



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

Megan Sowards Newton, Esq.
Jones Day
51 Louisiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001

JUL 18 2019

RE: MUR 7401

Dear Ms. Sowards Newton:

On June 11, 2018, the Federal Election Commission notified your clients, Donald J. Trump and Donald J. Trump for President, Inc. and Bradley T. Crate in his official capacity as treasurer, of a complaint alleging violations of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended. A copy of the complaint was forwarded to you at that time.

Upon further review of the allegations contained in the complaint, and information supplied by you, the Commission, on July 11, 2019, voted to dismiss the allegation that your clients accepted prohibited contributions in the form of coordinated communications or expenditures. The Factual and Legal Analysis, which more fully explains the Commission's decision, is enclosed for your information.

You are advised that the confidentiality provisions of 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(12)(A) remain in effect, and that this matter is still open with respect to other respondents. The Commission will notify you when the entire file has been closed.

If you have any questions, please contact Nicholas Bamman, the attorney assigned to this matter, at (202) 694-1650.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Y. Tran".

Lynn Y. Tran
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosure:
Factual and Legal Analysis

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
FACTUAL AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

RESPONDENT: Donald J. Trump for President, Inc. and Bradley T. Crate in his official capacity as treasurer MUR: 7401

I. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

8 The Complaint generally alleges that various individuals and organizations coordinated
9 communications with Donald J. Trump and his principal campaign committee, Donald J. Trump
10 for President, Inc. and Bradley T. Crate in his official capacity as treasurer (“Trump
11 Committee”). Based on alleged meetings between individuals associated with the Trump
12 Committee and various other individuals and organizations, the substance of which is vague and
13 unsubstantiated by the Complaint’s attachments, the Complaint concludes that various
14 individuals and organizations coordinated communications with the Trump Committee.¹

15 II. LEGAL ANALYSIS

16 The Act prohibits corporations from making, and candidates or their committees from
17 knowingly accepting, contributions in connection with any election to political office.²
18 Expenditures made by any person “in cooperation, consultation, or concert with, or at the request
19 or suggestion of” a candidate or his authorized committee or agent qualify as an in-kind
20 contribution to the candidate and must be reported as expenditures made by the candidate’s
21 authorized committee.³

¹ See Compl. at 1, 3.

2 52 U.S.C. § 30118(a).

³ 52 U.S.C. § 30116(a)(7)(B); 11 C.F.R. § 109.20(a), (b).

MUR 7401 (Donald J. Trump for President, Inc.)

Factual and Legal Analysis

Page 2 of 2

1 A communication that is coordinated with a candidate or his authorized committee is
2 considered an in-kind contribution and is subject to the limits, prohibitions, and reporting
3 requirements of the Act.⁴ A communication is coordinated with a candidate, his authorized
4 committee, or agent of either, if it meets a three-prong test set forth in the Commission's
5 regulations: (1) it is paid for, in whole or in part, by a person other than the candidate or
6 authorized committee; (2) it satisfies a content standard in 11 C.F.R. § 109.21(c); and (3) it
7 satisfies a conduct standard in 11 C.F.R. § 109.21(d). All three prongs must be satisfied for a
8 communication to be considered coordinated under Commission regulations.⁵

9 Here, the Complaint does not identify any specific communications with which to
10 conduct a coordination analysis. Nor do the conclusory allegations of meetings between
11 individuals from the Trump campaign and various other individuals and organizations, indicate,
12 based on the available information in the record, any impermissible coordination under the Act or
13 Commission regulations. Because the allegations fail to indicate that a violation occurred, the
14 Commission dismisses the allegations that various individuals and organizations made, and the
15 Trump Committee accepted, prohibited contributions in the form of coordinated communications
16 or expenditures in violation of 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116 and 30118 and 11 C.F.R. § 109.21.

⁴ 52 U.S.C. § 30116; 11 C.F.R. § 109.21(b).

⁵ 11 C.F.R. § 109.21(a); *see also* Explanation and Justification, *Coordinated and Independent Expenditures*, 68 Fed. Reg. 421, 453 (Jan. 3, 2003).

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
FACTUAL AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

RESPONDENT: Donald J. Trump MUR: 7401

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MUR 7401 (Trump)
Factual and Legal Analysis
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