

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION Washington, DC 20463

<u>CERTIFIED MAIL</u> <u>RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED</u>

December 23, 2021

Cheryl Melton

Anaheim, CA 92801

RE: MUR 7650

Dear Ms. Melton:

The Federal Election Commission reviewed the allegations in your complaint received October 16, 2019. On December 13, 2021, based on the information provided in the complaint, and information provided by respondents, the Commission decided to exercise its prosecutorial discretion to dismiss the allegations as to Donald J. Trump for President Inc., and Bradley Crate in his official capacity as treasurer. Accordingly, on December 13, 2021, the Commission closed the 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* Statement of Policy Regarding Disclosure of Closed Enforcement and Related Files, 68 Fed. Reg. 70,426 (Dec. 18, 2003) and Statement of Policy Regarding Placing First General Counsel's Reports on the Public Record, 74 Fed. Reg. 66132 (Dec. 14, 2009).

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, allows a complainant to seek judicial review of the Commission's dismissal of this action. *See* 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(8).

Sincerely,

Lisa J. Stevenson Acting General Counsel

Roy Q. Luckett

BY: Roy Q. Luckett

Acting Assistant General Counsel

Enclosure General Counsel's Report MUR765000016

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

ENFORCEMENT PRIORITY SYSTEM DISMISSAL REPORT

MUR: 7650 Respondents: Donald J. Trump for President,

Inc. and Bradley Crate,

Complaint Receipt Date: October 16, 2019 as Treasurer

Response Date: December 3, 2019

Alleged Statutory Regulatory Violations: 52 U.S.C. § 30118(a) 11 C.F.R. § 114.2(b)

The Complaint alleges that an internet search for "donate joe biden" using Google provides a link to donate to Donald J. Trump for President, Inc.¹ The Response states that the link is a purchased fundraising ad on Google, and that the link directed people to the Committee's webpage that contained a proper disclaimer.²

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 and the speculative nature of the allegations contained in the Complaint, we recommend that the

¹ Compl. at 1 (Oct. 16, 2019).

² Resp. at 2 (Dec. 3, 2019).

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EPS Dismissal Report—MUR 7650 (Donald J. Trump for President, Inc., $\it et~al.$) Page 2 of 2

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 as to all respondents and send the appropriate letters.

Lisa J. Stevenson Acting General Counsel

Charles Kitcher

Acting Associate General Counsel

March 3, 2020

Date

BY:

Stephen Gura

Deputy Associate General Counsel

Jeff S. Jordan

Assistant General Counsel

Kristina Portner

Kristina M. Portner

Attorney