



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
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SENSITIVE

MEMORANDUM

February 1, 2019

TO: The Commission

THROUGH: Alec Palmer *AP by MAIT*
Staff Director

FROM: Patricia C. Orrick *PCO*
Chief Compliance Officer

Krista J. Roche *KJR*
Director, ADR Office

SUBJECT: ADR 884 Kaisar Ahmed for US Congress 2016 and Kaisar Ahmed, Treasurer, Recommendation to Approve Negotiated Settlement

RESOLUTION TERMS: Participate in a one-on-one training regarding best practices, disclaimers, and reporting requirements scheduled with the Information Division and/or Reports Analysis Division; and file reports disclosing all campaign activity for the 2018 election cycle.

Attached for your review is a signed ADR Negotiated Settlement pertaining to ADR 884 (MUR 7387). The ADR Office received this matter on August 15, 2018 from the Office of General Counsel.

SUMMARY: On May 18, 2018, Howard Morris filed a Complaint alleging that Kaisar Ahmed for US Congress 2016 and Kaisar Ahmed, Treasurer (the Committee or Respondents) failed to properly file reports and disclose financial activity during the 2016¹ and 2018 election cycles while Kaisar Ahmed was a candidate for the House of Representatives in California's District 31. The Complaint alleges that after Mr. Ahmed filed his Statement of Candidacy with the Commission on January 25, 2018, he failed to register a principal campaign committee and report any financial activity to the Commission. The Complainant states that based on

¹ Respondents' activity in the 2016 election cycle was the subject of ADR 827, the settlement for which was approved by the Commission on October 30, 2017. The Reports Analysis Division provided training and continues to assist Mr. Ahmed with filing reports pursuant to that settlement.

information released by the San Bernadino County Elections Office, the estimated cost for a District 31 House of Representatives candidate to provide a candidate statement appearing in the Voter Information Guide is \$11,376. As Mr. Ahmed's statement appeared in the guide, the Complainant states that he would have triggered the requirements to file reports with the Commission. Additionally, the Complainant states that he "received multiple flyers that appear to be from Mr. Ahmed, but that do not disclose the entity that paid for them."

In a response dated July 11, 2018, the Respondents indicate that they "may not have been successful in closing all books for 2016 election cycle," and that they "will make every effort to comply with the election laws."

Commission records show that Respondents filed reports to disclose some activity for the 2016 election cycle, but have not filed any reports for the 2018 election cycle. In addition, Mr. Ahmed's Statement of Candidacy, signed on January 18, 2018, discloses Kaisar Ahmed for US Congress as his principal campaign committee for the 2018 election cycle.² Lastly, one flyer submitted with the Complaint appears to lack the required disclaimer, while it is unclear whether a second flyer submitted with the Complaint was produced by the Respondents.

² Mr. Ahmed indicated that he intends to use the same committee to file reports for the 2018 election cycle. The Reports Analysis Division will work with him to file a Form 1 to remove "2016" from the name of his committee to match the designation on his 2018 Statement of Candidacy.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approve the attached negotiated settlement of Kaisar Ahmed for US Congress 2016 and Kaisar Ahmed, Treasurer.
2. Approve the appropriate letters.
3. Close the file on this matter.