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by Kathryn Ross
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Kathryn Ross

June 15, 2020

Federal Elections Commission
Office of Complaints Examinations
& Legal Administration
Attn: Kathryn Ross, Paralegal
1050 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20463
(202) 694-1539
cela@fec.gov

RE: MUR 7739

Dear Ms. Ross:

My name is Glenn Clary, Chairman of the Alaska Republican Party (ARP), and I am responding to your letter dated May 21, 2020. Your letter was regarding a complaint filed against me by our former ARP Treasurer, Donald Handeland. He has charged that I knowingly filed a false Federal Election Commission report using an illegal electronic signature.

These accusations are false and without merit.

On April 3-4, 2020 the ARP held its' State Convention via ZOOM due to the Covid19 virus. Restrictions were mandated by the State of Alaska prohibiting citizens from meeting publicly in the normal face to face meeting format. Our Convention was very unorthodox, and we were only able to complete the legally necessary business to satisfy the rules and regulations of the Republican National Committee. Part of the unusual format did not provide a means for Delegates to speak or voice opinions or make motions. Only subcommittee reports were made along with motions to accept those reports, then they were voted on by all the Convention delegates. Not giving delegates an opportunity to voice opinions angered Donald Handeland (our Treasurer at the time) to the point, that after the Convention adjourned, he drove by the ARP HQ, dropped off all the materials he had in his possession pertaining to his duties as ARP Treasure. He turned in his resignation leaving us in the dark about passwords, usernames and access to our accounts, including the ARP's FEC account. None of the information left that day nor subsequent information provided us with the ability to access our FEC account.

As Chairman, I called and talked to over a dozen Alaska Republicans trying to enlist someone to serve as our Treasurer to replace Mr. Handeland. I was unsuccessful and our FEC reporting date (April 20, 2020) was at hand. I contacted Ms. Christy Strutz who had previously served at the ARP as our bookkeeper for many years and asked her to help me figure out what to do. I have only been Chairman of the ARP since November

of 2018 and had no experience with the FEC process of establishing a new Treasurer or passwords for the ARP.

I called the FEC and talked to Maureen Benitz (202-694-1147). Maureen is the Senior Campaign Finance & Reviewing Report Analysis Director. I told her we could not access our account and that we did not have a password. I told her that Mr. Handeland had resigned and the username and password that he left us did not work. I also ask her about the procedure we were to follow to appoint a new Treasurer. She told me that we needed to file a new Form1 to change or correct the name of our Treasurer. She also told me that we needed to contact efiletechsupport@fec.gov to get help with our username and password problem. I contacted them and talked to an individual name Eliza. She told me that we needed to submit an Amended Statement of Organization form to receive a new username and password. I got online and downloaded this form, filled it out and sent to the FEC.

I also got online and tried to navigate the Form1 process and submitted a new Form1 with my name on it in the Treasurer's line. However, I had struck through the word Treasurer and hand printed the word Chairman. I was trying to have FEC recognize me as Chairman and Treasurer until I was able to recruit someone to serve as our new Treasurer. I heard nothing back from the FEC about this filing.

I also filed an Amended Statement of Organization and was able to receive a new username and password that would allow us to access our account. By this time our report was overdue by one day. I asked Christy to file our April report using the new username and password. I knew that Mr. Handeland had informed the FEC of his resignation and that he requested the FEC to remove him as the ARP Treasurer. However, what I did not know was that he was still listed as our Treasurer and that our April filing had his name on the submission. I learned this from Mr. Handeland, in an email, the day following our April filing. He informed me that his name was listed on our filing and asked why I had forged his name. I responded to his email apologizing and explaining that it was not intentional. I did not realize his name was still listed as Treasurer. I also told him that the ARP would not hold him accountable or responsible for the April 2020 filing.

I can assure you and Mr. Handeland that this action was not malicious intent or malice toward Mr. Handeland. It was purely a lack of understanding, on my part, about how the FEC system works and my difficulty navigating these changes.

Please accept this letter as my response to the complaint filed against me and the ARP. Contact me if you have additional questions. My contact information is below.

Glenn Clary, Chairman
Alaska Republican Party
907-952-2281

glenn@alaskagop.net

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glenn Clary". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent loop at the end of the word "Clary".

Glenn Clary, Chairman
Alaska Republican Party

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Loren Bretz". The signature is more compact and has a distinct flourish at the end.

Loren Bretz, Treasurer
Alaska Republican Party