



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

October 9, 2019

Cindy Benson, Treasurer
Taking Action for Suffolk County
P.O. Box 798
Mattituck, NY 11952

**Response Due Date
October 31, 2019**

Re: ADR 936 (RAD 19L-34)
Taking Action for Suffolk County and Cindy Benson, Treasurer, (C00637645)

Dear Cindy Benson:

The Federal Election Commission (FEC or Commission) referred a compliance issue to the FEC's Alternative Dispute Resolution Office (ADR Office) for processing. The referral by the Reports Analysis Division was based on a review of reports filed by Taking Action for Suffolk County which reflect a possible failure to comply with the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended.

The FEC established the ADR Program to provide an informal means for resolving matters that come before the Commission and to facilitate negotiations directly with Taking Action for Suffolk County and Cindy Benson, Treasurer (Respondents or the Committee). The ADR Program provides Respondents with an opportunity to negotiate settlement of a matter that is mutually agreeable. The negotiations occur prior to any Commission consideration of whether there is reason to believe a violation has occurred. If negotiations are successful, the resulting settlement would conclude the matter.

The Commission, in referring the matter to the ADR Office, determined that the case is eligible for processing in the ADR program. If Respondents decide to participate in the ADR Program, you must: 1) indicate in writing a willingness to have your case submitted for ADR processing; 2) agree to participate in the bilateral interest based negotiations; and 3) waive the statute of limitations while the matter is being processed under the FEC's ADR program.

The issues referred to the ADRO, and the focus of our subsequent negotiations are summarized as follows:

The Reports Analysis Division (RAD) referred Taking Action for Suffolk County and Cindy Benson, Treasurer (Respondents or the Committee) for failing to file two (2) 48-

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION OFFICE
1050 FIRST STREET N.E., WASHINGTON, DC 20463
TELEPHONE: 202.694.1661
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Hour Reports totaling \$57,772.84 to support ten (10) independent expenditures disclosed on the Amended 2018 12-Day Pre-General Report, received November 1, 2018.

In a Form 99 (Miscellaneous Electronic Submission) filed July 15, 2019, the Committee contended that eight of the independent expenditures did not meet the \$10,000 threshold to trigger disclosure on a 48-Hour Report. The Committee otherwise noted that it made independent expenditures for the first time in the 2018 election cycle and has since revised its procedures for tracking and timely reporting independent expenditures.

If after reviewing this letter and the enclosed ADR Frequently Asked Questions, which describe the ADR program, Respondent(s) would like to participate in ADR processing, you need to affirmatively indicate that on the enclosed Commitment to Submit Matter to ADR form. **Failure to respond affirmatively within fifteen (15) business days from the date of this letter will be taken as a notice of disinterest in the program and your case will be dropped from further consideration for ADR.** In that event, your case will be sent to the FEC's Office of General Counsel for further processing, and the likelihood that the Committee will be audited during the next election cycle will increase.

This matter has been designated as **ADR 936**. Please refer to this number in future correspondence with the FEC. If you have questions about the ADR Program, please contact the ADRO at my direct dial as indicated below

Sincerely,



Joshua A. Rebollozo
ADR Specialist
Alternative Dispute Resolution Office