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November 27, 2019

Via E-MailJeff S. Jordan, Esq.
Office of the General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463**Re: AR 19-09R**

Dear Mr. Jordan:

The undersigned serves as counsel to the Michigan Democratic Party (“MDP”) and Traci Kornak, in her official capacity as Treasurer. I am writing in response to the Commission’s letter of October 4, 2019 in connection with the above-referenced referral.

For the reasons set forth below, the MDP respectfully requests that OGC recommend that no further action be taken in this matter or, in the alternative, that this matter be referred to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Division for further proceedings.

This matter relates to a referral of issues raised by the Commission related to the MDP for the 2017-2018 election cycle. Below, I respond to each issue:

Apparent Excessive Contributions:

As a general matter, the MDP acknowledges that six excessive contributions were received late in 2018. These excessive contributions primarily resulted from the receipt of contributions in connection with joint fundraising activities that did not properly import into the committee’s compliance software. As a result, duplicate records were created without the MDP’s knowledge. It was not until the MDP received a request for additional information that the committee discovered these excessive contributions. In addition, the committee received a contribution from the UAW-V-CAP PAC, that they believed to be a federal committee. After receiving a request for additional information on this contribution, it was discovered that this committee was, in fact, a state PAC registered in Michigan. Although the MDP believes that this contribution derived from permissible funds, it fully refunded the contribution.

A summary of contribution refunds and dates of refunds are listed below:

UAW-V-CAP – \$5,000.00 refunded on June 11, 2018.

Bryan C. Barnhill – This contribution was not excessive. Please note that the contributions were paid on a joint account. A contribution from Rian English was incorrectly attributed to Mr. Barnhill. An amended report has been filed to correct this error.

Gretchen D. Driskell - \$10.00 refunded on June 7, 2019

Cynthia Ford - \$10,000.00 refunded on November 7, 2019.

James Offield – \$10,000.00 refunded on August 29, 2019.

Joshua Pokempner - \$10,000.00 refunded on November 7, 2019.

Paul M. Zlotoff - \$ 5,000.00 refunded on November 7, 2019.

Joint Fundraising Memo Entries

The MDP has amended its 2018 Post-General Report to include all memo entries for the Slotkin Victory Fund.

The MDP believes that this matter is more appropriate for diversion to its ADR program and that the committee will benefit from the types of corrective actions that generally derive from ADR matters.

If you have any questions regarding this Response, my daytime number is (202) 479-1111. My email address is reiff@sandlerreiff.com.

Sincerely,



Neil P. Reiff
Counsel to the Michigan Democratic Party