

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

2016 DEC 12 AM 9:49



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20463

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**MEMORANDUM****SENSITIVE**

TO: The Commission

FROM: Lisa J. Stevenson  
Acting General Counsel

BY: Kathleen Guith  
Acting Associate General Counsel  
for Enforcement

Jin Lee *JL*  
Acting Assistant General Counsel

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SUBJECT: MUR 6655 (Justin Lamar Sternad, *et al.*)

RE: Circulation of Discovery Documents

2016 DEC 12 AM 9:54

On September 10, 2013, the Commission found reason to believe that 2012 Congressional candidate Justin Lamar Sternad, Sternad's campaign committee, former Congressman David Rivera, and Ana Sol Alliegro knowingly and willfully violated various provisions of the Act and Commission regulations in connection with a scheme to fund Sternad's primary election campaign with unreported contributions provided by Rivera and Alliegro. *See* MUR 6655, Certification (Sept. 11, 2013).

At the time of the reason to believe findings, the Commission possessed adequate information to enter into conciliation with Sternad,<sup>1</sup> but commenced an investigation to determine the scope of Rivera and Alliegro's participation in the scheme, and to ascertain the true source of the contributions to Sternad. Though the available information indicated that

<sup>1</sup> Sternad was criminally prosecuted for this scheme. He pleaded guilty to conspiracy in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371, false statements in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001, and accepting excessive contributions (then 2 U.S.C. § 441a(f)). *See* Factual Basis of the Plea of Guilty, *United States v. Justin Lamar Sternad*, 13-20108 (S.D. Fla. Mar. 13, 2013).

1 Alliegro<sup>2</sup> and Rivera<sup>3</sup> provided Sternad with funds totaling \$81,486.20, which Sternad falsely  
 2 reported to the Commission as loans from his personal funds, the underlying source of the funds  
 3 provided by Alliegro and Rivera remained unknown. In December 2013, the Commission  
 4 accepted a conciliation agreement with Sternad [REDACTED]  
 5 [REDACTED]  
 6 [REDACTED]  
 7 [REDACTED]

8 Therefore, we are now taking steps to complete our investigation of this matter. [REDACTED]  
 9 [REDACTED]  
 10 [REDACTED]

11 Information from the criminal prosecutions of Sternad and Alliegro sheds little light on  
 12 the source of the funds used to make the contributions to Sternad's campaign. Therefore, in  
 13 order to complete our investigation we have attempted to informally obtain information directly  
 14 from Alliegro and Rivera. Those attempts, however, have been unsuccessful. Given the limited  
 15 amount of time left within the statute of limitations, which will begin to expire in May 2017, we  
 16 believe that subpoenas will be the most efficient means to obtain the information that we need to  
 17 complete the investigation for this matter. The attached subpoenas request information  
 18 regarding the contributions that were identified during the criminal prosecution of Sternad, seek  
 19 information on the role that Alliegro and Rivera each played in the scheme, and request  
 20 supporting documentation. We are circulating the attached subpoenas to produce documents and  
 21 order to submit written answers to questions for the Commission's approval on a 48-hour no-  
 22 objection basis.  
 23 [REDACTED]  
 24 [REDACTED]  
 25 [REDACTED]

<sup>2</sup> Alliegro pleaded guilty to engaging in a conspiracy to make false statements and to violate the Federal Election Campaign Act (18 U.S.C. § 371), making a false statement (18 U.S.C. § 1001(a)(2)), and making illegal campaign contributions (then 2 U.S.C. §§ 441a(a)(1)(A) and 441g), but questions as to the source of the contributions remain. *See* Judgment, *United States v. Ana Alliegro*, 14-20102 (S.D. Fla. Sept. 10, 2014). Information revealed during Alliegro's plea colloquy indicates that Rivera may have been the source of the funds that she helped provide to the Sternad campaign. *See* Guilty Plea Transcript, *United States v. Ana Alliegro*, 14-20102 (S.D. Fla. Aug. 19, 2014), available at <http://www.ccfj.net/CorrMHGuiltyPleaTR.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> To date, DOJ has not brought any charges against Rivera.