

**BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION**  
**ENFORCEMENT PRIORITY SYSTEM**  
**DISMISSAL REPORT**

**MUR:** MUR 7762

**Respondents:** Brooks for Senate  
and Dr. LaQuilla Nabors, as treasurer<sup>1</sup>  
(the “Committee”)  
Natisha Brooks  
Carmen Stephens  
Jaden Falls  
Tonoa Foster-Freeman

**Complaint Receipt Date:** July 16, 2020

**Response Dates:** October 20, 2020; October 27, 2020

**Alleged Statutory/  
Regulatory Violations:**

**52 U.S.C. §§ 30104(b), 30102(b);  
11 C.F.R. §§ 103.3(b), 102.8, 102.9**

The Complaint alleges that Natisha Brooks, a 2020 candidate for Senate from Tennessee, and campaign staffers Jaden Falls and Tonoa Foster-Freeman received and used campaign contributions that they failed to timely forward to then-treasurer Sean Lester.<sup>2</sup> Further, the Complaint alleges that the Committee failed to accurately and timely disclose receipts and disbursements, including \$2,500 in contributions raised by students at Brooks’s home-school institute, and disbursements totaling \$3,500 made to Hertz Automobile Rental Company.<sup>3</sup> The Complaint also alleges that Brooks “falsely impersonated a federal campaign” by hiring Carmen Stephens as her campaign’s webmaster, revising the campaign’s website, and establishing a new PayPal account for the campaign in July 2020 because she did so without getting permission from her campaign’s then-treasurer.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Brooks for Senate and Dr. LaQuilla Nabors in her official capacity as treasurer is Brooks’s authorized campaign committee. Neither the Committee nor the candidate responded to the Complaint.

<sup>2</sup> Compl. at 2, 4-7 (July 16, 2020).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 7.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at 4.

1 In separate responses, Falls and Foster-Freeman refute the allegations and assert that no  
2 person illegally collected any campaign donations through the creation of a new website or PayPal  
3 account.<sup>5</sup> Falls and Foster-Freeman further assert that the candidate never attempted to hide any  
4 expenses.<sup>6</sup> Stephens responded that her role was limited to updating the campaign website, and that  
5 she had no involvement with campaign funds.<sup>7</sup>

6 Based on its experience and expertise, the Commission has established an Enforcement  
7 Priority System using formal, pre-determined scoring criteria to allocate agency resources and  
8 assess whether particular matters warrant further administrative enforcement proceedings. These  
9 criteria include (1) the gravity of the alleged violation, taking into account both the type of activity  
10 and the amount in violation; (2) the apparent impact the alleged violation may have had on the  
11 electoral process; (3) the complexity of the legal issues raised in the matter; and (4) recent trends in  
12 potential violations and other developments in the law. This matter is rated as low priority for  
13 Commission action after application of these pre-established criteria. Given that low rating, the  
14 technical nature of the allegations, which are refuted by campaign staff, and the relatively low dollar  
15 amount at issue,<sup>8</sup> we recommend that the Commission dismiss the Complaint consistent with the  
16 Commission's prosecutorial discretion to determine the proper ordering of its priorities and use of

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<sup>5</sup> The Falls and Foster-Freeman Responses assert that the former website had to be closed, and the Complainant subsequently gave the new webmaster Stephens the login credentials to create the new website, and therefore a new PayPal link was set for donations. Foster-Freeman Response at 1 (October 20, 2020); Falls Response at 1 (October 27, 2020).

<sup>6</sup> *Id.* Falls and Foster-Freeman further clarify what appear to be internal miscommunications between Complainant and campaign staff. *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> Stephens Response at 1 (October 27, 2020).

<sup>8</sup> The Complaint alleges that the candidate, Falls, and Foster-Freeman received and illegally used a campaign donation. The alleged donation involves an anonymous donation of \$20 for gas, which was allegedly underreported as a \$10 contribution and attributed to Foster-Freeman. Compl. at 5-6.

1 agency resources.<sup>9</sup> We also recommend that the Commission close the file as to all Respondents  
2 and send the appropriate letters.

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4 Lisa J. Stevenson  
5 Acting General Counsel  
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8 Charles Kitcher  
9 Associate General Counsel  
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11 08.03.21

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13 Date

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<sup>9</sup> *Heckler v. Chaney*, 470 U.S. 821, 831-32 (1985).