



**FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

**MAY 23 2017**

Mr. Robert Lara, Treasurer  
Democratic Party of New Mexico  
322 Adams Street, SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87108

RE: RR 17L-10

Dear Mr. Lara:

The Federal Election Commission ("Commission") has ascertained information in the normal course of carrying out its supervisory responsibilities indicating that the Democratic Party of New Mexico and you, in your official capacity as treasurer (the "Committee"), may have violated the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (the "Act"). The matter has been referred by the Reports Analysis Division to the Commission's Office of General Counsel for possible enforcement action under 52 U.S.C. § 30109.<sup>1</sup> Specifically, the Committee has been referred for amending its 2016 September Monthly Report to disclose additional disbursements of \$600,000.00, which were not disclosed on the original report. For further information, a copy of the referral document is enclosed. We have numbered this referral RR 17L-10.

The Act affords you the opportunity to demonstrate in writing that no action should be taken against the Committee in this matter. If you wish to file a response, you may submit any factual or legal materials that you believe are relevant to the Commission's consideration of this matter. Where appropriate, statements should be submitted under oath by persons with relevant knowledge. Your response, which should be addressed to the General Counsel's Office, must be submitted within 15 days of receipt of this letter. If no response is received within 15 days, the Commission may take further action based on the available information.

This matter will remain confidential in accordance with 52 U.S.C. §§ 30109(a)(4)(B) and 30109(a)(12)(A) unless you notify the Commission in writing that you wish the matter to be made public. Please be advised that, although the Commission cannot disclose information regarding an investigation to the public, it may share information on a confidential basis with other law enforcement agencies.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Notification of this referral is being provided to you pursuant to the Commission's Agency Procedure for Notice to Respondents in Non-Complaint Generated Matters, as published in the Federal Register on August 4, 2009 (74 Fed. Reg. 38,617).

<sup>2</sup> The Commission has the statutory authority to refer knowing and willful violations of the Act to the Department of Justice for potential criminal prosecution, 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(5)(C), and to report information regarding violations of law not within its jurisdiction to appropriate law enforcement authorities. *Id.* § 30107(a)(9).

If you intend to be represented by counsel in this matter, please advise the Commission by completing the enclosed form stating the name, address, and telephone number of such counsel, and authorizing such counsel to receive any notifications and other communications from the Commission. Please note that you have a legal obligation to preserve all documents, records, and materials relating to the subject matter of the referral until such time as you are notified that the Commission has closed its file in this matter. See 18 U.S.C. § 1519.

Any correspondence sent to the Commission, such as a response, must be addressed to one of the following (note, if submitting via email, this Office will provide an electronic receipt by email):

Mail  
Federal Election Commission  
Office of Complaints Examination  
and Legal Administration  
Attn: Donna Rawls, Paralegal  
999 E Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20463

OR Email  
CELA@fec.gov

If you have any questions, please contact Donna Rawls at (202) 694-1650 or toll free at 1-800-424-9530. For your information, we have enclosed a brief description of the Commission's preliminary procedures for processing possible violations discovered by the Commission.

Sincerely,



Jeff S. Jordan  
Assistant General Counsel  
Complaints Examination &  
Legal Administration