

### **SENSITIVE**

June 4, 2024

#### MEMORANDUM

TO: The Commission

THROUGH: Alec Palmer

Staff Director

FROM: Patricia C. Orrock*PCO* 

**Chief Compliance Officer** 

Debbie Chacona DC Assistant Staff Director Reports Analysis Division

BY: Kristin D. Roser/Ben Holly

Reports Analysis Division

Compliance Branch

SUBJECT: Reason To Believe Recommendation – 2024 April Quarterly Report for the

Administrative Fine Program

Attached is a list of political committees and their treasurers who failed to file the 2024 April Quarterly Report in accordance with 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a). The April Quarterly Report was due on April 15, 2024.

The committees listed in the attached RTB Circulation Report either failed to file the report, filed the report 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. 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.

2. Send the appropriate letters.

# Federal Election Commission Reason to Believe Circulation Report 2024 APRIL QUARTERLY Not Election Sensitive 04/15/2024 H\_S\_P\_UNAUTH

AF#	Committee ID	Committee Name	Candidate Name	Treasurer	Threshold	PV	Receipt Date	Days Late	LOA	RTB Penalty
4702	C00798355	AGENDA PAC		TARIEM BURROUGHS	\$320,044	0	5/15/2024	30	\$75,625	\$6,046
4703	C00832675	AGWAN FOR CONGRESS	PERVEZ S. AGWAN	PERVEZ AGWAN	\$3,471,145	0	5/8/2024	23	\$508,843	\$12,540
4704	C00571398	BLAKPAC		CARL A. MARBURY	\$120,058	0		Not Filed	\$60,029 (est)	\$4,774
4705	C00832873	CAROLINE KANE FOR CONGRESS	CAROLINE KANE	LORETTA PATEK	\$121,894	0	5/1/2024	16	\$17,645	\$274
4706	C00790659	CENTER STREET PAC		MATTHEW O'BRIEN	\$145,038	1		Not Filed	\$72,519 (est)	\$5,967
4707	C00857433	COMMANDER JAY FURMAN FOR CONGRESS	JAY FURMAN	PETER HALLER	\$364,540	0	5/16/2024	*Not Filed	\$49,955	\$1,497
4708	C00838938	DENNIS BAKER FOR CONGRESS	DENNIS BAKER	DENNIS BAKER	\$106,970	0	4/28/2024	13	\$41,611	\$782
	C00858670	FIGHTING 4 ONE AMERICA PAC		DEREK LEWIS	\$148,000	0		Not Filed	\$148,000 (est)	\$7,958
4710	C00781104	FOR THE MANY PAC		KINA COLLINS	\$172,872	1		Not Filed	\$172,872 (est)	\$12,156
4711	C00826776	FRONTIERS OF FREEDOM ACTION, INC.		GEORGE LANDRITH	\$138,448	0		Not Filed	\$138,448 (est)	\$7,958
4712	C00767798	HOLLY MCCORMACK FOR CONGRESS	HOLLY MCCORMACK	HOLLY MCCORMACK	\$538,205	4		Not Filed	\$538,205 (est)	\$33,596
4713	C00852152	JENNIFER ADAMS FOR CONGRESS	JENNIFER ADAMS	J. ADAMS	\$146,972	0	4/24/2024	9	\$69,448	\$1,729
4714	C00804500	JOHN CONYERS FOR CONGRESS	JOHN CONYERS	OFFICE OF TREASURER	\$168,729	3		Not Filed	\$56,243 (est)	\$8,354
4715	C00720573	LOVE FOR TEXAS	JOHN BENARD LOVE III	DAPHNE TENORIO	\$110,563	0		Not Filed	\$22,113 (est)	\$832
4716	C00833830	MATT LEIV FOR ILLINOIS	MATTHEW LEIV	OFFICE OF TREASURER	\$125,643	0		Not Filed	\$41,881 (est)	\$1,497
4717	C00853945	MERIKA COLEMAN FOR CONGRESS	MERIKA COLEMAN	DEANNA REED	\$252,048	0		Not Filed	\$126,024 (est)	\$7,958
4718	C00839845	PHILLIP DRAKE UNITING AMERICA 2024	PHILLIP JOSEPH DRAKE	PHIL DRAKE	\$1,028,200	0		Not Filed	\$342,733 (est)	\$14,146
4720	C00846840	RAJA CHAUDHRY CAMPAIGN, INC.	RAJA CHAUDHRY	LEON ZENO	\$386,570	0		Not Filed	\$193,285 (est)	\$9,725
4721	C00846063	SANTOS LIMON FOR CONGRESS	SANTOS M. LIMON	SANTOS LIMON	\$173,817 0			Not Filed	\$57,939 (est)	\$4,774
4722	C00847004	SARAH GAD FOR U.S. CONGRESS	SARAH GAD	DANTE DESERANNO	\$139,072	0		Not Filed	\$69,536 (est)	\$4,774

AF#	Committee	Committee Name	Candidate Name	Treasurer	Threshold	PV	Receipt Date	Days Late	LOA	RTB Penalty
	ID									
4723	C00848879	SHARON SAVAGE FOR SENATE	SHARON MAUREEN SAVAGE	SHARON SAVAGE	\$148,889	0		Not Filed	\$74,445 (est)	\$4,774
4724	C00784983	TAMIE WILSON FOR US	TAMARA WILSON	CYNTHIA BROWN	\$1,104,421	2	5/4/2024	19	\$154,266	\$9,649
4725	C00437525	TEXAS SPINE AND JOINT LTD PAC		ANTHONY WAHL	\$191,891	0	4/22/2024	7	\$37,756	\$584
4726	C00418889	TRAVIS COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY FEDERAL COMMITTEE		JOSEPH WALTER	\$343,231	0	4/25/2024	10	\$28,703	\$683

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

#### BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of	)
Reason To Believe Recommendation - 2024	)
April Quarterly Report for the	)
Administrative Fine Program:	)
AGENDA PAC, and BURROUGHS,	) AF# 4702
TARIEM as treasurer;	) ) AF# 4702
AGWAN FOR CONGRESS, and AGWAN,	) AF# 4703
PERVEZ as treasurer;	)
BLAKPAC, and MARBURY, CARL A as	) AF# 4704
treasurer;	)
CAROLINE KANE FOR CONGRESS, and	) AF# 4705
PATEK, LORETTA as treasurer;	)
CENTER STREET PAC, and OBRIEN,	) AF# 4706
MATTHEW as treasurer;	)
COMMANDER JAY FURMAN FOR	) AF# 4707
CONGRESS, and HALLER, PETER as	)
treasurer;	) ) AE# 4700
DENNIS BAKER FOR CONGRESS, and	) AF# 4708
BAKER, DENNIS as treasurer;	)
FIGHTING 4 ONE AMERICA PAC, and	) AF# 4709
LEWIS, DEREK as treasurer;	) ) AF# 4710
FOR THE MANY PAC, and COLLINS,	) AF# 4710
KINA as treasurer;	) \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \
FRONTIERS OF FREEDOM ACTION,	) AF# 4711
INC., and LANDRITH, GEORGE as	)
treasurer;	)
HOLLY MCCORMACK FOR	) AF# 4712
CONGRESS, and MCCORMACK,	)
HOLLY as treasurer;	) ) AE# 4712
JENNIFER ADAMS FOR CONGRESS,	) AF# 4713
and ADAMS, J as treasurer;	) \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \
JOHN CONYERS FOR CONGRESS, and	) AF# 4714
OFFICE OF TREASURER; LOVE FOR TEXAS, and TENORIO,	) \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \
	) AF# 4715
DAPHNE as treasurer;	) \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \
MATT LEIV FOR ILLINOIS, and OFFICE	) AF# 4716
OF TREASURER; MERIKA COLEMAN FOR CONGRESS,	) AF# 4717
	) Ar#4/1/
and REED, DEANNA as treasurer; PHILLIP DRAKE UNITING AMERICA	) \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \
	) AF# 4718
2024, and DRAKE, PHIL as treasurer;	)

RAJA CHAUDHRY CAMPAIGN, INC.,	)	AF# 4720
and ZENO, LEON as treasurer;	)	
SANTOS LIMON FOR CONGRESS, and	)	AF# 4721
LIMON, SANTOS as treasurer;	)	
SARAH GAD FOR U.S. CONGRESS, and	)	AF# 4722
DESERANNO, DANTE as treasurer;	)	
SHARON SAVAGE FOR SENATE, and	)	AF# 4723
SAVAGE, SHARON as treasurer;	)	
TAMIE WILSON FOR US, and BROWN,	)	AF# 4724
CYNTHIA as treasurer;	)	
TEXAS SPINE AND JOINT LTD PAC,	)	AF# 4725
and ANTHONY WAHL as treasurer;	)	
TRAVIS COUNTY REPUBLICAN	)	AF# 4726
PARTY FEDERAL COMMITTEE, and	)	
WALTER, JOSEPH as treasurer;	)	

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I, Vicktoria J. Allen, Deputy Secretary of the Federal Election Commission, do hereby certify that on June 06, 2024 the Commission took the following actions on the Reason To Believe Recommendation - 2024 April Quarterly Report for the Administrative Fine Program, as recommended in the Reports Analysis Division's Memorandum dated June 04, 2024, on the following committees:

AF#4702 Decided by a vote of 5-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that AGENDA PAC, and BURROUGHS, TARIEM 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, Lindenbaum, Trainor, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision. Commissioner Dickerson did not vote.

AF#4703 Decided by a vote of 5-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that AGWAN FOR CONGRESS, and AGWAN, PERVEZ 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, Lindenbaum, Trainor, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision. Commissioner Dickerson did not vote.

AF#4704 Decided by a vote of 5-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that BLAKPAC, and MARBURY, CARL A 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, Lindenbaum, Trainor, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision. Commissioner Dickerson did not vote.

AF#4705 Decided by a vote of 5-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that CAROLINE KANE FOR CONGRESS, and PATEK, LORETTA 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, Lindenbaum, Trainor, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision. Commissioner Dickerson did not vote.

AF#4706 Decided by a vote of 5-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that CENTER STREET PAC, and OBRIEN, MATTHEW 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, Lindenbaum, Trainor, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision. Commissioner Dickerson did not vote.

AF#4707 Decided by a vote of 5-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that COMMANDER JAY FURMAN FOR CONGRESS, and HALLER, PETER 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, Lindenbaum, Trainor, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision. Commissioner Dickerson did not vote.

AF#4708 Decided by a vote of 5-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that DENNIS BAKER FOR CONGRESS, and BAKER, DENNIS 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, Lindenbaum, Trainor, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision. Commissioner Dickerson did not vote.

AF#4709 Decided by a vote of 5-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that FIGHTING 4 ONE AMERICA PAC, and LEWIS, DEREK 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, Lindenbaum, Trainor, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision. Commissioner Dickerson did not vote.

AF#4710 Decided by a vote of 5-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that FOR THE MANY PAC, and COLLINS, KINA 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, Lindenbaum, Trainor, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision. Commissioner Dickerson did not vote.

AF#4711 Decided by a vote of 5-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that FRONTIERS OF FREEDOM ACTION, INC., and LANDRITH, GEORGE 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, Lindenbaum, Trainor, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision. Commissioner Dickerson did not vote.

AF#4712 Decided by a vote of 5-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that HOLLY MCCORMACK FOR CONGRESS, and MCCORMACK, HOLLY 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, Lindenbaum, Trainor, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision. Commissioner Dickerson did not vote.

AF#4713 Decided by a vote of 5-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that JENNIFER ADAMS FOR CONGRESS, and ADAMS, J 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, Lindenbaum, Trainor, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision. Commissioner Dickerson did not vote.

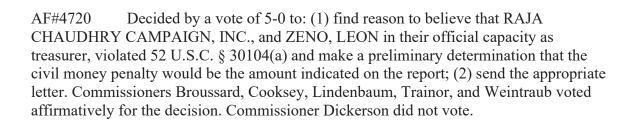
AF#4714 Decided by a vote of 5-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that JOHN CONYERS FOR CONGRESS, and OFFICE OF TREASURER, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty would be the amount indicated on the report; (2) send the appropriate letter. Commissioners Broussard, Cooksey, Lindenbaum, Trainor, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision. Commissioner Dickerson did not vote.

AF#4715 Decided by a vote of 5-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that LOVE FOR TEXAS, and TENORIO, DAPHNE 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, Lindenbaum, Trainor, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision. Commissioner Dickerson did not vote.

AF#4716 Decided by a vote of 5-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that MATT LEIV FOR ILLINOIS, and OFFICE OF 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, Lindenbaum, Trainor, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision. Commissioner Dickerson did not vote.

AF#4717 Decided by a vote of 5-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that MERIKA COLEMAN FOR CONGRESS, and REED, DEANNA 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, Lindenbaum, Trainor, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision. Commissioner Dickerson did not vote.

AF#4718 Decided by a vote of 5-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that PHILLIP DRAKE UNITING AMERICA 2024, and DRAKE, PHIL 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, Lindenbaum, Trainor, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision. Commissioner Dickerson did not vote.



AF#4721 Decided by a vote of 5-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that SANTOS LIMON FOR CONGRESS, and LIMON, SANTOS 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, Lindenbaum, Trainor, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision. Commissioner Dickerson did not vote.

AF#4722 Decided by a vote of 5-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that SARAH GAD FOR U.S. CONGRESS, and DESERANNO, DANTE 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, Lindenbaum, Trainor, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision. Commissioner Dickerson did not vote.

AF#4723 Decided by a vote of 5-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that SHARON SAVAGE FOR SENATE, and SAVAGE, SHARON 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, Lindenbaum, Trainor, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision. Commissioner Dickerson did not vote.

AF#4724 Decided by a vote of 5-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that TAMIE WILSON FOR US, and BROWN, CYNTHIA 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, Lindenbaum, Trainor, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision. Commissioner Dickerson did not vote.

AF#4725 Decided by a vote of 5-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that TEXAS SPINE AND JOINT LTD PAC, and ANTHONY WAHL 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, Lindenbaum, Trainor, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision. Commissioner Dickerson did not vote.

AF#4726 Decided by a vote of 5-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that TRAVIS COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY FEDERAL COMMITTEE, and WALTER, JOSEPH 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, Lindenbaum, Trainor, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision. Commissioner Dickerson did not vote.



Attest:

Vicktoria J Allen Digitally signed by Vicktoria J Allen Date: 2024.06.06 18:49:43

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Vicktoria J. Allen Deputy Secretary of the Commission



AF

June 10, 2024

Pervez Agwan, in official capacity as Treasurer Agwan for Congress PO Box 667063 Houston, TX 77266

C00832675 AF#: 4703 FINE: \$12,540

Dear Pervez Agwan,

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"), requires that your committee file an April Quarterly Report of Receipts and Disbursements every calendar year. This report, covering the period February 15, 2024 through March 31, 2024, shall be filed no later than April 15, 2024. 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a). Records at the Federal Election Commission (the "Commission" or "FEC") indicate that this report was filed on May 8, 2024, 23 days late.

The Act permits the Commission to impose civil money penalties for violations of the reporting requirements of 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a). 52 U.S.C. § 30109g(a)(4). On June 6, 2024, the FEC found that there is reason to believe ("RTB") that Agwan for Congress 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 April 15, 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 \$12,540. 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 <a href="https://www.fec.gov/af/af.shtml">https://www.fec.gov/af/af.shtml</a>. 11 CFR § 111.34. Your payment of \$12,540 is due within forty (40) days of the finding, or by July 16, 2024, and is based on these factors:

Election Sensitivity of Report: Not Election Sensitive

Level of Activity: \$508,843 Number of Days Late: 23

Number of Previous Civil Money Penalties Assessed: 0

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

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. 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 July 16, 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 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 they are electronically received by staff.

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 Agwan for Congress 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 <a href="https://www.fec.gov/af/pay.shtml">https://www.fec.gov/af/pay.shtml</a> 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**

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 including regulations, the FEC's website the final on 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,

Jean J. Cooksey

Sean J. Cooksey

Chairman

AF470300016

07/14/2024

Agwan For Congress Committee #C00832675

Treasurer, Pervez Agwan

AF#4703

**Committee Challenge to RTB Finding and Civil Penalty** 

To the Federal Election Commission, regarding AF #4703:

This committee, and myself (Pervez Agwan, candidate and now treasurer), **kindly and humbly challenge the civil penalty and RTB findings** and **sincerely request** that the Federal Election Commission kindly dissolve the fines and penalties because this RTB finding:

- 1. Is the result of factual errors from the FEC (due to the lack of knowledge of our committee's situation) and
- 2. Our campaign, and myself have demonstrated our best efforts to file in a timely manner, but there were reasons out of my control that prevented me from doing so. These are listed in the declarations below.

In summary, our campaign would like to apologize for the inconveniences and missteps that occurred here, but they were truly out of our control, and beyond our means to address. The election has ended, there are no assets on the campaign committee any longer, and this late filing is truly a result of things beyond this committee's control. We had also spoken to an FEC administrator over the phone who confirmed with us filing late would be ok and wouldn't serve a problem – therefore once again we kindly request the FEC the dissolve to kindly dissolve the fines and penalties in its original letter.

-----

#### DECLARATIONS AND EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF DISSOLUTION OF THE FINE:

1) I, as the Candidate and now the treasurer of the campaign do declare and attest that the campaign has no current assets, no current cashflow, and no existing donor base that can meet this penalty.

- 2) I declare and attest that the campaign and candidate are currently still paying outstanding debts off and are unable to afford this fine that the FEC is wrongly assessing
- 3) I declare and attest that the FEC imposed civil penalties are posing an undue hardship on this candidate and committee, and we mean no harm and did not intend to break the rules
- 4) I declare and attest that:
  - a. The election was over before the filing deadline. The election was on March 5, and this quarterly report was due on April 15.
  - b. This campaign had always timely filed all of their previous reports, filings, and notices. For example, we had filed our 48 hour notices on time, and within code, thus not materially impacting the election in any way with undisclosed donors or cash funding.
  - c. This campaign filed multiple previously quarterly reports, annual reports, 48 hour notices, and all other requirements on time. We have never been late. This was a one-off mistake.
  - d. The timeliness and tardiness of this filing had no material impact on the election outcome, and this penalty is being wrongly assessed and causing undue hardship on a committee that is not actively participating in an election, and on a candidate that does not have the means to meet this penalty
- 5) I declare and attest that this campaign demonstrated best efforts to file in a timely manner but for the following reasons out of my control as now treasurer and candidate, I had to file late the first chance I could file.
  - a. First, I had called the FEC and spoke on the phone with a woman (please check the committee's call records) who said it would be OK if I filed late because the election was over, and things happen. It was a very kind, warm, and conciliatory call. I explained a few of the facts below to her over the phone.
  - b. Second, I do attest and affirm that while I, as the former candidate, after the election, was traveling in remote Pakistan with my infant son and wife, with no access to the internet in the mountains of Pakistan, my former treasurer resigned. He did not file the report on time. We completed the formal paperwork of his resignation after I returned to the country.
  - c. Third, I do attest and declare that I did not have any knowledge of these events since I was in rural Pakistan with no access to the internet. I was visting family that was gravely ill and I did not have any internet access in rural Pakistan, and very little electricity. How am I, as a candidate who lost his election, and lost his treasurer while in an area where I can't be reached, supposed to be able to complete a filing like this on time with no access to computers, internet, email, phone service, or electricity? This was truly odd-timing and uncontrollable events at their worst.

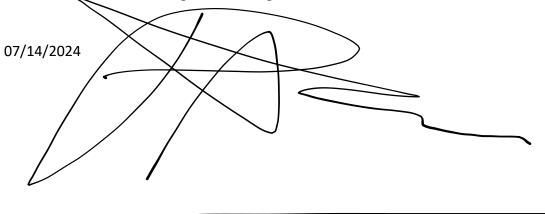
- d. Upon my return in May, I immediately filed the FEC report which I learned was late. Shortly before filing, I had a phone call with the FEC that said it was OK that I was late.
- e. I do declare and attest that I did not intend to cause any harm or break any rules, but that all the above circumstances were out of my control and I could not have filed in a timely manner.

I kindly and humbly ask that the FEC please dissolve this fine, and remove this undue hardship. I attest that the declarations made above are true and I sincerely request we move forward from this mishap.

Signed,

#### Pervez Agwan

Treasurer and Candidate, Agwan for Congress Committee.





September 13, 2024

## REVIEWING OFFICER RECOMMENDATION OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW ("OAR")

AF# 4703 – Agwan for Congress and Pervez Agwan, in their official capacity as Treasurer (C00832675)

#### **Summary of Recommendation**

Make a final determination that the respondents violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess a \$12,540 civil money penalty.

#### Reason-to-Believe Background

The 2024 April Quarterly Report was due on April 15, 2024. The respondents filed the report on May 8, 2024, 23 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 June 6, 2024, the Commission found reason to believe ("RTB") that the respondents violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) for failing to timely file the 2024 April Quarterly Report and made a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty was \$12,540 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 RAD on June 10, 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 principal campaign committee shall file a report for the quarter ending March 31 no later than April 15. 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and 11 C.F.R. § 104.5(a)(1)(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 July 15, 2024, the Commission received the written response ("challenge") from the Candidate, who also now serves as Treasurer, requesting the Commission dissolve the penalty. The Candidate states the RTB finding "is a result of factual errors from the FEC (due to the lack of knowledge of [the Committee's] situation)." In addition, the respondents demonstrated their best efforts to timely file but were prevented from doing so due to unforeseen circumstances.

The Candidate explains that after the election, the former treasurer resigned and did not file the 2024 April Quarterly Report. At that time, the Candidate was traveling to visit gravely ill family in remote Pakistan. He had very little electricity and no internet access to file the report. Upon his return in May, he spoke with an FEC representative "...who confirmed...filing late would be ok and wouldn't serve a problem..." The Candidate then immediately filed the 2024 April Quarterly Report.

The Candidate notes that the 2024 April Quarterly Report was due on April 15, 2024, after the March 5 Primary Election was over. The Committee had timely filed all previous reports and notices, and the failure to timely file this single report "had no material impact on the election outcome." Further, the Candidate states:

[T]he Committee has no current assets, no current cashflow, and no existing donor base that can meet this penalty...[T]his penalty is being wrongly assessed and causing undue hardship on a committee that is not actively participating in an election, and on a candidate that does not have the means to meet this penalty.

#### **Analysis**

The challenge suggests a factual error in the Commission's RTB finding due to the Commission not knowing the Committee's circumstances. The Reviewing Officer notes that committees may assert a factual error defense related to the requirement to file a report or the date of filing. A committee's circumstances impacting the timely filing of a report are not considered to be a factual error defense but are otherwise considered in accordance with 11 C.F.R. § 111.35.

The challenge explains that at the time the 2024 April Quarterly Report was due, the Committee's former treasurer had recently resigned<sup>2</sup>, and the Candidate was traveling to visit gravely ill family in a remote area without internet access. As indicated in the challenge, Commission records confirm the Candidate spoke with the RAD Compliance Analyst on May 1, 2024, upon receiving RAD's Non-Filer Notice dated April 30, 2024. While the Candidate contends the Analyst indicated there would be no problem with filing the report late, RAD communication logs do not align with this statement. RAD communication logs indicate the Analyst specifically stated that she could not answer the Candidate's question of whether a fine would be assessed but advised the sooner the report is filed the better. On May 8, 2024, the former treasurer contacted

civil money penalty is  $[\$4,421 + (\$353 \times 23 \text{ days late})] \times [1 + (.25 \times 0 \text{ previous violations})]$  or \$12,540.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> While the respondents did not challenge the Committee's requirement to file the 2024 April Quarterly Report or date of filing, the Reviewing Officer confirms there were no factual errors in the Commission's RTB finding. The Committee was required to file the 2024 April Quarterly Report by April 15, 2024 but did not do so until May 8, 2024, 23 days late. In addition, the Reviewing Officer confirms the penalty was correctly calculated at RTB. The Committee's 2024 April Quarterly Report disclosed \$180,797.57 in total receipts and \$328,045.57 in total disbursements for the reporting period. Therefore, the level of activity is \$508,843. 11 C.F.R. § 111.43(d)(3)(i). Using the schedule of penalties at 11 C.F.R. § 111.43(a) for the level of activity bracket of \$450,000.00 – \$549,999.99, the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> At the time the 2024 April Quarterly Report was due (4/15/24), Mohammad U. Aijaz was designated as the Committee's treasurer. On 5/30/24, the Mr. Aijaz filed an <u>FEC Form 99</u> (Miscellaneous Electronic Submission) resigning as treasurer effective 6/1/24. On 6/2/24, the Committee filed an <u>Amended FEC Form 1</u> (Statement of Organization) to designate Pervez Agwan, the Candidate, as treasurer.

RAD for technical assistance. On the same date, the Committee filed the 2024 April Quarterly Report, 23 days late. See Attachment 3.

The Reviewing Officer is sympathetic to the circumstances presented and recognizes the potential impact on Committee operations.<sup>3</sup> However, unavailability of a treasurer or committee staff 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 recognizes the campaign may no longer be active and has outstanding debt. However, a committee's operational and financial status are also not considered valid grounds for a challenge. The challenge fails to adequately 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 \$12,540 civil money penalty.

#### **OAR Recommendations**

- 1. Adopt the Reviewing Officer recommendation for AF# 4703 involving Agwan for Congress and Pervez Agwan, in their official capacity as Treasurer, in making the final determination;
- 2. Make a final determination in AF# 4703 that Agwan for Congress and Pervez Agwan, in their official capacity as Treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess a \$12,540 civil money penalty; and
- 3. Send the appropriate letter.

#### Attachments

Attachment 1 -

Attachment 2 -

Attachment 3 – Declaration from RAD

Attachment 4 – Declaration from OAR

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> While the respondents do not indicate they were unaware of the 2024 April Quarterly filing requirement, the Reviewing Officer confirms the Commission appropriately notified and reminded the Committee of its requirement to file the report on multiple occasions before and after the filing deadline. See Attachments 2 and 3.

#### **DECLARATION OF KRISTIN D. ROSER**

- 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.
- 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 Agwan for Congress'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 April 10, 2024, referencing the 2024 April Quarterly Report (sent via electronic mail to: agwan@leftledger.co, info@agwanforus.com, pervez@agwanforus.com and team@agwanforus.com);
  - B) Late Notification email, dated April 16, 2024, referencing the 2024 April Quarterly Report (sent via electronic mail to: agwan@leftledger.co, info@agwanforus.com, pervez@agwanforus.com and team@agwanforus.com).
- 4. I hereby certify that documents identified herein are true and accurate copies of the following sent by the Commission to Agwan for Congress's official email address of record:
  - A) Non-filer Notice, dated April 30, 2024, referencing the 2024 April Quarterly Report (sent via electronic mail to: info@agwanforus.com);

AF470300023

B) Reason-to-Believe Letter, dated June 10, 2024, referencing the 2024 April Quarterly Report (sent via electronic mail to: info@agwanforus.com).

5. I hereby certify that I have searched the Commission's public records and find that Agwan for Congress filed the 2024 April Quarterly Report with the Commission on May 8, 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 22nd day of July, 2024.

Kristin D. Roser

Chief, Compliance Branch Reports Analysis Division Federal Election Commission

Kristin D. Roser



RQ-7

April 30, 2024

AIJAZ, MOHAMMAD U, TREASURER AGWAN FOR CONGRESS PO BOX 667063 HOUSTON, TX 77266

**IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: C00832675** 

REFERENCE: APRIL QUARTERLY REPORT (02/15/2024 - 03/31/2024)

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, 1050 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20463. For reports shipped via delivery services (e.g., FedEx, UPSor DHL), use the ZIP code 20002. Please note that <u>electronic filers must submit their reports electronically</u>, as per 11 CFR §104.18. A copy of the report 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.

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.

Page 2 of 2

Sincerely,

Deborah Chacona

Assistant Staff Director

Debbie Chacona

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 authorized by a candidate shall file a quarterly report for the period ending March 31 no later than April 15. Reports filed electronically must be received and validated at or before 11:59 pm, Eastern Standard/Daylight Time on April 15, 2024 for the 2024 April Quarterly 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 2024 April Quarterly Report filed by Agwan for Congress. The report includes the coverage period of February 15, 2024 through March 31, 2024 and was electronically filed on May 8, 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 13<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024.

Rhiannon Magruder
Rhiannon Magruder

Reviewing Officer

Office of Administrative Review Federal Election Commission

FEC FORM 3

# REPORT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

FORM 3		SBURS Authorized (	Committee		Of	fice Use Only
NAME OF COMMITTEE (in formal committee)	TYPE OR PRIN	Τ ▼	Example: If typir over the lines.	g, type	12FE4M5	
AGWAN FOR (	CONGRESS	1111				
Lecanas	3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3	1 T T T T		F E E E E	6 6 6 6 6	1
	PO BOX 6670	63	0/ 10 10 10 10 W		15 17 15 15 15	
ADDRESS (number and	street)					
Check if diffe		<u> </u>			1 1 1 1	000
than previous reported. (AC		1 1 1 1 1			TX ///	266
2. FEC IDENTIFICA	ATION NUMBER ▼	CITY	<b>A</b>	STA	ATE A	ZIP CODE ▲
C C00832675		3. IS THIS		or	AMENDED (A)	STATE ▼ DISTRICT
4. TYPE OF REP	ORT (Choose One)					
(a) Quarterly Rep	ports:	(b) 12-Day	PRE-Election Repo	ort for the:		_
× April 15	Quarterly Report (Q1)		Primary (12F	General (12G	Runoff (12R)	
			Convention (	12C)	Special (12S)	
July 15 C	Quarterly Report (Q2)		м = м	D D / Y	( " Y " Y " Y "	in the
October	15 Quarterly Report (Q3)	Electio	n on			State of
January 3	31 Year-End Report (YE)	(c) 30-Day	POST-Election Re	oort for the:		÷.
			General (300	G) 🔲	Runoff (30R)	Special (30S)
Terminati	on Report (TER)	Electio	Sec. 250	D " D / Y	7 " Y " Y " Y	in the State of
5. Covering Period	M M / D D D 15	2024	through	M M /	31 Y	Y Y Y 2024
I certify that I have ex-	amined this Report and to		my knowledge and	belief it is true,	, correct and co	omplete.
Type or Print Name of	Treasurer Aijaz, Mohar	nmad, , ,				
Signature of Treasurer	Aijaz, Mohammad, , ,			Date	e 05 /	08 /
NOTE: Submission of fa	lse, erroneous, or incomple	ete information	may subject the per	son signing this	Report to the p	penalties of 52 U.S.C. §30109.
Office Use Only						FEC FORM 3 (Revised 05/2016)

#### SUMMARY PAGE

FEC Form 3 (Revised 03/2016) of Receipts and Disbursements

Write or Type Committee Name

#### AGWAN FOR CONGRESS

		COLUMN A This Period								
ò.	Net Contributions (other than loans)		Election Cycle-to-Date							
	(a) Total Contributions (other than loans) (from Line 11(e))	180797.57	542292.00							
	(b) Total Contribution Refunds (from Line 20(d))	0.00	0.00							
	(c) Net Contributions (other than loans) (subtract Line 6(b) from Line 6(a))	180797.57	542292.00							
3	Net Operating Expenditures									
	(a) Total Operating Expenditures (from Line 17)	328045.57	553361.46							
	(b) Total Offsets to Operating Expenditures (from Line 14)	0.00	0.00							
	(c) Net Operating Expenditures (subtract Line 7(b) from Line 7(a))	328045.57	553361.40							
	Cash on Hand at Close of Reporting Period (from Line 27)	127.11								
	Debts and Obligations Owed <b>TO</b> the Committee (Itemize all on Schedule C and/or Schedule D)	0.00								
0.	Debts and Obligations Owed BY the Committee (Itemize all on Schedule C and/or Schedule D)	105000.00								

For further information, contact the Federal Election Commission at 800-424-9530 or visit www.fec.gov.

#### POST-ELECTION DETAILED SUMMARY PAGE

Report of Receipts and Disbursements

FEC Form 3 (Revised 07/05)

- If the candidate participated in the general election, use this form for the 30-day Post-General report.
- If the candidate did NOT participate in the general election, use this form for the Year-end report covering through December 31 of the election year (due on January 31).

This form is used in lieu of filling out Line Numbers 6 through 7 on Page 2 (Summary Page) and Pages 3 and 4 (the Detailed Summary Page) for the last report filed by a candidate during the current election cycle.

mary Page) for the last report filed by a candi Write or Type Committee Name	date during the current election cycle.	
AGWAN FOR CONGRESS		
TM.	02 15 2024 To	b: 03 31 7 2024 1
I. RECEIPTS		
COLUMN A Total this Period	COLUMN B Election Cycle Total as of	COLUMN C Total for
	03 05 2024 (date of general election)	03 06 2024 (date after general election)
<ul> <li>11. CONTRIBUTIONS (other than loans) FROM: (a) Individuals/Persons Other than Political Committees (i) Itemized (use Schedule A)</li> </ul>		through  M M / B D / Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y
(ii) Unitemized	434208.00	25300.00
35920.57  (iii) Total of contributions from individu	108084.00	13853.61
180797.57	542292.00	39153.61
(b) Political Party Committees  0.00	0.00	0.00
(c) Other Political Committees  0.00	0.00	0.00
	-1	

#### POST-ELECTION DETAILED SUMMARY PAGE

Report of Receipts and Disbursements

FEC Form 3 (Revised 1/01)

	COLUMN A Total this Period	COLUMN B Election Cycle Total as of * (date of general election) (* See page 5 for date)	Total for * (date after general election) through * (last day of reporting period) (* See page 5 for dates)						
	(d) The Candidate								
	0.00	0.00	0.00						
	(e) TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS (other than lo	ans) (add Lines 11(a)(iii), (b), (c) and (d))							
	180797.57	542292.00	39153.61						
12.	TRANSFERS FROM OTHER AUTHORIZED	COMMITTEES							
	0.00	0.00	0.00						
13.	LOANS: (a) Made or Guaranteed by the Candidate								
	0.00	0.00	0.00						
	(b) All Other Loans								
	0.00	0.00	0.00						
	(c) TOTAL LOANS (add Lines 13(a) and (b))								
	0.00	0.00	0.00						
14.	OFFSETS TO OPERATING EXPENDITURES	S (Refunds, rebates, etc.)							
	0.00	0.00	0.00						
15.	OTHER RECEIPTS (Dividends, Interest, etc.)								
	0.00	0.00	0.00						
16.	TOTAL RECEIPTS (add 11(e), 12, 13(c), 14	and 15)							
	180797.57	542292.00	39153.61						

#### AF470300031 Image# 202405089645562842 POST-ELECTION DETAILED SUMMARY PAGE Report of Receipts and Disbursements FEC Form 3 (Revised 1/01) Write or Type Committee Name AGWAN FOR CONGRESS 02 15 2024 03 31 2024 Report Covering the Period: To: From: II. DISBURSEMENTS COLUMN C COLUMN A COLUMN B Total this Period Election Cycle Total as of \* Total for \* (date after general election) (date of general election) through \* (last day of reporting period) (\* See page 5 for date) (\* See page 5 for dates) 17. OPERATING EXPENDITURES 328045.57 129187.99 553361.46 18. TRANSFERS TO OTHER AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES 0.00 0.00 0.00 19. LOAN REPAYMENTS: (a) Of Loans Made or Guaranteed by the Candidate 0.00 0.00 0.00 (b) Of All Other Loans 0.00 0.00 0.00 (c) TOTAL LOAN REPAYMENTS (add Lines 19(a) and 19(b))

H H H H H H H H H	H JR HI A IN H JR H A IN	H H H H H H H H H
0.00	0.00	0.00

20. REFUNDS OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

(a) Individuals/Persons Other Than Political Committees

0.00	0.00	0.00
the late of the late of the late of	the first term of the first term of	

(b) Political Party Committees

	14	940			***	100	940		0.00		940	80	200	- 50		940		0.00		100	18		61	- 11	100	0.00	61
	н	m	CIF.	_	er .	100	н	19	0.00	- 1	in.	100	107	91	100	10	19	0.00	94	ès	100	ter	- 64	(7)	Sec		¥.

FE1AN044

#### POST-ELECTION DETAILED SUMMARY PAGE

Report of Receipts and Disbursements

FEC Form 3 (Revised 1/01)

	COLUMN A Total this Period	COLUMN B Election Cycle Total as of * (date of general election) (* See page 5 for date)	COLUMN C  Total for * (date after general election) through * (last day of reporting period) (* See page 5 for dates)					
	(c) Other Political Committees (such as PAC	s)						
	0.00	0.00	0.00					
	(d) TOTAL CONTRIBUTION REFUNDS (add	Lines 20(a), (b) and (c))						
	0.00	0.00	0.00					
21.	OTHER DISBURSEMENTS							
	0.00	0.00	0.00					
22.	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS (add Lines 17, 18,	19(c), 20(d) and 21)						
	328045.57	553361.46	129187.99					
	(Note: Substitute in lieu of Line #6 of 180797.57	f Summary Page for this report only; subtra	ct Line 20(d) from Line 11(e)) 39153.61					
_	IV. NET OPERATING EXPENDITURE	s						
	(Note: Substitute in lieu of Line #7	7 of Summary Page for this report only; sub	tract Line 14 from Line 17)					
	328045.57	553361.46	129187.99					
	V. CASH SUM	IMARY						
23.	CASH ON HAND AT BEGINNING OF REPOR	RTING PERIOD	147375.11					
24.	TOTAL RECIEPTS THIS PERIOD (from Line	16)	180797.57					
25.	SUBTOTAL (add Line 23 and Line 24)		328172.68					
26.	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS THIS PERIOD (fro	m Line 22)	328045.57					
27.	CASH ON HAND AT CLOSE OF REPORTING	G PERIOD (subtract Line 26 from Line 25)	127.11					



September 13, 2024

Pervez Agwan, in official capacity as Treasurer Agwan for Congress PO Box 667063 Houston, TX 77266

C00832675 AF# 4703

#### Dear Treasurer:

On June 6, 2024, the Federal Election Commission ("the Commission") found reason to believe ("RTB") that Agwan for Congress and you, in your official capacity as Treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) for failing to file the 2024 April Quarterly Report. The Commission also made a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty was \$12,540 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. 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

AF470300034

09/20/2024

Agwan For Congress Committee #C00832675

Treasurer, Pervez Agwan

AF#4703

**Formal Respose to finding** 

To the Federal Election Commission, regarding AF #4703:

This committee, and myself (Pervez Agwan, candidate and now treasurer), **kindly and humbly challenge the civil penalty and RTB findings** and **sincerely request** that the Federal Election Commission kindly dissolve the fines and penalties because this RTB finding:

- 1. Is the result of factual errors from the FEC (due to the lack of knowledge of our committee's situation) and
- 2. Our campaign, and myself have demonstrated our best efforts to file in a timely manner, but there were reasons out of my control that prevented me from doing so. These are listed in the declarations below.

In summary, our campaign would like to apologize for the inconveniences and missteps that occurred here, but they were truly out of our control, and beyond our means to address. The election has ended, there are no assets on the campaign committee any longer, and this late filing is truly a result of things beyond this committee's control. We had also spoken to an FEC administrator over the phone who confirmed with us filing late would be ok and wouldn't serve a problem – therefore once again we kindly request the FEC the dissolve to kindly dissolve the fines and penalties in its original letter.

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DECLARATIONS AND EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF DISSOLUTION OF THE FINE:

1) I, as the Candidate and now the treasurer of the campaign do declare and attest that the campaign has no current assets, no current cashflow, and no existing donor base that can meet this penalty.

- 2) I declare and attest that the campaign and candidate are currently still paying outstanding debts off and are unable to afford this fine that the FEC is wrongly assessing
- 3) I declare and attest that the FEC imposed civil penalties are posing an undue hardship on this candidate and committee, and we mean no harm and did not intend to break the rules
- 4) I declare and attest that:
  - a. The election was over before the filing deadline. The election was on March 5, and this quarterly report was due on April 15.
  - b. This campaign had always timely filed all of their previous reports, filings, and notices. For example, we had filed our 48 hour notices on time, and within code, thus not materially impacting the election in any way with undisclosed donors or cash funding.
  - c. This campaign filed multiple previously quarterly reports, annual reports, 48 hour notices, and all other requirements on time. We have never been late. This was a one-off mistake.
  - d. The timeliness and tardiness of this filing had no material impact on the election outcome, and this penalty is being wrongly assessed and causing undue hardship on a committee that is not actively participating in an election, and on a candidate that does not have the means to meet this penalty
- 5) I declare and attest that this campaign demonstrated best efforts to file in a timely manner but for the following reasons out of my control as now treasurer and candidate, I had to file late the first chance I could file.
  - a. First, I had called the FEC and spoke on the phone with a woman (please check the committee's call records) who said it would be OK if I filed late because the election was over, and things happen. It was a very kind, warm, and conciliatory call. I explained a few of the facts below to her over the phone.
  - b. Second, I do attest and affirm that while I, as the former candidate, after the election, was traveling in remote Pakistan with my infant son and wife, with no access to the internet in the mountains of Pakistan, my former treasurer resigned. He did not file the report on time. We completed the formal paperwork of his resignation after I returned to the country.
  - c. Third, I do attest and declare that I did not have any knowledge of these events since I was in rural Pakistan with no access to the internet. I was visting family that was gravely ill and I did not have any internet access in rural Pakistan, and very little electricity. How am I, as a candidate who lost his election, and lost his treasurer while in an area where I can't be reached, supposed to be able to complete a filing like this on time with no access to computers, internet, email, phone service, or electricity? This was truly odd-timing and uncontrollable events at their worst.

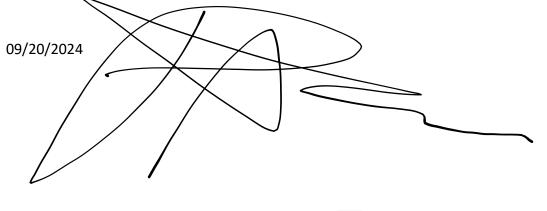
- d. Upon my return in May, I immediately filed the FEC report which I learned was late. Shortly before filing, I had a phone call with the FEC that said it was OK that I was late.
- e. I do declare and attest that I did not intend to cause any harm or break any rules, but that all the above circumstances were out of my control and I could not have filed in a timely manner.

I kindly and humbly ask that the FEC please dissolve this fine, and remove this undue hardship. I attest that the declarations made above are true and I sincerely request we move forward from this mishap.

Signed,

#### Pervez Agwan

Treasurer and Candidate, Agwan for Congress Committee.





### SENSITIVE

October 16, 2024

#### MEMORANDUM

To: The Commission

Through: Alec Palmer

Staff Director

From: Patricia C. Orrock PCO

Chief Compliance Officer

Rhiannon Magruder PM Reviewing Officer

Office of Administrative Review

Subject: Final Determination Recommendation in AF# 4703 - Agwan for Congress and

Pervez Agwan, in their official capacity as Treasurer (C00832675)

On June 6, 2024, the Commission found reason to believe ("RTB") that the respondents violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) for failing to timely file the 2024 April Quarterly Report and made a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty was \$12,540 based on the schedule of penalties at 11 C.F.R. § 111.43. On July 15, 2024, the Commission received their written response ("challenge"). After reviewing the challenge, the Reviewing Officer Recommendation ("ROR") dated September 13, 2024 was forwarded to the Commission, a copy was forwarded to the respondents, and is hereby incorporated by reference.

The Reviewing Officer was sympathetic to the circumstances presented and recognized the potential impact on Committee operations. See ROR. However, unavailability of a treasurer or committee staff 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 recognized the campaign may no longer be active and has outstanding debt. However, a committee's operational and financial status are also not considered valid grounds for a challenge.

Their 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 \$12,540 civil money penalty.

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 September 24, 2024, the Commission received their response which reiterates the points made in the original challenge. The Reviewing Officer's 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 \$12,540 civil money penalty.

#### **OAR Recommendations**

- 1. Adopt the Reviewing Officer recommendation for AF# 4703 involving Agwan for Congress and Pervez Agwan, in their official capacity as Treasurer, in making the final determination;
- 2. Make a final determination in AF# 4703 that Agwan for Congress and Pervez Agwan, in their official capacity as Treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess a \$12,540 civil money penalty; and
- 3. Send the appropriate letter.

#### BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of	)	
	)	AF 4703
Final Determination Recommendation:	)	
Agwan for Congress and Pervez Agwan,	)	
in their official capacity as Treasurer	)	
(C00832675)	)	

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I, Vicktoria J. Allen, Deputy Secretary of the Federal Election Commission, do hereby certify that on October 23, 2024, the Commission decided by a vote of 6-0 to take the following actions in AF 4703:

- 1. Adopt the Reviewing Officer recommendation for AF# 4703 involving Agwan for Congress and Pervez Agwan, in their official capacity as Treasurer, in making the final determination.
- 2. Make a final determination in AF# 4703 that Agwan for Congress and Pervez Agwan, in their official capacity as Treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess a \$12,540 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 Allen Date: 2024.10.23 16:42:35

Digitally signed by Vicktoria J -04'00'

Vicktoria J. Allen Deputy Secretary of the Commission



November 5, 2024

Pervez Agwan, in official capacity as Treasurer Agwan for Congress PO Box 667063 Houston, TX 77266

C00832675 AF# 4703

#### Dear Pervez Agwan:

On June 6, 2024, the Federal Election Commission (the "Commission" or "FEC") found reason to believe ("RTB") that Agwan for Congress and you, in your official capacity as Treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) for failing to file the 2024 April Quarterly Report. By letter dated June 10, 2024, the Commission sent notification of the RTB finding that included a civil money penalty calculated at \$12,540 in accordance with the schedule of penalties at 11 CFR § 111.43. On July 15, 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 Agwan for Congress 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 \$12,540 in accordance with 11 CFR § 111.43. The Reviewing Officer Recommendation was sent to you on September 13, 2024.

On October 23, 2024, the Commission adopted the Reviewing Officer's recommendation and made a final determination that Agwan for Congress 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 \$12,540. 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 <a href="www.fec.gov/af/pay.shtml">www.fec.gov/af/pay.shtml</a> 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

Jean J Cooksey