

REPORTS ANALYSIS DIVISION REFERRAL
TO
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

DATE: October 18, 2023

ANALYST: Nataliya Ioffe

- I. COMMITTEE: Brittany for the People
C00769059
Mark Hanna, Treasurer
7504 5th Avenue, First Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11209
- II. RELEVANT STATUTES: 52 U.S.C. § 30104(b)(4)
11 C.F.R. § 102.9(e)
11 C.F.R. § 104.3(b)
11 C.F.R. § 110.1(b)(3)

III. BACKGROUND:

Excessive, Prohibited and Other Impermissible Contributions: Failure to Refund or Redesignate General Election Contributions within the Permissible Timeframe after the Candidate Lost the Primary Election

Brittany for the People (“the Committee”) received 2022 General Election contributions totaling \$53,144.75 that were not refunded or redesignated within the permissible timeframe from the date Brittany Ramos DeBarros (“the Candidate”) lost the 2022 New York Primary Election. The contributions total \$53,144.75 as disclosed on the 2021 July Quarterly, 2021 October Quarterly, 2021 Year-End, and 2022 April Quarterly Reports (Attachment 1). To date, none of these contributions have been remedied.

2021 July Quarterly Report

During the [2021 July Quarterly reporting period](#), April 1, 2021 through June 30 2021, the Committee received \$23,400.00 in 2022 General Election contributions from individuals that were not remedied within the permissible timeframe (Attachment 1).

2021 October Quarterly Report

During the [2021 October Quarterly reporting period](#), July 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021, the Committee received \$10,800.00 in 2022 General Election contributions from individuals that were not remedied within the permissible timeframe (Attachment 1).

2021 Year-End Report

During the [2021 Year-End reporting period](#), October 1, 2021 through December 31 2021, the Committee received \$7,554.00 in 2022 General Election contributions from individuals that were not remedied within the permissible timeframe (Attachment 1).

2022 April Quarterly Report

During the [2022 April Quarterly reporting period](#), January 1, 2022 through March 31, 2022, the Committee received \$11,390.75 in 2022 General Election contributions from individuals that were not remedied within the permissible timeframe (Attachment 1).

On August 23, 2022, the Candidate lost the Democratic Primary Election by 53.7%, with 21% of the vote.¹

On March 9, 2023, a [Request for Additional Information](#) (RAFI) was sent to the Committee referencing the 2022 October Quarterly Report. The RAFI noted the committee's receipt of apparent 2022 General Election contributions totaling \$53,144.75 that were not refunded or redesignated within the permissible timeframe from the date the candidate lost the 2022 Primary Election and requested that the committee take corrective action concerning these contributions.

On April 14, 2023, the Committee filed an [Amended 2022 October Quarterly Report](#) adding memo text on the last page stating, "Campaign ran Working Families ballot line in general; declining it on or about 9/30/22."

On June 21, 2023, the Committee filed an [FEC Form 99 \(Miscellaneous Text Submission\)](#) stating,

"Brittany Ramos DeBarros, the candidate supported by the Committee Brittany for the People, petitioned for and was ultimately granted candidacy to run in the NY general election for the year 2022 on the third party Working Families Party ballot line. She campaigned concurrently as a Democrat in the delayed August 2022 primary and, because of the limited general election timeline, as a WFP candidate for the general election. The campaign continued after failing to win the Democratic Party Primary for approximately two weeks, during which time, campaign funds were expended to keep consultants and other campaign workers on payroll, to

¹ See [https://ballotpedia.org/Brittany Ramos DeBarros](https://ballotpedia.org/Brittany_Ramos_DeBarros).

RAD Referral 23L-61
Brittany for the People
Page 3 of 3

research viability as a third party candidate only and other such expenses related to the general election.”

Failure to Provide Supporting Schedules (Failure to Disclose All Financial Activity)

Brittany for the People (“the Committee”) failed to disclose all financial activity on its 2022 October Quarterly Report filed on October 17, 2022. On April 14, 2023, the Committee filed an Amended 2022 October Quarterly Report which disclosed \$115,888.10 in additional disbursements (Attachment 2).

On October 17, 2022, the Committee filed the original [2022 October Quarterly Report](#) covering the period from August 4, 2022 through September 30, 2022. The report disclosed disbursements totaling \$636.63 on Line 17 (Operating Expenditures) of the [Detailed Summary Page](#) (Attachment 2).

On April 14, 2023, the Committee filed an [Amended 2022 October Quarterly Report](#). The report disclosed disbursements of \$116,524.73 on Line 17 of the [Detailed Summary Page](#), a total increase of \$115,888.10 from the original report (Attachment 2).

On June 5, 2023, a [Request for Additional Information \(RAI\)](#) was sent to the Committee referencing the Amended 2022 October Quarterly Report, received April 14, 2023. The RAI requested clarification regarding a significant increase in disbursements from those disclosed in the original report.

Since April 13, 2023, RAD logged eleven (11) communications with a representative of the Committee which reflect efforts to help the Committee voluntarily comply with the Act. RAD was able to connect with the Committee on multiple occasions and notified the Treasurer that the matters would be referred to another office at the Commission for further review (Attachment 3).

Filings and correspondence related to the Committee can be found here: [Brittany for the People](#). To date, no further communications have been received from the Committee regarding these matters.

Brittany for the People (C00769059)**Apparent 2022 General Election Contributions Not Refunded, Listed by Report***2021 July Quarterly Report*

Name	Date of Receipt	Contribution Amount
Individuals		
Chess, Andrew	6/30/2021	\$2,900.00
Coy, Oona	6/23/2021	\$2,100.00
Ebrahimi, Farhad	6/25/2021	\$2,900.00
Ebrahimi, Farhad 'Fred'	6/30/2021	\$2,900.00
Ebrahimi, Mary	6/30/2021	\$2,900.00
Gochman, Molly ¹	6/30/2021	\$2,900.00
Griffith, Eric	6/30/2021	\$2,900.00
Leaf, Erika	6/24/2021	\$2,900.00
Soffer, Jill	6/25/2021	\$1,000.00
		\$23,400.00

2021 October Quarterly Report

Name	Date of Receipt	Contribution Amount
Individuals		
Farbman, Eileen	9/23/2021	\$2,000.00
Farchadi, Kayvan	9/30/2021	\$2,900.00
Hanna, Derrick	9/30/2021	\$100.00
Sagner, Deborah	9/30/2021	\$2,900.00
Schafer, Katrina	9/24/2021	\$2,900.00
		\$10,800.00

2021 Year-End Report

Name	Date of Receipt	Contribution Amount
Individuals		
Gelman, Rachel	12/15/2021	\$100.00
Kohlberg, Pamela	12/30/2021	\$27.00
Pritzker, Regan	12/15/2021	\$2,900.00
Rodriguez, Norma	12/23/2021	\$27.00
Soffer, Jill	12/31/2021	\$500.00
Soros, Andrea	12/15/2021	\$2,900.00
Vlahakis, Donna	12/31/2021	\$1,100.00
		\$7,554.00

2022 April Quarterly Report

Name	Date of Receipt	Contribution Amount
Individuals		
Baron, Noah	2/3/2022	\$327.00

¹ This contribution was disclosed as a memo entry on the 2021 October Quarterly Report as the contribution was transferred to the Committee from Lead the Way 2022 (a Joint Fundraising Committee) on September 30, 2021. The date of receipt for this contribution is June 30, 2021.

Brittany for the People (C00769059)**Apparent 2022 General Election Contributions Not Refunded, Listed by Report**

Baron, Noah	3/3/2022	\$1,000.00
Boyea-Robinson, Tynesia	3/31/2022	\$500.00
Farley, David	1/6/2022	\$50.00
Farley, David	2/6/2022	\$100.00
Farley, David	2/15/2022	\$163.75
Farley, David	2/23/2022	\$250.00
Farley, David	3/6/2022	\$100.00
Gomer, Adelaide	2/14/2022	\$1,000.00
Gomer, Adelaide	2/24/2022	\$1,900.00
Kim, Back	3/30/2022	\$2,900.00
McMahon, Mallory	1/31/2022	\$2,900.00
Vlahakis, Donna	2/17/2022	\$200.00
		\$11,390.75

Total 2022 General Election Contributions Not Refunded:	\$53,144.75
--	--------------------

Brittany for the People (C00769059)[2022 October Quarterly Report/Amended October Quarterly Report, received 4/14/2023](#)Overview of Additional Disbursements

Report Line	<u>Original 2022 October Quarterly Report</u>	<u>Amended 2022 October Quarterly Report, received 4/14/2023</u>	Variance Amount
Line 17: Operating Expenditures	\$636.63	\$116,524.73	\$115,888.10
		Total:	\$115,888.10