



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20463

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL
AND ELECTRONIC MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

July 31, 2020

Jordan W. Fetzer

Lewisburg, PA 17837

RE: MUR 7608
Friends of Marc Friedenberg

Dear Mr. Fetzer:

The Federal Election Commission has considered the allegations contained in your complaint dated May 9, 2019. On July 21, 2020, based upon the information provided in the complaint and available information, the Commission decided to exercise its prosecutorial discretion to dismiss the allegations as to Friends of Marc Friedenberg, and Sean Miller, in his official capacity as treasurer, and closed its file in this matter. The General Counsel's Report, which more fully explains the basis for the Commission's decision, is enclosed.

Documents related to the case will be placed on the public record within 30 days. *See Disclosure of Certain Documents in Enforcement and Other Matters*, 81 Fed. Reg. 50,702 (Aug. 2, 2016), effective September 1, 2016.

The Federal Election Campaign Act allows a complainant to seek judicial review of the Commission's dismissal of this action. *See* 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(8). If you have any questions, please contact Don Campbell, the attorney assigned to this matter, at (202) 694-1650.

Sincerely,

Lisa J. Stevenson
Acting General Counsel

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff S. Jordan".

BY: Jeff S. Jordan
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosure
General Counsel's Report

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
ENFORCEMENT PRIORITY SYSTEM
DISMISSAL REPORT

MUR: 7608

Respondent: Friends of Marc Friedenber
and Sean Miller as Treasurer
Marc Friedenber¹

Complaint Receipt Date: May 9, 2019

Response Date: N/A²

Alleged Statutory

52 U.S.C. §§ 30102(c), (d); 30104(a), (b);

Regulatory Violations:

11 C.F.R. §§ 104.3(a), (b); 104.14

The Complaint alleges that Marc Friedenber and Friends of Marc Friedenber (the “Committee”) failed to properly report receipts and disbursements in disclosure reports filed in the 2017-2018 election cycle and on the Committee’s 2019 April Quarterly Report.³ Specifically, the Complaint alleges the Committee’s disclosure reports failed to disclose address information and purpose for certain disbursements and in-kind contributions, failed to disclose alleged in-kind contributions for donations of furniture and office supplies that had been requested by the campaign, and failed to disclose disbursements for voter file access, campaign materials, supplies, office space and staff.⁴

¹ Friedenber lost in the May 21, 2019, special election to represent Pennsylvania’s 12th Congressional District with 31.9% of the vote.

² Neither Friedenber nor the Committee responded to the Complaint.

³ Compl. at 1-4 (May 9, 2019). The original 2019 April Quarterly Report, filed April 14, 2019, listed all of the Committee’s disbursements for the reporting period as ActBlue transaction fees. The Amended 2019 April Quarterly Report, filed May 14, 2019, provided a more accurate and comprehensive reporting of disbursements.

⁴ *Id.* The Committee has either reported many of the allegedly unreported transactions on amended reports, or for the transactions that did not contain a proper address or description information, much of the information appeared on subsequent or prior reports. *See, e.g.,* Friends of Marc Friedenber 2017 Year-End Report at 18; 2018 April Quarterly Report at 31, 34, 35; 2018 Amended Pre-Primary Report at 13-17, 19-24; 2018 July Quarterly Report at 27-34, 41, 43-45, 49-52; 2018 Pre-General Report at 21, 24-25, 27-29; 2019 Amended April Quarterly Report at 64-67, 70-75, 78-81. The Commission’s Report’s Analysis Division (“RAD”) has sent Requests for Additional Information (“RAFI”) regarding the Committee’s failure to include the full address or descriptions of the purpose of each itemized disbursement, incomplete employer and occupation entries for contributions, and other errors. *See* RAFI: 2018 12-Day Pre-Primary Report; RAFI: 2019 April Quarterly Report; RAFI: 2019 July Quarterly Report.

Based on its experience and expertise, the Commission has established an Enforcement Priority System using formal, pre-determined scoring criteria to allocate agency resources and assess whether particular matters warrant further administrative enforcement proceedings. These criteria include (1) the gravity of the alleged violation, taking into account both the type of activity and the amount in violation; (2) the apparent impact the alleged violation may have had on the electoral process; (3) the complexity of the legal issues raised in the matter; and (4) recent trends in potential violations and other developments in the law. This matter is rated as low priority for Commission action after application of these pre-established criteria. Given that low rating, the remedial actions already taken by the Committee regarding its reported and previously unreported transactions, and the low dollar amount involved, we recommend that the Commission dismiss the Complaint consistent with the Commission's prosecutorial discretion to determine the proper ordering of its priorities and use of agency resources.⁵ We also recommend that the Commission close the file as to all Respondents and send the appropriate letters.

Lisa J. Stevenson
Acting General Counsel

Charles Kitcher
Acting Associate General Counsel

12/20/19

Date

BY: Stephen Gura by JGS
Stephen Gura
Deputy Associate General Counsel

Jeff S. Jordan
Jeff S. Jordan
Assistant General Counsel

Donald E. Campbell
Donald E. Campbell
Attorney

⁵ *Heckler v. Chaney*, 470 U.S. 821, 831-32 (1985).