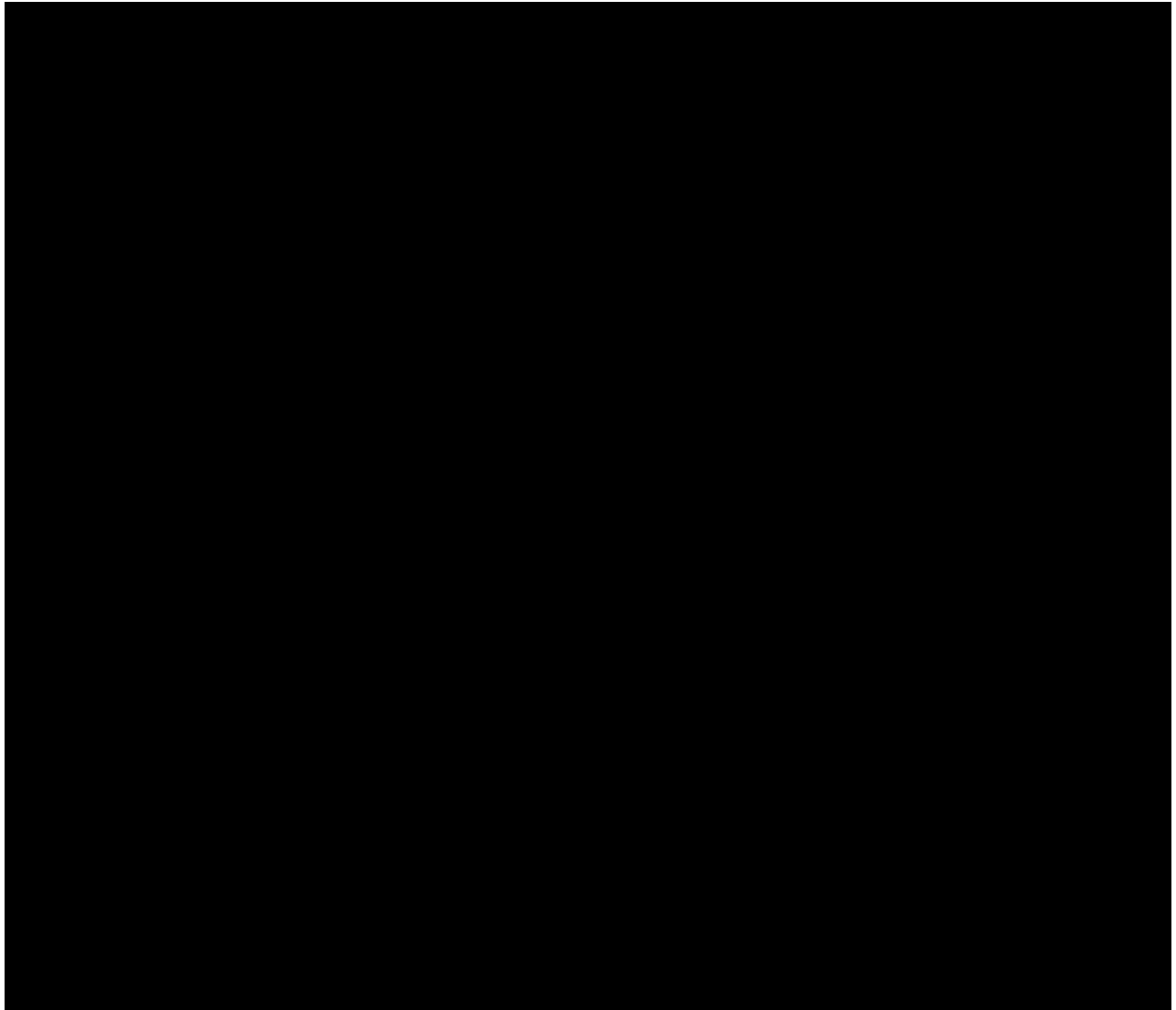
I, Vicktoria J. Allen, Deputy Secretary of the Federal Election Commission, do hereby certify that on March 22, 2024 the Commission took the following actions on the Reason To Believe Recommendation - 2023 Year-End Report for the Administrative Fine Program, as recommended in the Reports Analysis Division's Memorandum dated March 20, 2024, on the following committees:



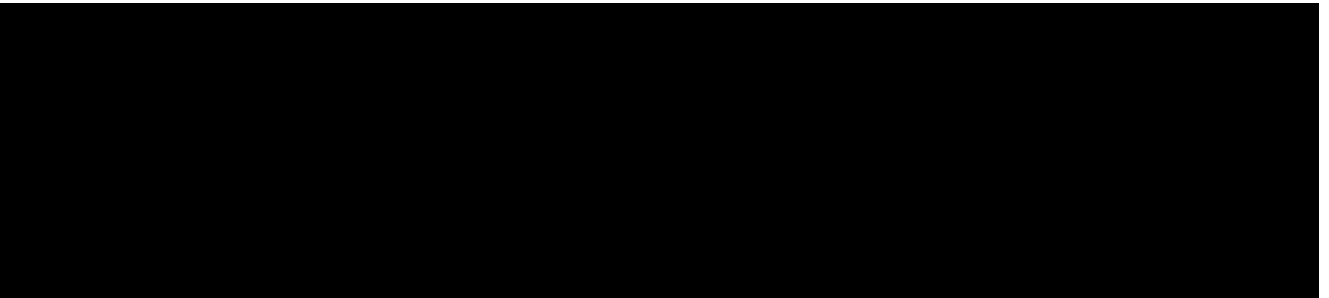
Federal Election Commission  
Certification for Administrative Fines  
March 22, 2024

Page 3



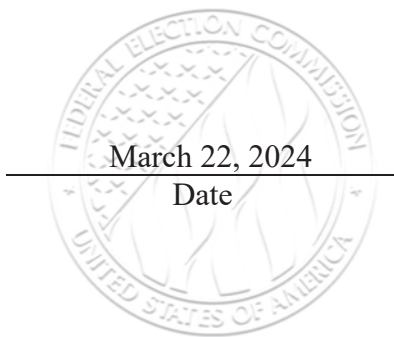


AF#4691 Decided by a vote of 6-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that SOCIAL PROGRESS IN UNION WITH ECONOMIC GROWTH, and ESTELLE, TRINA in their official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty would be the amount indicated on the report; (2) send the appropriate letter. Commissioners Broussard, Cooksey, Dickerson, Lindenbaum, Trainor, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision.



Federal Election Commission  
Certification for Administrative Fines  
March 22, 2024

Page 5



March 22, 2024  
Date

Attest:

Vicktoria J  
Allen

Digitally signed by Vicktoria J  
Allen  
Date: 2024.03.22 16:30:44  
-04'00'

Vicktoria J. Allen  
Deputy Secretary of the Commission



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

AF

March 22, 2024

Trina Estelle, in official capacity as Treasurer  
Social Progress in Union with Economic Growth  
734 2nd Avenue  
Lyndhurst, NJ 07071

C00833665  
AF#: 4691  
FINE: \$5,258

Dear Trina Estelle,

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"), requires that your committee file a 2023 Year-End Report of Receipts and Disbursements every calendar year. This report, covering the period July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023, shall be filed no later than January 31, 2024. 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a). Records at the Federal Election Commission (the "Commission" or "FEC") indicate that this report was filed on February 19, 2024, 19 days late.

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 March 22, 2024, the Commission found that there is reason to believe ("RTB") that Social Progress in Union with Economic Growth 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 January 31, 2024. Based on the FEC's schedules of civil money penalties at 11 CFR § 111.43, the amount of your civil money penalty calculated at the RTB stage is \$5,258. Please see the attached copy of the Commission's administrative fine regulations at 11 CFR §§ 111.30-111.55. Attachment 1. The FEC's website contains further information about how the administrative fine program works and how the fines are calculated. See <https://www.fec.gov/af/af.shtml>. 11 CFR § 111.34. Your payment of \$5,258 is due within forty (40) days of the finding, or by May 1, 2024, and is based on these factors:

Election Sensitivity of Report: Not Election Sensitive  
Level of Activity: \$120,000  
Number of Days Late: 19  
Number of Previous Civil Money Penalties Assessed: 0

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

## SOCIAL PROGRESS IN UNION WITH ECONOMIC GROWTH

Page 2 of 4

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

If you decide to challenge the RTB finding and/or calculated civil money penalty, you must email a written response to the FEC's Office of Administrative Review at [administrativefines@fec.gov](mailto:administrativefines@fec.gov). 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 May 1, 2024. 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).

The FEC will only consider challenges that are based on at least one of three factors: (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 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).

If you fail to timely raise a factual argument in your challenge to the RTB finding, your right to present such an argument in an appeal to the U.S. District Court under 52 U.S.C. § 30109 shall be deemed waived. 11 CFR § 111.38.

It should also be noted that all challenges to an RTB finding and/or calculated civil money penalty should be converted to Portable Document Format ("PDF") and emailed to [administrativefines@fec.gov](mailto: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 they are electronically received by staff.

## SOCIAL PROGRESS IN UNION WITH ECONOMIC GROWTH

Page 3 of 4

In addition, 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 challenging the RTB finding and/or calculated civil money penalty, the FEC will conclude that the factual allegations underlying the RTB finding and/or calculated civil money penalty are true and make a final determination that Social Progress in Union with Economic Growth 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 Commission 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 decide to pay the calculated civil money penalty, please follow the payment instructions below. Upon receipt of your payment, the FEC will send you a final determination letter.

You may remit payment by Automated Clearinghouse ("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 <https://www.fec.gov/af/pay.shtml> to be directed to Pay.gov's Administrative Fine Program Payment form. Please use the details at the top of this letter to complete the required fields.

## **NOTICE REGARDING PARTIAL PAYMENTS AND SETTLEMENT OFFERS**

### **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.

### **Settlement Offers**

## SOCIAL PROGRESS IN UNION WITH ECONOMIC GROWTH

Page 4 of 4

Any offer to settle or compromise a debt owed to the Commission will be rejected. This includes making 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 correspondence transmitted with your check or money order. 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 <https://www.fec.gov/af/af.shtml>. If you have questions regarding the payment of the calculated civil money penalty, please contact Ben Holly on the toll-free number, (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt, press 5 to reach the Reports Analysis Division) or (202) 694-1130. If you have questions regarding the submission of a challenge, please contact the Office of Administrative Review on the toll-free number, (800) 424-9530 (press 0, then ext. 1158) or (202) 694-1158.

On behalf of the Commission,



Sean J. Cooksey  
Chairman

Trina Estelle, in official capacity as Treasurer  
 Social Progress in Union with Economic Growth  
 734 2nd Avenue  
 Lyndhurst, NJ 07071  
[hairat302@yahoo.com](mailto:hairat302@yahoo.com)

March 25, 2024

Federal Election Commission  
 Washington, D.C.  
 Via email: [administrativefines@fec.gov](mailto:administrativefines@fec.gov)

Re: C00833665  
 AF#: 4691  
 FINE: \$5,258

I am in receipt of your letter issuing a fine dated March 22, 2024. I am challenging the civil money penalty for the reason that I am inexperienced. The factual basis to support my reason are the following declarations:

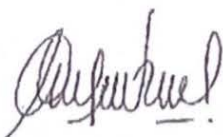
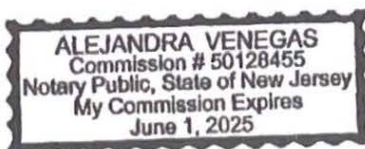
1. This is the first time I was filing on my own as I had my accountant previously walk me through the process with the first filing. Please note that I have not been a treasurer before on any other independent expenditure committee.
2. On January 17, 2024, I prepared and validated the report timely as evidenced by report FEC Form 3X that I had saved for my records and is accompanying this letter. However, based on my inexperience, I erroneously considered this report to be filed because there was no icon button to file, only to validate. Not recalling that I had to go to the "File" master menu and select "Upload a Report" to file.
3. On February 19, 2023, when I saw the email with the letter dated February 15, 2024 notifying me that I had not filed, I immediately filed the report by going to the "File" master menu and selecting "Upload a Report" to file.

I am now experienced in this process and am committed to not allowing a late filing to happen again based on inexperience and therefore also understand that using this as a reason in the future will not be an adequate reason for a late filing. I declare that all these statements are true to the best of my knowledge.



Trina Estelle, Treasurer

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
 this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.

FEC  
FORM 3XREPORT OF RECEIPTS  
AND DISBURSEMENTS  
For Other Than An Authorized Committee

Office Use Only

1. NAME OF  
COMMITTEE (in full)

TYPE OR PRINT ▼

Example: If typing, type  
over the lines.

12FE4M5

Social Progress in Union with Economic Growth

ADDRESS (number and street)

734 2nd Avenue

Check if different  
than previously  
reported. (ACC)

Lyndhurst

NJ

07071

2. FEC IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ▼

CITY ▲

STATE ▲

ZIP CODE ▲

C

C00833665

3. IS THIS  
REPORTNEW  
(N)

OR

AMENDED  
(A)

4. TYPE OF REPORT

(Choose One)

(a) Quarterly Reports:

April 15  
Quarterly Report (Q1)July 15  
Quarterly Report (Q2)October 15  
Quarterly Report (Q3)January 31  
Year-End Report (YE)July 31 Mid-Year  
Report (Non-election  
Year Only) (MY)Termination Report  
(TER)(b) Monthly  
Report  
Due On:☐ Feb 20 (M2)☐ May 20 (M5)☐ Aug 20 (M8)☐ Nov 20 (M11)  
(Non-Election  
Year Only)☐ Mar 20 (M3)☐ Jun 20 (M6)☐ Sep 20 (M9)☐ Dec 20 (M12)  
(Non-Election  
Year Only)☐ Apr 20 (M4)☐ Jul 20 (M7)☐ Oct 20 (M10)☐ Jan 31 (YE)

(c) 12-Day

PRE-Election

Report for the:



Primary (12P)



General (12G)



Runoff (12R)



Convention (12C)



Special (12S)

Election on

M M / D D / Y Y Y Y Y Y

D D / D D / Y Y Y Y Y Y

Y Y Y Y Y Y / Y Y Y Y Y Y

in the  
State of

M M / D D / Y Y Y Y Y Y

(d) 30-Day

POST-Election

Report for the:



General (30G)



Runoff (30R)



Special (30S)

Election on

M M / D D / Y Y Y Y Y Y

D D / D D / Y Y Y Y Y Y

Y Y Y Y Y Y / Y Y Y Y Y Y

in the  
State of

M M / D D / Y Y Y Y Y Y

5. Covering Period

M M / D D / Y Y Y Y Y Y  
10 01 2023

D D / D D / Y Y Y Y Y Y

Y Y Y Y Y Y / Y Y Y Y Y Y

through

M M / D D / Y Y Y Y Y Y  
12 31 2023

D D / D D / Y Y Y Y Y Y

Y Y Y Y Y Y / Y Y Y Y Y Y

I certify that I have examined this Report and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct and complete.

Type or Print Name of Treasurer

Estelle, Trina, . .

Signature of Treasurer

Estelle, Trina, . .

Date

M M / D D / Y Y Y Y Y Y  
01 17 2024

D D / D D / Y Y Y Y Y Y

Y Y Y Y Y Y / Y Y Y Y Y Y

NOTE: Submission of false, erroneous, or incomplete information may subject the person signing this Report to the penalties of 52 U.S.C. § 30109.

Office  
Use  
OnlyFEC FORM 3X  
Rev. 05/2016

# SUMMARY PAGE OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

FEC Form 3X (Rev. 05/2016)

Page 2

Write or Type Committee Name

Social Progress in Union with Economic Growth

Report Covering the Period:

From:

10

01

2023

To:

12

31

2023

	COLUMN A This Period	COLUMN B Calendar Year-to-Date
6. (a) Cash on Hand January 1, <input type="text" value="2023"/>		0.00
(b) Cash on Hand at Beginning of Reporting Period.....	1000.00	
(c) Total Receipts (from Line 19) .....	120000.00	121000.00
(d) Subtotal (add Lines 6(b) and 6(c) for Column A and Lines 6(a) and 6(c) for Column B) .....	121000.00	121000.00
7. Total Disbursements (from Line 31) .....	0.00	0.00
8. Cash on Hand at Close of Reporting Period (subtract Line 7 from Line 6(d)) .....	121000.00	121000.00
9. Debts and Obligations Owed <b>TO</b> the Committee (Itemize all on Schedule C and/or Schedule D) .....	0.00	
10. Debts and Obligations Owed <b>BY</b> the Committee (Itemize all on Schedule C and/or Schedule D) .....	0.00	



This committee has qualified as a multicandidate committee. (see FEC FORM 1M)

For further information, contact the Federal Election Commission at 800-424-9530 or visit [www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov)

# **DETAILED SUMMARY PAGE** of Receipts

FEC Form 3X (Rev. 05/2016)

Page 3

Write or Type Committee Name

Social Progress in Union with Economic Growth

Report Covering the Period:

From:

10 / 01 / 2023

To:

12 / 31 / 2023

**I. Receipts**
**COLUMN A**  
Total This Period

**COLUMN B**  
Calendar Year-to-Date

11. Contributions (other than loans) From:		
(a) Individuals/Persons Other Than Political Committees		
(i) Itemized (use Schedule A).....	0.00	1000.00
(ii) Unitemized .....	0.00	0.00
(iii) TOTAL (add Lines 11(a)(i) and (ii)).....▶	0.00	1000.00
(b) Political Party Committees .....	0.00	0.00
(c) Other Political Committees (such as PACs).....	120000.00	120000.00
(d) Total Contributions (add Lines 11(a)(iii), (b), and (c)) (Carry Totals to Line 33, page 5).....▶	120000.00	121000.00
12. Transfers From Affiliated/Other Party Committees.....	0.00	0.00
13. All Loans Received .....	0.00	0.00
14. Loan Repayments Received.....	0.00	0.00
15. Offsets To Operating Expenditures (Refunds, Rebates, etc.) (Carry Totals to Line 37, page 5).....	0.00	0.00
16. Refunds of Contributions Made to Federal Candidates and Other Political Committees.....	0.00	0.00
17. Other Federal Receipts (Dividends, Interest, etc.).....	0.00	0.00
18. Transfers from Non-Federal and Levin Funds		
(a) Non-Federal Account (from Schedule H3).....	0.00	0.00
(b) Levin Funds (from Schedule H5) .....	0.00	0.00
(c) Total Transfers (add 18(a) and 18(b))..	0.00	0.00
19. Total Receipts (add Lines 11(d), 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18(c)).....▶	120000.00	121000.00
20. Total Federal Receipts (subtract Line 18(c) from Line 19).....▶	120000.00	121000.00

# **SCHEDULE A (FEC Form 3X)** **ITEMIZED RECEIPTS**

Use separate schedule(s)  
for each category of the  
Detailed Summary Page

FOR LINE NUMBER:		PAGE 6 OF 6	
(check only one)			
<input type="checkbox"/> 11a	<input type="checkbox"/> 11b	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 11c	<input type="checkbox"/> 12
<input type="checkbox"/> 13	<input type="checkbox"/> 14	<input type="checkbox"/> 15	<input type="checkbox"/> 16 <input type="checkbox"/> 17

Any information copied from such Reports and Statements may not be sold or used by any person for the purpose of soliciting contributions or for commercial purposes, other than using the name and address of any political committee to solicit contributions from such committee.

NAME OF COMMITTEE (In Full)

**Social Progress in Union with Economic Growth**

Full Name of Individual (Last, First, Middle Initial) or Full Organization Name

## **A. LOCAL UNION 164 IBEW STATE C.O.P.E. FUND**

Mailing Address 205 Robin Rd  
Suite 315

City Paramus State NJ Zip Code 07652-1449

FEC ID number of contributing  
federal political committee.

C

Name of Employer (for Individual)

Occupation (for Individual)

Receipt For:

☐ Primary ☐ General  
☐ Other (specify) ▼

Aggregate Year-to-Date ▼

20000.00

Date of Receipt

11 / 15 / 2023

Transaction ID : SA11C.4108

Amount of Each Receipt this Period

20000.00

☐ Memo Item

Full Name of Individual (Last, First, Middle Initial) or Full Organization Name

## **B. LOCAL UNION 164 IBEW STATE C.O.P.E. FUND**

Mailing Address 205 Robin Rd  
Suite 315

City Paramus State NJ Zip Code 07652-1449

FEC ID number of contributing  
federal political committee.

C

Name of Employer (for Individual)

Occupation (for Individual)

Receipt For:

☐ Primary ☐ General  
☐ Other (specify) ▼

Aggregate Year-to-Date ▼

120000.00

Date of Receipt

12 / 01 / 2023

Transaction ID : SA11C.4106

Amount of Each Receipt this Period

100000.00

☐ Memo Item

Full Name of Individual (Last, First, Middle Initial) or Full Organization Name

## **C.**

Mailing Address

City State Zip Code

FEC ID number of contributing  
federal political committee.

C

Name of Employer (for Individual)

Occupation (for Individual)

Receipt For:

☐ Primary ☐ General  
☐ Other (specify)

Aggregate Year-to-Date ▼

Date of Receipt

Amount of Each Receipt this Period

☐ Memo Item

SUBTOTAL of Receipts This Page (optional).....▶

120000.00

TOTAL This Period (last page this line number only).....▶

120000.00

# **DETAILED SUMMARY PAGE** of Disbursements

FEC Form 3X (Rev. 05/2016)

Page 5

III. Net Contributions/ Operating Expenditures	COLUMN A Total This Period	COLUMN B Calendar Year-to-Date
33. Total Contributions (other than loans) (from Line 11(d), page 3) .....	120000.00	121000.00
34. Total Contribution Refunds (from Line 28(d)) .....	0.00	0.00
35. Net Contributions (other than loans) (subtract Line 34 from Line 33) .....	120000.00	121000.00
36. Total Federal Operating Expenditures (add Line 21(a)(i) and Line 21(b)) .....	0.00	0.00
37. Offsets to Operating Expenditures (from Line 15, page 3) .....	0.00	0.00
38. Net Operating Expenditures (subtract Line 37 from Line 36) .....	0.00	0.00

# **DETAILED SUMMARY PAGE** of Disbursements

FEC Form 3X (Rev. 05/2016)

Page 4

II. Disbursements	COLUMN A Total This Period	COLUMN B Calendar Year-to-Date
21. Operating Expenditures:		
(a) Allocated Federal/Non-Federal Activity (from Schedule H4)		
(i) Federal Share .....	0.00	0.00
(ii) Non-Federal Share.....	0.00	0.00
(b) Other Federal Operating Expenditures .....	0.00	0.00
(c) Total Operating Expenditures (add 21(a)(i), (a)(ii), and (b)) .....	0.00	0.00
22. Transfers to Affiliated/Other Party Committees.....	0.00	0.00
23. Contributions to Federal Candidates/Committees and Other Political Committees.....	0.00	0.00
24. Independent Expenditures (use Schedule E) .....	0.00	0.00
25. Coordinated Party Expenditures (52 U.S.C. § 30116(d)) (use Schedule F).....	0.00	0.00
26. Loan Repayments Made.....	0.00	0.00
27. Loans Made.....	0.00	0.00
28. Refunds of Contributions To:		
(a) Individuals/Persons Other Than Political Committees .....	0.00	0.00
(b) Political Party Committees .....	0.00	0.00
(c) Other Political Committees (such as PACs).....	0.00	0.00
(d) Total Contribution Refunds (add Lines 28(a), (b), and (c)).....	0.00	0.00
29. Other Disbursements (Including Non-Federal Donations).....	0.00	0.00
30. Federal Election Activity (52 U.S.C. § 30101(20))		
(a) Allocated Federal Election Activity (from Schedule H6)		
(i) Federal Share .....	0.00	0.00
(ii) "Levin" Share.....	0.00	0.00
(b) Federal Election Activity Paid Entirely With Federal Funds .....	0.00	0.00
(c) Total Federal Election Activity (add Lines 30(a)(i), 30(a)(ii) and 30(b)).....	0.00	0.00
31. Total Disbursements (add Lines 21(c), 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28(d), 29 and 30(c))..	0.00	0.00
32. Total Federal Disbursements (subtract Line 21(a)(ii) and Line 30(a)(ii) from Line 31).....	0.00	0.00



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

May 22, 2024

## **REVIEWING OFFICER RECOMMENDATION OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW (“OAR”)**

AF# 4691 – Social Progress in Union with Economic Growth and Trina Estelle, in their official capacity as Treasurer (C00833665)

### **Summary of Recommendation**

Make a final determination that the respondents violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess a \$5,258 civil money penalty.

### **Reason-to-Believe Background**

The 2023 Year-End Report was due on January 31, 2024. The respondents filed the report on February 19, 2024, 19 days late. The report is not election sensitive and was filed within 30 days of the due date; therefore, the report is considered late. 11 C.F.R. §§ 111.43(d)(1) and (e)(1).

On March 22, 2024, the Commission found reason to believe (“RTB”) that the respondents violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) for failing to timely file the 2023 Year-End Report and made a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty was \$5,258 based on the schedule of penalties at 11 C.F.R. § 111.43. A letter was sent to the respondents’ email address of record from the Reports Analysis Division (“RAD”) on March 22, 2024 to notify them of the Commission’s RTB finding and civil money penalty.

### **Legal Requirements**

The Federal Election Campaign Act (“Act”) states that the treasurer of a political committee not authorized by a candidate which is filing on a quarterly basis shall file, in a non-election year, a report for the period ending December 31 no later than January 31 of the following calendar year. U.S.C. § 30104(a) and 11 C.F.R. § 104.5(c)(2)(i). Reports electronically filed must be received and validated at or before 11:59 pm Eastern Standard/Daylight Time on the filing deadline to be timely filed. 11 C.F.R. §§ 100.19(c) and 104.5(e). The treasurer shall be personally responsible for the timely filing of reports. 11 C.F.R. § 104.14(d).

## Summary of Respondents' Challenge

On March 25, 2024, the Commission received the written response (“challenge”) from the Treasurer noting this is her first time serving as a Treasurer, and she was inexperienced at the time she attempted to file the 2023 Year-End Report. The Treasurer further explains that on January 17, 2024, ahead of the January 31 deadline, she prepared and validated the report but failed to properly upload it to the FEC. On February 19, 2024, she became aware of the Commission’s February 15, 2024 email which alerted her to the missing report. She then immediately uploaded the 2023 Year-End Report. The Treasurer states she is now experienced in the upload process and commits to timely filing future reports.

## Analysis

The Treasurer acknowledges that the Committee’s 2023 Year-End Report was not timely filed due to inexperience and failing to properly upload the report. The copy of the report provided with the challenge suggests the Committee closed the report in FECFile<sup>1</sup> on January 17, 2024, prior to the January 31, 2024 filing deadline. However, as noted in the challenge, the Committee failed to take the required next steps to upload the report to the FEC.<sup>2</sup>

The Treasurer states that she became aware of the missing 2023 Year-End Report on February 19, 2024. However, Commission records indicate the Committee was alerted to its failure to file the report prior to this date. On February 1, 2024, the day following the filing deadline, RAD sent a Late Notification email to hairat302@yahoo.com, the Committee’s email address of record, because the Committee had not yet filed the report. On February 15, 2024, RAD sent the Non-filer Notice to the same email address because the Committee had still not yet filed the report.<sup>3</sup>

While the Reviewing Officer recognizes the Committee may have intended to timely file the 2023 Year-End Report, inexperience and failure to use filing software properly are specifically included at 11 C.F.R. § 111.35(d) as examples of circumstances that will not be considered reasonably unforeseen and beyond the respondents’ control. The Reviewing Officer also notes that a committee’s treasurer shall be personally responsible for the timely filing of reports. 11 C.F.R. § 104.14(d). The challenge fails to address any of the three valid grounds at 11 C.F.R. § 111.35(b). These are: (i) the RTB finding is based on factual errors; and/or (ii) the improper calculation of the civil money penalty; and/or (iii) they used best efforts to file on time but were prevented from doing so by reasonably unforeseen circumstances that were beyond their control and they filed the report no later than 24 hours after the end of these circumstances. 11 C.F.R. § 111.35(b). Therefore, the Reviewing Officer recommends that the Commission make a final determination that the respondents violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess a civil money penalty of \$5,258.

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<sup>1</sup> While the challenge did not specify the Committee’s filing software, the Reviewing Officer reviewed the Committee’s filings and confirmed the Committee uses FECFile to electronically file its reports.

<sup>2</sup> See pp. 38-39, [https://www.fec.gov/resources/cms-content/documents/GettingStarted\\_FECFileManual\\_party.pdf](https://www.fec.gov/resources/cms-content/documents/GettingStarted_FECFileManual_party.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> See Attachment 2.

**OAR Recommendations**

1. Adopt the Reviewing Officer recommendation for AF# 4691 involving Social Progress in Union with Economic Growth and Trina Estelle, in their official capacity as Treasurer, in making the final determination;
2. Make a final determination in AF# 4691 that Social Progress in Union with Economic Growth and Trina Estelle, in their official capacity as Treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess a \$5,258 civil money penalty; and
3. Send the appropriate letter.

**Attachments**

Attachment 1 – [REDACTED]

Attachment 2 – Declaration from RAD

Attachment 3 – Declaration from OAR

**DECLARATION OF KRISTIN D. ROSER**

1. I am the Chief of the Compliance Branch for the Reports Analysis Division of the Federal Election Commission (“Commission”). In my capacity as Chief of the Compliance Branch, I oversee the initial processing of the Administrative Fine Program. I make this declaration based on my personal knowledge and, if called upon as a witness, could and would testify competently to the following matters.
2. It is the practice of the Reports Analysis Division to document all calls to or from committees regarding a letter they receive or any questions relating to the FECFile software or administrative fine regulations, including due dates of reports and filing requirements.
3. I hereby certify that documents identified herein are true and accurate copies of the following sent by RAD’s Filing Notification System to Social Progress in Union with Economic Growth’s official email address of record and any email address(es) entered by the Committee when uploading electronic reports in the last year:
  - A) Filing Reminder email, dated January 25, 2024, referencing the 2023 Year-End Report (sent via electronic mail to: hairat302@yahoo.com);
  - B) Late Notification email, dated February 1, 2024, referencing the 2023 Year-End Report (sent via electronic mail to: hairat302@yahoo.com).
4. I hereby certify that documents identified herein are true and accurate copies of the following sent by the Commission to Social Progress in Union with Economic Growth’s official email address of record:
  - A) Non-filer Notice, dated February 15, 2024, referencing the 2023 Year-End Report (sent via electronic mail to: hairat302@yahoo.com); and
  - B) Reason-to-Believe Letter, dated March 22, 2024, referencing the 2023 Year-End Report (sent via electronic mail to: hairat302@yahoo.com).

5. I hereby certify that I have searched the Commission's public records and find that Social Progress in Union with Economic Growth filed the 2023 Year-End Report with the Commission on February 19, 2024.
6. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct and that all relevant telecoms for the matter have been provided. This declaration was executed on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2024.

*Kristin D. Roser*

---

Kristin D. Roser  
Chief, Compliance Branch  
Reports Analysis Division  
Federal Election Commission

From: fecapp@fec.gov <fecapp@fec.gov>  
 Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2024 11:40 AM  
 To: Reports Analysis Division (RAD) Staff <ReportsAnalysisDivisionRADStaff@fec.gov>; Ramana Tammareddy <rtammareddy.ctr@fec.gov>; Anil Konanki <AKonanki.CTR@fec.gov>; Hemalatha Srungaram <HSrungaram.ctr@fec.gov>  
 Subject: FEC Report Due 1/31 (Year-End - PACs and Party Committees)

#### Federal Election Commission Reminder Email

?

?

01/25/2024

Dear Filer,

The Federal Election Commission (FEC) would like to remind you that the 2023 Year-End Report is due on January 31, 2024 (for quarterly filers). For more information regarding your filing schedule, visit: <https://www.fec.gov/help-candidates-and-committees/dates-and-deadlines/>.

Electronic filers have until 11:59 PM (ET) on Wednesday, January 31 to submit their Year-End Report on time. Staff in the Reports Analysis Division (RAD) and Electronic Filing Office will be available until 8:00 PM (ET) on Wednesday, January 31 to answer questions regarding the content and filing of reports. However, due to the high volume of calls and extended wait times close to the deadline, we encourage you to file early.

To reach the Reports Analysis Division (RAD), for help with reporting questions and issues, call 1-800-424-9530 (press 5) or 202-694-1130. For help with technical issues relating to FECFile or electronic filing, dial the same toll-free number and press 4 or call 202-694-1307. You may also look up the name and contact information of your committee's assigned campaign finance analyst or submit a question to your assigned analyst online at <https://www.fec.gov/help-candidates-and-committees/question-rad/>. Please also visit: <https://www.fec.gov/help-candidates-and-committees/> for helpful information, such as reporting examples.

Help for electronic filers is available at: <https://www.fec.gov/help-candidates-and-committees/filing-reports/electronic-filing/>. Assistance with FECFile, including a User Manual, can be found at: <https://www.fec.gov/help-candidates-and-committees/filing-reports/fecfile-software/>. If you need to obtain or update your electronic filing password, please visit: <https://webforms.fec.gov/psa/getstarted.htm>.

Thank You,

Federal Election Commission (FEC)

This email was sent to: @ToAddress

Your Committee ID at FEC: @FECCmteid

FEC-@FECEmailNumber

This e-mail is intended only for the use of the committee/filer designated as recipient.

#### Reminder Email Committee List

#	COMMITTEE ID	COMMITTEE NAME	ANALYST NAME	EMAIL ADDRESSES



-----Original Message-----

From: rad@fec.gov <rad@fec.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 2:05 PM

To: Reports Analysis Division (RAD) Staff <ReportsAnalysisDivisionRADStaff@fec.gov>; Ramana Tammareddy <rtammareddy.ctr@fec.gov>; Anil Konanki <AKonanki.CTR@fec.gov>; Hemalatha Srungaram <HSrungaram.ctr@fec.gov>

Subject: RAD - Daily Reminder/Late Email Report Email

\*\*\*\*\* Daily Reminder/Late Email Report For Report Analysis Division \*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\* Reminder/Late Email Failed to Send \*\*\*\*\*

Total Number Of Emails Failed to Send = 0

\*\*\*\*\* Reminder/Late Email Successfully Sent \*\*\*\*\*

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

C00833665 ----- 1202402010002119257 ---HAIRAT302@YAHOO.COM Reminder/Late Email Sent  
Successfully

[REDACTED]



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

RQ-7

February 15, 2024

ESTELLE, TRINA, TREASURER  
SOCIAL PROGRESS IN UNION WITH ECONOMIC GROWTH  
734 2ND AVENUE  
LYNDHURST, NJ 07071

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: C00833665

REFERENCE: YEAR-END REPORT (07/01/2023 - 12/31/2023)

Dear Treasurer:

It has come to the attention of the Federal Election Commission that you may have failed to file the above referenced report of receipts and disbursements or failed to file a report covering the entire reporting period as required by the Federal Election Campaign Act, as amended. 52 U.S.C. §30104(a)

It is important that you file this report immediately with the Federal Election Commission, 1050 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20463. For reports shipped via delivery services (e.g., FedEx, UPS or DHL), use the ZIP code 20002. Please note that electronic filers must submit their reports electronically, as per 11 CFR §104.18. A copy of the report or relevant portions must also be filed with the Secretary of State or equivalent State officer unless the State is exempt from the federal requirement to receive and maintain paper copies. You can verify the Commission's receipt of any documents submitted by your committee on the FEC website at [www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov).

The failure to timely file a complete report may result in civil money penalties, an audit or legal enforcement action. The civil money penalty calculation for late reports does not include a grace period and begins on the day following the due date for the report. The Commission recommends that you submit your report via overnight delivery or courier service.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Jacqueline Gausepohl in the Reports Analysis Division on our toll-free number (800)424-9530. The analyst's direct number is (202)694-1277.

SOCIAL PROGRESS IN UNION WITH ECONOMIC GROWTH

Page 2 of 2

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie Chacona". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Debbie" and last name "Chacona" clearly distinguishable.

Deborah Chacona  
Assistant Staff Director

250

## DECLARATION OF RHIANNON MAGRUDER

- 1) I am the Reviewing Officer in the Office of Administrative Review for the Federal Election Commission ("Commission"). In my capacity as Reviewing Officer, I conduct research with respect to all challenges submitted in accordance with the Administrative Fine program.
- 2) Political committees not authorized by a candidate which are filing on a quarterly basis shall file, in a non-election year, a report for the period ending December 31 no later than January 31 of the following calendar year. Reports filed electronically must be received and validated at or before 11:59 pm, Eastern Standard/Daylight Time on January 31, 2024 for the 2023 Year-End Report to be timely filed.
- 3) I hereby certify that I have searched the Commission's public records and that the documents identified herein are the true and accurate copies of:
  - a) Cover Page, Summary Page, and Detailed Summary Pages of the 2023 Year-End Report filed by Social Progress in Union with Economic Growth. The report includes the coverage period of October 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 and was electronically filed on February 19, 2024.
- 4) Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May, 2024.

*Rhiannon Magruder*

Rhiannon Magruder  
Reviewing Officer  
Office of Administrative Review  
Federal Election Commission

Image# 202402199619795218

PAGE 1 / 6

**FEC  
FORM 3X****REPORT OF RECEIPTS  
AND DISBURSEMENTS**  
For Other Than An Authorized Committee

Office Use Only

1. NAME OF COMMITTEE (in full) TYPE OR PRINT ▼ Example: If typing, type over the lines.

12FE4M5

Social Progress in Union with Economic Growth

ADDRESS (number and street)

734 2nd Avenue

Check if different  
than previously  
reported. (ACC)

Lyndhurst

NJ

07071

2. FEC IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ▼

CITY ▲

STATE ▲

ZIP CODE ▲

C

C00833665

3. IS THIS  
REPORTNEW  
(N)

OR

AMENDED  
(A)

## 4. TYPE OF REPORT

(Choose One)

(a) Quarterly Reports:

April 15  
Quarterly Report (Q1)July 15  
Quarterly Report (Q2)October 15  
Quarterly Report (Q3)January 31  
Year-End Report (YE)July 31 Mid-Year  
Report (Non-election  
Year Only) (MY)Termination Report  
(TER)(b) Monthly  
Report  
Due On:

Feb 20 (M2)



May 20 (M5)



Aug 20 (M8)

Nov 20 (M11)  
(Non-Election  
Year Only)

Mar 20 (M3)



Jun 20 (M6)



Sep 20 (M9)

Dec 20 (M12)  
(Non-Election  
Year Only)

Apr 20 (M4)



Jul 20 (M7)



Oct 20 (M10)



Jan 31 (YE)

(c) 12-Day  
PRE-Election  
Report for the:

Primary (12P)



General (12G)



Runoff (12R)



Convention (12C)



Special (12S)

Election on

M M /

D D /

Y Y Y Y Y Y

in the  
State of(d) 30-Day  
POST-Election  
Report for the:

General (30G)



Runoff (30R)



Special (30S)

Election on

M M /

D D /

Y Y Y Y Y Y

in the  
State of

5. Covering Period

M M /

D D /

Y Y Y Y Y Y

through

M M /

D D /

Y Y Y Y Y Y

I certify that I have examined this Report and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct and complete.

Type or Print Name of Treasurer

Estelle, Trina, , ,

Signature of Treasurer

Estelle, Trina, , ,

Date

M M /

D D /

Y Y Y Y Y Y

NOTE: Submission of false, erroneous, or incomplete information may subject the person signing this Report to the penalties of 52 U.S.C. § 30109.

Office  
Use  
Only**FEC FORM 3X**  
Rev. 05/2016

**SUMMARY PAGE**  
**OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS**

FEC Form 3X (Rev. 05/2016)

Page 2

Write or Type Committee Name

Social Progress in Union with Economic GrowthReport Covering the Period: From:    10 / 01 / 2023 To:    12 / 31 / 2023

	COLUMN A This Period	COLUMN B Calendar Year-to-Date
6. (a) Cash on Hand January 1, <input type="text" value="YYYY"/> 2023		<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
(b) Cash on Hand at Beginning of Reporting Period.....	<input type="text" value="1000.00"/>	
(c) Total Receipts (from Line 19) .....	<input type="text" value="120000.00"/>	<input type="text" value="121000.00"/>
(d) Subtotal (add Lines 6(b) and 6(c) for Column A and Lines 6(a) and 6(c) for Column B) .....	<input type="text" value="121000.00"/>	<input type="text" value="121000.00"/>
7. Total Disbursements (from Line 31) .....	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
8. Cash on Hand at Close of Reporting Period (subtract Line 7 from Line 6(d)) .....	<input type="text" value="121000.00"/>	<input type="text" value="121000.00"/>
9. Debts and Obligations Owed <b>TO</b> the Committee (Itemize all on Schedule C and/or Schedule D) .....	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>	
10. Debts and Obligations Owed <b>BY</b> the Committee (Itemize all on Schedule C and/or Schedule D) .....	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>	



This committee has qualified as a multicandidate committee. (see FEC FORM 1M)

**For further information, contact the Federal Election Commission at 800-424-9530 or visit [www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov)**

**DETAILED SUMMARY PAGE**  
of Receipts

FEC Form 3X (Rev. 05/2016)

Page 3

Write or Type Committee Name

Social Progress in Union with Economic Growth

Report Covering the Period:

From:

M M / D D / Y Y Y Y  
10 01 2023

To:

M M / D D / Y Y Y Y  
12 31 2023**I. Receipts****COLUMN A**  
Total This Period**COLUMN B**  
Calendar Year-to-Date

## 11. Contributions (other than loans) From:

## (a) Individuals/Persons Other

Than Political Committees

(i) Itemized (use Schedule A).....

0.00

1000.00

(ii) Unitemized .....

0.00

0.00

(iii) TOTAL (add

Lines 11(a)(i) and (ii).....▶

0.00

1000.00

(b) Political Party Committees .....

0.00

0.00

(c) Other Political Committees

(such as PACs).....

120000.00

120000.00

(d) Total Contributions (add Lines

11(a)(iii), (b), and (c)) (Carry

Totals to Line 33, page 5) .....

120000.00

121000.00

## 12. Transfers From Affiliated/Other

Party Committees.....

0.00

0.00

## 13. All Loans Received .....

0.00

0.00

## 14. Loan Repayments Received.....

0.00

0.00

## 15. Offsets To Operating Expenditures

(Refunds, Rebates, etc.)

(Carry Totals to Line 37, page 5).....

0.00

0.00

## 16. Refunds of Contributions Made

to Federal Candidates and Other

Political Committees.....

0.00

0.00

## 17. Other Federal Receipts

(Dividends, Interest, etc.).....

0.00

0.00

## 18. Transfers from Non-Federal and Levin Funds

(a) Non-Federal Account

(from Schedule H3) .....

0.00

0.00

(b) Levin Funds (from Schedule H5) .....

0.00

0.00

(c) Total Transfers (add 18(a) and 18(b))..

0.00

0.00

19. Total Receipts (add Lines 11(d),  
12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18(c)) .....

120000.00

121000.00

## 20. Total Federal Receipts

(subtract Line 18(c) from Line 19) .....

120000.00

121000.00

**DETAILED SUMMARY PAGE**  
of Disbursements

FEC Form 3X (Rev. 05/2016)

Page 4

II. Disbursements	COLUMN A Total This Period	COLUMN B Calendar Year-to-Date
21. Operating Expenditures:		
(a) Allocated Federal/Non-Federal Activity (from Schedule H4)		
(i) Federal Share .....	0.00	0.00
(ii) Non-Federal Share.....	0.00	0.00
(b) Other Federal Operating Expenditures .....	0.00	0.00
(c) Total Operating Expenditures (add 21(a)(i), (a)(ii), and (b)) .....	0.00	0.00
22. Transfers to Affiliated/Other Party Committees.....	0.00	0.00
23. Contributions to Federal Candidates/Committees and Other Political Committees.....	0.00	0.00
24. Independent Expenditures (use Schedule E) .....	0.00	0.00
25. Coordinated Party Expenditures (52 U.S.C. § 30116(d)) (use Schedule F).....	0.00	0.00
26. Loan Repayments Made.....	0.00	0.00
27. Loans Made.....	0.00	0.00
28. Refunds of Contributions To:		
(a) Individuals/Persons Other Than Political Committees .....	0.00	0.00
(b) Political Party Committees .....	0.00	0.00
(c) Other Political Committees (such as PACs).....	0.00	0.00
(d) Total Contribution Refunds (add Lines 28(a), (b), and (c)).....	0.00	0.00
29. Other Disbursements (Including Non-Federal Donations).....	0.00	0.00
30. Federal Election Activity (52 U.S.C. § 30101(20))		
(a) Allocated Federal Election Activity (from Schedule H6)		
(i) Federal Share .....	0.00	0.00
(ii) "Levin" Share.....	0.00	0.00
(b) Federal Election Activity Paid Entirely With Federal Funds .....	0.00	0.00
(c) Total Federal Election Activity (add Lines 30(a)(i), 30(a)(ii) and 30(b)) .....	0.00	0.00
31. Total Disbursements (add Lines 21(c), 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28(d), 29 and 30(c)) ..	0.00	0.00
32. Total Federal Disbursements (subtract Line 21(a)(ii) and Line 30(a)(ii) from Line 31).....	0.00	0.00

**DETAILED SUMMARY PAGE**  
of Disbursements

FEC Form 3X (Rev. 05/2016)

Page 5

III. Net Contributions/ Operating Expenditures	COLUMN A Total This Period	COLUMN B Calendar Year-to-Date
33. Total Contributions (other than loans) (from Line 11(d), page 3) .....	120000.00	121000.00
34. Total Contribution Refunds (from Line 28(d)) .....	0.00	0.00
35. Net Contributions (other than loans) (subtract Line 34 from Line 33) .....	120000.00	121000.00
36. Total Federal Operating Expenditures (add Line 21(a)(i) and Line 21(b)) .....▶	0.00	0.00
37. Offsets to Operating Expenditures (from Line 15, page 3).....	0.00	0.00
38. Net Operating Expenditures (subtract Line 37 from Line 36) .....▶	0.00	0.00



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

May 23, 2024

Trina Estelle, in official capacity as Treasurer  
Social Progress in Union with Economic Growth  
734 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Lyndhurst, NJ 07071

C00833665  
AF# 4691

Dear Treasurer:

On March 22, 2024, the Federal Election Commission ("the Commission") found reason to believe ("RTB") that Social Progress in Union with Economic Growth and you, in your official capacity as Treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) for failing to file the 2023 Year-End Report. The Commission also made a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty was \$5,258 based on the schedule of penalties at 11 C.F.R. § 111.43.

After reviewing your written response and any supplemental information submitted by you and Commission staff, the Reviewing Officer has recommended that the Commission make a final determination and assess a civil money penalty. A copy of the Reviewing Officer's recommendation is attached.

You may file with the Commission Secretary a written response to the recommendation within 10 days of the date of this letter. All written responses and supporting documentation should be converted to PDF (Portable Document Format) and must be emailed to the Commission Secretary at [secretary@fec.gov](mailto:secretary@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 responses will be deemed received on the date it is electronically received by staff. Please include the AF # in your response. Your response may not raise any arguments not raised in your original written response or not directly responsive to the Reviewing Officer's recommendation. 11 C.F.R. § 111.36(f). The Commission will then make a final determination in this matter.

Please contact me at the toll free number 800-424-9530 (press 0, then press 1660) or 202-694-1158 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Rhiannon Magruder*

Rhiannon Magruder  
Reviewing Officer  
Office of Administrative Review

Trina Estelle, in official capacity as Treasurer  
Social Progress in Union with Economic Growth  
734 2nd Avenue  
Lyndhurst, NJ 07071  
[hairat302@yahoo.com](mailto:hairat302@yahoo.com)

July 29, 2024

Federal Election Commission  
Washington, D.C.  
Via email: [administrativefines@fec.gov](mailto:administrativefines@fec.gov)

Re: C00833665  
AF#: 4691  
FINE: \$5,258

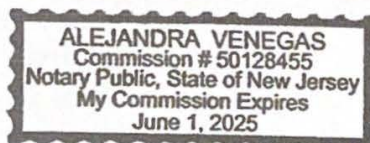
I am in receipt of your final recommendation that will be made to the Commission dated July 23, 2024. I would like to add a request that the civil money penalty be abated as a first-time abatement for late filing with factual basis that it was my first-time filing late.

Also, I would also like to add that I did not receive a failure to file notification email in my inbox from [rad@fec.gov](mailto:rad@fec.gov) on February 1, 2024. Such email may have been blocked by my email provider or routed to spam. A factual basis to support this claim is that when I received the failure to file notification email dated February 15, 2024 from [rad@fec.gov](mailto:rad@fec.gov), I immediately acted on or about the date. If I would have received notification email on February 1, 2024, I would have immediately acted on or about that date. If the civil money penalty cannot be abated as a first-time abatement for late filing, I am requesting a reduction in the number of days included in civil money penalty by taking into consideration that I did not receive a notification email on February 1, 2024, but when I did receive notification email on February 15, 2024, I did act immediately. I declare that all these statements are true to the best of my knowledge.

  
Trina Estelle, Treasurer

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this 29<sup>th</sup> day of July 2024.







FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

**SENSITIVE**

August 7, 2024

**MEMORANDUM**

To: The Commission

Through: Alec Palmer *AP*  
Staff Director

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

Rhiannon Magruder *RM*  
Reviewing Officer  
Office of Administrative Review

Subject: Final Determination Recommendation in AF# 4691 – Social Progress in Union with Economic Growth and Trina Estelle, in their official capacity as Treasurer (C00833665)

On March 22, 2024, the Commission found reason to believe (“RTB”) that the respondents violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) for failing to timely file the 2023 Year-End Report and made a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty was \$5,258 based on the schedule of penalties at 11 C.F.R. § 111.43. On March 25, 2024, the Commission received their written response (“challenge”). After reviewing the challenge, the Reviewing Officer Recommendation (“ROR”) dated May 22, 2024 was forwarded to the Commission, a copy was forwarded to the respondents, and is hereby incorporated by reference.

The Reviewing Officer recognized the Committee may have intended to properly upload and timely file the 2023 Year-End Report but noted that inexperience and failure to use filing software properly are specifically included at 11 C.F.R. § 111.35(d) as examples of circumstances that will not be considered reasonably unforeseen and beyond the respondents’ control. The challenge failed to address any of the three valid grounds at 11 C.F.R. § 111.35(b). These are: (i) the RTB finding is based on factual errors; and/or (ii) the improper calculation of the civil money penalty; and/or (iii) they used best efforts to file on time but were prevented from doing so by reasonably unforeseen circumstances that were beyond their control and they filed the report no later than 24 hours after the end of these circumstances. 11 C.F.R. § 111.35(b). Therefore, the Reviewing Officer recommended that the Commission make a final determination that the respondents violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess a civil money penalty of \$5,258. *See ROR.*

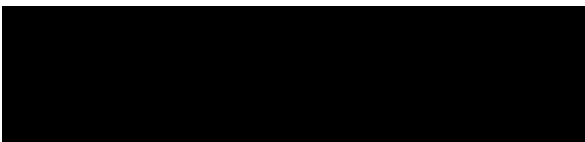
Within 10 days of transmittal of the recommendation, the respondents may file a written response with the Commission Secretary which may not raise any arguments not raised in their challenge or not directly responsive to the ROR. 11 C.F.R. § 111.36(f). On July 30, 2024, the Treasurer submitted a response. *See Attachment 1.*

The Treasurer requests that the penalty be abated because it was her first late filing. The Reviewing Officer notes that a committee or treasurer's history of compliance is not grounds for challenging the reason to believe finding or proposed civil money penalty. 11 C.F.R § 111.35(b). In addition, the Treasurer states she did not receive RAD's February 1, 2024 Late Notification email referenced in the ROR and suggests that it "...may have been blocked by [her] email provider or routed to spam." Further, the Treasurer indicates she would have filed the missing report sooner if she had received this email. The Reviewing Officer again reviewed Commission records and confirms that the February 1, 2024 Late Notification email was appropriately sent from rad@fec.gov to hairat302@yahoo.com, the Committee's email address of record.

The Reviewing Officer considered the Treasurer's response to the ROR, and the recommendations are unchanged. The Reviewing Officer recommends that the Commission make a final determination that the respondents violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess a \$5,258 civil money penalty.

### **OAR Recommendations**

1. Adopt the Reviewing Officer recommendation for AF# 4691 involving Social Progress in Union with Economic Growth and Trina Estelle, in their official capacity as Treasurer, in making the final determination;
2. Make a final determination in AF# 4691 that Social Progress in Union with Economic Growth and Trina Estelle, in their official capacity as Treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess a \$5,258 civil money penalty; and
3. Send the appropriate letter.



## BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of )  
 ) AF 4691  
 Final Determination Recommendation: )  
 Social Progress in Union with Economic )  
 Growth and Trina Estelle, in their official )  
 capacity as Treasurer (C00833665) )

CERTIFICATION

I, Vicktoria J. Allen, Deputy Secretary of the Federal Election Commission, do hereby certify that on August 14, 2024, the Commission decided by a vote of 6-0 to take the following actions in AF 4691:

1. Adopt the Reviewing Officer recommendation for AF# 4691 involving Social Progress in Union with Economic Growth and Trina Estelle, in their official capacity as Treasurer, in making the final determination.
2. Make a final determination in AF# 4691 that Social Progress in Union with Economic Growth and Trina Estelle, in their official capacity as Treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess a \$5,258 civil money penalty.
3. Send the appropriate letter.

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

Attest:



Vicktoria J Allen

Digitally signed by Vicktoria J Allen  
 Date: 2024.08.14 16:21:50 -04'00'

Vicktoria J. Allen  
 Deputy Secretary of the Commission



August 23, 2024

Trina Estelle, in official capacity as Treasurer  
Social Progress in Union with Economic Growth  
734 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Lyndhurst, NJ 07071

C00833665  
AF# 4691

Dear Treasurer:

On March 22, 2024, the Federal Election Commission (“the Commission”) found reason to believe (“RTB”) that Social Progress in Union with Economic Growth and you, in your official capacity as Treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) for failing to file the 2023 Year-End Report. By letter dated March 22, 2024, the Commission sent notification of the RTB finding that included a civil money penalty calculated at \$5,258 in accordance with the schedule of penalties at 11 CFR § 111.43. On March 25, 2024, the Office of Administrative Review received your written response challenging the RTB finding.

The Reviewing Officer reviewed the Commission’s RTB finding with its supporting documentation and your written response. Based on this review, the Reviewing Officer recommended that the Commission make a final determination that Social Progress in Union with Economic Growth and you, in your official capacity as Treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a), and assess a civil money penalty in the amount of \$5,258 in accordance with 11 CFR § 111.43. The Reviewing Officer Recommendation was sent to you on May 23, 2024.

On July 30, 2024, the Commission received your response to the ROR. On August 14, 2024, the Commission adopted the Reviewing Officer’s recommendation and made a final determination that Social Progress in Union with Economic Growth 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 \$5,258. A copy of the Final Determination Recommendation is attached.

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 must submit a written petition requesting that the final determination be modified or set aside. This request must be made within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter and sent to the U.S. District Court for the district in which the committee or you reside or transact business. *See* 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(4)(C)(iii). If you did not timely raise a factual argument in a challenge to the Commission’s RTB finding, your right to present such an argument in an appeal to the U.S. District Court under 52 U.S.C. § 30109 shall be deemed waived. 11 CFR § 111.38.

**2. If You Choose to Not Pay the Civil Money Penalty and to Not 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 thirty (30) days and do not appeal the Commission’s final determination to the U.S. District Court (see above), the Commission will transfer the debt to the U.S. Department of the Treasury (“Treasury”) for collection. Treasury will contact you to request payment within five (5) days of the receiving the debt. Treasury currently charges a fee of 30 percent 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 percent 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. 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 by Treasury to enforce recovery of a delinquent debt 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, please follow the payment instructions below. You should make payment within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter.

You may remit payment by Automated Clearinghouse (“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](http://www.fec.gov/af/pay.shtml) to be directed to Pay.gov’s Administrative Fine Program Payment form. Please use the details above to complete the required fields.

**NOTICE REGARDING PARTIAL PAYMENTS AND SETTLEMENT OFFERS****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.

**Settlement Offers**

Any offer to settle or compromise a debt owed to the Commission will be rejected. This includes 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. 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 this matter, please contact Rhiannon Magruder on our toll-free number (800) 424-9530 (press 0, then ext. 1158) or (202) 694-1158.

On behalf of the Commission,



Sean J. Cooksey  
Chairman