



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
Washington, DC

February 26, 2021

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Caesar Gonzales

Winston, GA 30187

RE: MUR 7725

Dear Mr. Gonzales:

On April 9, 2020, the Federal Election Commission (“Commission”) notified you of a complaint alleging violations of certain sections of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (the “Act”). On February 17, 2021, based upon the information contained in the complaint and information provided by you, the Commission decided to dismiss allegations that 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 Don Campbell, the attorney assigned to this matter, at (202) 694-1650.

Sincerely,

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

Jeff S. Jordan  
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosure:  
General Counsel’s Report

**BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION**

**ENFORCEMENT PRIORITY SYSTEM**

**DISMISSAL REPORT**

**MUR:** MUR 7725

**Respondents:** Caesar Gonzales for Congress and Jessika Walker, as treasurer (the “Committee”) Caesar Gonzales

**Complaint Receipt Date:** April 8, 2020

**Response Date:** April 21, 2020

## **Alleged Statutory/ Regulatory Violations:**

**52 U.S.C. §§ 30101(2), 30120  
11 C.F.R. §§ 100.3, 110.11**

The Complaint alleges that the Committee failed to include a disclaimer on the campaign's signs.<sup>1</sup> The Complaint also asserts that Gonzales failed to file a Statement of Candidacy after he became a candidate.<sup>2</sup> Respondents state Gonzales filed a Statement of Candidacy and the Committee filed a Statement of Organization on or about March 9, 2020.<sup>3</sup> Respondents acknowledge that the original lawn signs did not contain a disclaimer, but assert that Respondents immediately corrected the signs once Gonzales realized the error.<sup>4</sup>

24 Based on its experience and expertise, the Commission has established an Enforcement  
25 Priority System using formal, pre-determined scoring criteria to allocate agency resources and  
26 assess whether particular matters warrant further administrative enforcement proceedings. These

<sup>1</sup> Compl. at 1 (Apr. 8, 2020). Gonzales was a Republican primary candidate for U.S. Representative in Georgia's 13th Congressional District. He lost in the Republican primary on June 9, 2020 with 31.4% of the vote.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 5. The Complaint asserts Gonzales met the \$5,000 candidacy threshold by paying a \$5,250 filing fee on March 4, 2020. *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> Resp. at 1 (Apr. 21, 2020). See Caesar Gonzales Form 2 Statement of Candidacy (March 9, 2020) available at <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/317/202003099203797317/202003099203797317.pdf>, and Caesar Gonzales for Congress Form 1 Statement of Organization (March 9, 2020) available at <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/318/202003099203797318/202003099203797318.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> Resp. at 1-2. Respondents state that they applied disclaimer labels on the lawn signs beginning March 23, 2020, and that they did not distribute or publicly post the original signs, except for placing one sign at Gonzales's place of residence and posting a picture of bundled signs on social media. *Id.*

EPS Dismissal Report  
MUR 7725 (Caesar Gonzales for Congress, *et al.*)  
Page 2 of 2

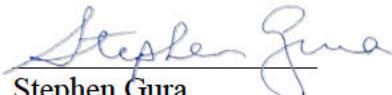
1 criteria include (1) the gravity of the alleged violation, taking into account both the type of activity  
2 and the amount in violation; (2) the apparent impact the alleged violation may have had on the  
3 electoral process; (3) the complexity of the legal issues raised in the matter; and (4) recent trends in  
4 potential violations and other developments in the law. This matter is rated as low priority for  
5 Commission action after application of these pre-established criteria. Given that low rating, both the  
6 speculative and technical nature of the potential violations, and Respondents' prompt remedial  
7 actions, we recommend that the Commission dismiss the Complaint consistent with the  
8 Commission's prosecutorial discretion to determine the proper ordering of its priorities and use of  
9 agency resources.<sup>5</sup> We also recommend that the Commission close the file as to all respondents and  
10 send the appropriate letters.

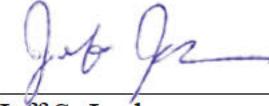
11  
12 Lisa J. Stevenson  
13 Acting General Counsel  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18

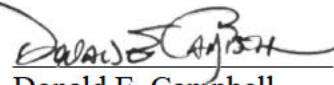
19 Charles Kitcher  
20 Acting Associate General Counsel  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32

10.23.20  
Date

BY:

  
Stephen Gura  
Deputy Associate General Counsel

  
Jeff S. Jordan  
Assistant General Counsel

  
Donald E. Campbell  
Attorney

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