

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of)	
)	PRE-MUR 616
Steven C. Watkins Sr.; Diane K.)	
Watkins; Benjamin Knopke; Caroline)	
Wise; Andrew Wise; Dennis Sumner;)	
Kathryne Sumner; Dennis Sumner)	
Construction, Inc.; Committee to Elect)	
Steve Watkins and Steven G. Martin in)	
his official capacity as treasurer)	

CERTIFICATION

I, Vicktoria J. Allen, recording secretary of the Federal Election Commission executive session, do hereby certify that on January 27, 2022, the Commission took the following actions in the above-captioned matter:

1. Failed by a vote of 3-3 to:
 - a. Open a Matter Under Review.
 - b. Find reason to believe that Steven C. Watkins Sr., violated 52 U.S.C. § 30116(a), 30122 and 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(a)(1)(i).
 - c. Dismiss the matter as to Diane Watkins, Benjamin Knopke, Andrew Wise, Caroline Wise, Dennis Sumner, Kathryne Sumner, and Sumner Construction, but issue letters of caution.
 - d. Dismiss the matter as to the Committee to Elect Steve Watkins, Jr., and Steven G. Martin in his official capacity as treasurer.
 - e. Enter into conciliation with Steven C. Watkins Sr., prior to a finding of probable cause to believe.
 - f. Approve the conciliation agreement, as recommended in the First General Counsel's Report dated July 15, 2020.

- g. Approve the Factual and Legal Analyses, as recommended in the First General Counsel's Report dated July 15, 2020.
- h. Close the file as to Diane Watkins, Benjamin Knopke, Dennis Sumner, Kathryne Sumner, Sumner Construction, Andrew Wise and Caroline Wise.
- i. Approve the appropriate letters.

Commissioners Broussard, Walther, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the motion.

Commissioners Cooksey, Dickerson, and Trainor dissented.

2. Decided by a vote of 5-1 to:

- a. Open a Matter Under Review. [MUR 7958](#)
- b. Find reason to believe that Steven C. Watkins Sr., violated 52 U.S.C. § 30116(a), 30122 and 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(a)(1)(i).
- c. Dismiss the matter as to Diane Watkins, Benjamin Knopke, Andrew Wise, Caroline Wise, Dennis Sumner, Kathryne Sumner, and Sumner Construction.
- d. Dismiss the matter as to the Committee to Elect Steve Watkins, Jr., and Steven G. Martin in his official capacity as treasurer.
- e. Enter into conciliation with Steven C. Watkins Sr., prior to a finding of probable cause to believe.
- f. Approve the Factual and Legal Analyses, as recommended in the First General Counsel's Report dated July 15, 2020, subject to the edits circulated by Commissioner Cooksey's Office on January 26, 2022 at 2:27 p.m.
- g. Approve the draft conciliation agreement, as recommended in the First General Counsel's Report dated July 15, 2020, subject to the edits circulated by Commissioner Cooksey's Office on January 26, 2022 at 2:27 p.m.
- h. Close the file as to Diane Watkins, Benjamin Knopke, Dennis Sumner, Kathryne Sumner, Sumner Construction, Andrew Wise, Caroline Wise, and Committee to Elect Steve Watkins, Jr. and Steven G. Martin in his official capacity as treasurer.

- i. Issue appropriate letters.

Commissioners Broussard, Cooksey, Dickerson, Trainor, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision. Commissioner Walther dissented.

Attest:



February 3, 2022

Date

Vicktoria J Allen

Digitally signed by Vicktoria J
Allen
Date: 2022.02.03 14:10:59 -05'00'

Vicktoria J. Allen
Acting Deputy Secretary of the
Commission