



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20463

July 27, 2022

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2 **TO:** The Commission

3 **FROM:** Lisa J. Stevenson
4 Acting General Counsel

5 Charles Kitcher
6 Associate General Counsel for Enforcement

7 Claudio J. Pavia
8 Deputy Associate General Counsel

9 **BY:** Mark Shonkwiler *MS*
10 Assistant General Counsel

11 Richard L. Weiss *RLW*
12 Attorney

13 **RE:** MUR 7796 (Buzz Patterson for Congress, *et al.*)

14 **SUBJECT:** Intent to Name and Notify Additional Respondent
15

16 On December 2, 2021, the Commission found reason to believe that Buzz Patterson for
17 Congress and Louis G. Baglietto in his official capacity as treasurer (the “Committee”), violated
18 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a), (b) and 11 C.F.R. § 104.3(a), (b) by failing to file any reports of receipts
19 and disbursements during 2020 and 2021 and authorized an investigation.¹ As explained below,
20 based on information obtained during the investigation, the Office of General Counsel (“OGC”)
21 intends to notify Baglietto in his personal capacity.²

22 Baglietto appears to have held himself out as an experienced and qualified political
23 consultant with experience in “campaign treasury” through his company The Baglietto
24 Company, and would seem to be familiar with the responsibilities of a committee treasurer.³
25 Although Baglietto has been treasurer since December 2019,⁴ he has failed to file any disclosure

¹ Certification ¶ 1, 5 (Dec. 8, 2021).

² See Statement of Policy Regarding Treasurers in Enforcement Proceedings, 70 Fed. Reg. 3, 4 (Jan. 3, 2005) (“Treasurer Policy”).

³ Lou Baglietto, LINKEDIN, <https://www.linkedin.com/in/lou-baglietto-336bb73> (last visited July 14, 2022).

⁴ Buzz Patterson for Congress, Amended Statement of Organization (Dec. 11, 2019).

MUR 7796 (Buzz Patterson for Congress, *et al.*)

Memorandum to the Commission

Page 2 of 3

1 reports regarding approximately \$233,000 in receipts and \$233,000 in disbursements.⁵ Further,
 2 Baglietto was unable to provide any invoices or receipts in response to OGC’s requests during
 3 the investigation. Baglietto made over \$60,000 in disbursements to the candidate and other
 4 campaign staff/volunteers without requiring the submission of any invoices or receipts.⁶ Text
 5 messages supplied by Patterson demonstrate that Baglietto did not require any documentation,
 6 but would rather electronically transfer money after receiving text messages requesting
 7 reimbursement of a specific amount.⁷ Patterson provided copies of text messages in which he
 8 asked or reminded Baglietto to file the disclosure reports at least 20 different times.⁸ Each time
 9 Baglietto provided different explanations for why the reports had not yet been filed and promised
 10 to get it done, but ultimately never did.⁹

11 We spoke directly with Baglietto over the phone on two occasions. Baglietto initially
 12 informed OGC that he had a corrupted computer program and computer problems and that is
 13 why he failed to file disclosure reports.¹⁰ However, in subsequent conversations, Baglietto
 14 indicated that he just did not have the motivation to file the reports and that it was too much
 15 work for him.¹¹ Baglietto also told OGC that it “was all my fault and I take responsibility.”¹²
 16 Baglietto also texted Patterson, “I Lou Baglietto will take full responsibility for any judgment the
 17 FEC may make.”¹³

18 In sum, the information from the investigation currently appears to indicate that Baglietto
 19 “recklessly failed to fulfill duties specifically imposed by the Act” on treasurers.¹⁴ For a period
 20 of over two years, continuing to the present, Baglietto has failed to file disclosure reports with
 21 the Commission or maintain all associated records.¹⁵ In similar matters, where treasurers
 22 recklessly failed to maintain adequate records and failed to file accurate disclosure reports the
 23 Commission has held treasurers personally liable.¹⁶ Accordingly, we intend to notify Baglietto

⁵ See Committee Bank records (available in _____); Buzz Patterson for Congress Raw Anedot Data (available in _____); Buzz Patterson Books (available in _____).

⁶ See Memo. to File from Richard Weiss, Attorney, FEC (Mar. 7, 2022); *see also* Committee Bank records (available in _____).

⁷ See Text Messages between Patterson and Baglietto (available in _____).

⁸ *Id.* at 17, 21 (*e.g.*, “Lou, are you able to overnight a CD to the FEC today?” and “How’s the FEC stuff coming?”).

⁹ *Id.* at 21, 24, (*e.g.*, “Should have it straightened out by this weekend ” and “Working on it.”).

¹⁰ See Memo. to File from Richard Weiss, Attorney, FEC (Jan. 26, 2022).

¹¹ See Memo. to File from Richard Weiss, Attorney, FEC (Mar. 7, 2022).

¹² *Id.*

¹³ Text Messages between Patterson and Baglietto at 23.

¹⁴ See Treasurer Policy.

¹⁵ See 52 U.S.C. § 30102(i); 11 C.F.R. § 104.7.

¹⁶ Factual and Legal Analysis (“F&LA”) at 2-3, MUR 5652 (Susan Arceneaux) (finding that “such a large number” of prohibited contributions on the report indicate a lack of attention by the assistant treasurer as one factor in finding the assistant treasurer recklessly failed to fulfill the duties imposed by the Act); F&LA at 8-10, MUR 7901 (Ethan Owens) (finding a former treasurer personally liable for failing to keep and maintain adequate records

MUR 7796 (Buzz Patterson for Congress, *et al.*)

Memorandum to the Commission

Page 3 of 3

- 1 in his personal capacity and expect to incorporate his response, if any, which would be due 15
- 2 days after notification, into a subsequent recommendation to the Commission.

and failing to accurately report receipts, disbursements, and loans where treasurer failed to maintain records and receipts) ; F&LA at 10-11, MUR 7905 (Robert Lucero) (same)