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OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL

November 17, 2014

111001-171
Office of General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20463

MUR 6906

RE: Campaign Disclosure/Reporting Violation by Marcus Lewis for Congress, 2nd District Illinois

To Whom It Concerns:

I write to report what appears to be a violation of federal campaign disclosure laws and Federal Election Commission (FEC) policy regarding a candidate for U.S. Congress in the Second Congressional District of Illinois: Mr. Marcus Lewis. While Mr. Lewis has run for Congress in at least two previous elections and it appears that he has never filed a report with the FEC, this inquiry focuses only on his most recent campaign for Congress during the November 4, 2014 general election.

Unlike his previous campaigns when he ran as a Democrat, Mr. Lewis was a write-in candidate for Congress this fall. However, he appears to have raised and spent in excess of \$5,000 during his most recent campaign, including expenditures on one large billboard, radio ads on two major Chicago stations, a newspaper ad in one suburban publication, campaign postcards, and a campaign website. Here are the details as best as I can determine.

Billboard. Mr. Lewis purchased a large 20 foot by 60 foot billboard alongside Interstate 57 near 130th Street just outside of the city of Chicago. The billboard clearly states "Paid for by Marcus Lewis for Congress" and references a "marcuslewisforcongress.org" website. The cost of that billboard (including production, printing, taxes, and four weeks of space rental) was \$3,821 according to Mr. Jeff Pierce at CBS Outdoors, the billboard company. Actually, the billboard cost may exceed that amount as Mr. Pierce stated Mr. Lewis' billboard was on display for "a little more than four weeks." (See Enclosure.)

Radio Ads. Mr. Lewis purchased radio ads that were broadcast on WVAZ-FM 102.7 (also known as V-103), which claims to be the No. 2 most popular station in the Chicagoland market, according to ad salesperson Sharon Silberg. Mr. Lewis ran at least two different spots, and they ran at least a total of three times, according to listeners, including myself. In addition to those spots on WVAZ, Mr. Lewis' two ads also ran on WBBM-AM 780 (also known as News Radio), according to listeners. At the end of the radio ads, Mr. Lewis read the typical campaign disclaimer. According to the advertising department at WVAZ, the rates for political ads on that station in November were \$525 for 30-second spots and \$650 for 60-second spots. I assume WBBM's rates were in the same range. I'm not certain whether Mr. Lewis' ads were 30 or 60 seconds. However, the minimum he had to have spent would be at least five ads on two different stations for a total of at least \$2,500.

Newspaper Ads. Mr. Lewis appeared to have purchased at least one newspaper ad in the Kankakee City News, a periodical based in Kankakee, IL. That ad was 7 inches wide by 4.5 inches tall. The cost of a political ad of that size in that newspaper was about \$200, according to the City News advertising department. (It is impossible to identify the date of publication of this ad because nowhere in the Kankakee City News does it state the date of publication.) (See Enclosure.)

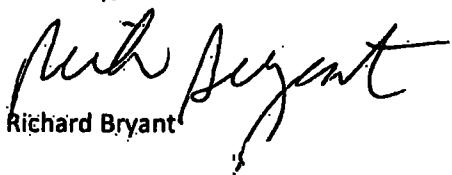
Campaign Postcards. Mr. Lewis' campaign also purchased small full-color, two-sided campaign postcards or business cards. I don't know how many cards he had printed or the cost associated with that printing. Stacks of these cards were left inside local businesses, including a gas and convenience store in Matteson, IL. The cards state "Paid for by Marcus Lewis for Congress." And as with the billboards, the campaign postcard also references the "marcuslewisforcongress.org" website. (See Enclosure.)

Website. Although I don't know its cost, Mr. Lewis did establish and maintain the "marcuslewisforcongress.org" website to which he posted notices of upcoming events as well as copies of videos, news releases, interviews, and speeches. The website also featured a link for fundraising for Marcus Lewis for Congress. (See Enclosure.)

In summary, Mr. Lewis appears to have exceeded the \$5,000 FEC threshold for his 2014 general election campaign with the purchase of a large billboard at a minimum of \$3,821 and the purchase of radio ads costing at least \$1,575. Additionally, Mr. Lewis appears to have spent \$200 on at least one newspaper ad. Also, he acknowledges that his campaign purchased candidate postcards with his campaign fund, while also making multiple references in his campaign literature to the existence and maintenance of the "marcuslewisforcongress.org" website.

I thank you for looking into this important matter.

Sincerely,


Richard Bryant

As Notary Public, I affirm and certify that Richard Bryant signed and swore before me this document under penalty of perjury on this date of Nov 19, 2014.

Enclosures:

Billboard

Newspaper ad

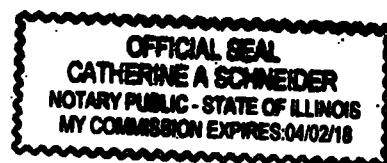
Postcard

References to website

Signature



Seal



WILBURG

WILBURG



For U.S. Rep. 2nd District

www.marcuslewisforcongress.org

Run by Marcus Lewis for Congress



City News

Kankakee, Chicago, South Suburbs, Joliet
A Taylor Publication Established July 2, 1972

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LEWIS**

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Publisher's Desk, page 2 at
page 10. Time to send Kel
back to New York...*

**This Issue of the City News is Dedicated to:
Sarah Washington the beautiful young woman who reached for the Stars.**



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For Congress 2nd District

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For U.S. Rep. 2nd District



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An Extraordinary Thing.*

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