

## **FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION** Washington, DC 20463

July 28, 2020

## **VIA EMAIL**

Keyantwon "Antwon" Stephens, President Ready for Kamala Harris 190 Leann Drive Athens, GA 30601

RE: MUR 7612

Dear Mr. Stephens:

On May 21, 2019, the Federal Election Commission ("Commission") notified Ready for Kamala Harris and you of a complaint alleging violations of certain sections of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (the "Act"). On July 21, 2020, based upon the information contained in the complaint and information provided by respondents, the Commission decided to dismiss allegations that notified Ready for Kamala Harris and you violated provisions of the Act. The Commission then closed its file in this matter. A copy of 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). If you have any questions, please contact Kristina Portner, the attorney assigned to this matter, at (202) 694-1650.

Sincerely,

Jeff S. Jordan

**Assistant General Counsel** 

Enclosure:

General Counsel's Report

MUR761200016

## BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

## ENFORCEMENT PRIORITY SYSTEM DISMISSAL REPORT

MUR: 7612 Respondents: Ready for Kamala Harris

(the "Committee"), Keyantwon Stephens

Complaint Receipt Date: May 20, 2019

**Response Date:** September 13, 2019

**EPS Rating:** 

Alleged Statutory 52 U.S.C. § 30103(a) Regulatory Violations: 11 C.F.R. § 102.1(d)

The Complaint alleges that Respondents used his name as treasurer on the Committee's Statement of Organization without his permission. The custodian of records and designated agent for the Committee, Keyantwon Stephens, indicates that the Committee raised no money and he intends to terminate the Committee. Stephens does not directly address whether Complainant consented to serve as treasurer of the Committee, but implies that the issue involves an interpersonal dispute.

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

Compl. at 1 (May 20, 2019). The Complaint attaches an Identity Theft Report the Complainant filed with the Federal Trade Commission. Compl. at Ex. A.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Resp. at 1 (Sept. 13, 2019).

Id. The Reports Analysis Division sent a verification letter to the Committee on December 9, 2019, and requested information by no later than January 13, 2020. See <a href="https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/704/201912090300052704/201912090300052704/201912090300052704.pdf#navpanes=0">https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/704/201912090300052704/201912090300052704/201912090300052704/201912090300052704/201912090300052704.pdf#navpanes=0</a>. As of January 14, 2020, the Committee had not responded and, pursuant to the Commission's policy, the Committee has been placed on the unverified filers section of the Commission's website.

MUR761200017

EPS Dismissal Report—MUR 7612 (Ready for Kamala Harris, et al.) Page 2 of 2

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 and the Respondents' assertion that the Committee has not received or spent funds, 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. Heckler v. Chaney, 470 U.S. 821, 831-32 (1985). We also recommend that the Commission close the file and send the appropriate letters.

> Lisa J. Stevenson **Acting General Counsel**

Charles Kitcher

Acting Associate General Counsel

1.21.20

Date

BY:

Deputy Associate General Counsel

Jeff S. Jordan

**Assistant General Counsel** 

Kristina Portner Kristina M. Portner

Attorney