

April 8, 2022

Federal Election Commission cela@fec.gov
 Office of Complaints Examination
 & Legal Administration
 Attn: Trace Keeys, Paralegal
 1050 First Street, NE
 Washington, DC 20463

RE: MUR 7974

Hi,

I am writing in response to complaint filed by Nancy Hernandez MUR #7974.

The complaint stated that "It appears that the AFC has also failed to file amended reports as requested by the Commission for four separate reports filed by Rhodes' campaign - 2020 October Quarter; 2020 Year End; 2021 July Quarterly and 2021 October quarterly. The Commission found these reports to be deficient in various respects, and it does not appear that these deficiencies have been cured by amended reports within deadlines laid out by the Commission."

Response: I worked with FEC Reporting analysts and filed amended reports to address issues with all these reports before the deadline of January 26, 2022. See below FECFile amendment dates -



Type	Coverage	Election Date	Closed on	Signed by	Election cycle	Opening Cash	Closing Cash
A3:S1:July 15 Quarterly	04/01/2020 - 06/30/2020		01/23/2022	Deng, Yang	11/07/2018 - 11/03/2020	0.00	22996.97
A5:S1:October 15 Quarterly	07/01/2020 - 09/30/2020		01/23/2022	Deng, Yang	11/07/2018 - 11/03/2020	22996.97	47965.31
A5:S1:January 31 Year End	10/01/2020 - 12/31/2020		01/23/2022	Deng, Yang	11/04/2020 - 11/08/2022	47965.31	57459.86
A6:S1:April 15 Quarterly	01/01/2021 - 03/31/2021		01/23/2022	Deng, Yang	11/04/2020 - 11/08/2022	57459.86	62967.86
A2:S1:July 15 Quarterly	04/01/2021 - 06/30/2021		01/23/2022	Deng, Yang	11/04/2020 - 11/08/2022	62967.86	58338.66
A2:S1:October 15 Quarterly	07/01/2021 - 09/30/2021		01/23/2022	Deng, Yang	11/04/2020 - 11/08/2022	58338.66	130187.93

I spoke with Ryan at FEC reporting again this week. He explained that there could be issues uploading the amendments and the corrections were not reflected timely on the website. I re-opened those amendments and re-uploaded them.

- "No identifying Information for Campaign Employees and Ambiguous Description of Expenditure Purpose"

Response: Our campaign has employed teenagers 16 and up all with parent consent. Initially we used "Staff Member #1", "Staff Member #2", etc. instead of their full name because they are under 18. After receiving FEC notification that we needed to disclose the names, I filed amendments to fully disclose their names and addresses. See below from FECFile -

17	Shi, Eli	05/31/2021	325.00	325.00
17	Shi, Eli	06/19/2021	50.00	375.00
17	Schneider, Oliver	05/31/2021	225.00	225.00
17	Schneider, Oliver	06/19/2021	50.00	275.00
17	Downey, Jackson	05/31/2021	225.00	225.00
17	Downey, Jackson	06/19/2021	50.00	275.00
17	Stern, Arielle	05/31/2021	225.00	225.00
17	Stein, Madison	05/31/2021	225.00	225.00
17	Stein, Madison	06/19/2021	50.00	275.00
17	Gbewonyo, Kekeli	05/31/2021	225.00	225.00
17	Chen, Valerie	05/31/2021	225.00	225.00
17	Shi, Eli	08/09/2021	1200.00	1575.00
17	Shi, Eli	08/31/2021	1200.00	2775.00
17	Schneider, Oliver	07/13/2021	225.00	500.00
17	Schneider, Oliver	08/31/2021	300.00	800.00
17	Downey, Jackson	07/13/2021	225.00	500.00
17	Downey, Jackson	08/04/2021	300.00	800.00
17	Downey, Jackson	08/10/2021	125.00	925.00
17	Downey, Jackson	08/31/2021	300.00	1225.00
17	Stern, Arielle	08/02/2021	50.00	275.00
17	Stern, Arielle	08/02/2021	250.00	525.00
17	Stern, Arielle	08/02/2021	50.00	575.00
17	Stein, Madison	07/16/2021	225.00	500.00
17	Stein, Madison	08/02/2021	200.00	700.00
17	Gbewonyo, Kekeli	07/12/2021	50.00	275.00
17	Gbewonyo, Kekeli	07/12/2021	225.00	500.00
17	Gbewonyo, Kekeli	08/31/2021	300.00	800.00
17	Chen, Valerie	08/09/2021	225.00	450.00
17	Chen, Valerie	08/23/2021	225.00	675.00
17	Chen, Valerie	08/31/2021	300.00	975.00

- “Inadequate Reporting of Donor Occupation and Employer: Aarika for Congress fails to provide adequate and/or accurate occupation and employer information for several donors.” Donors sited: Jalil Farid, Billie Fischer, Josh Hannah

Response: *Jalil Farid* – unemployed at the time of donation, founded his company later. See email response from Mr. Farid:

On Friday, April 8, 2022, 03:01:39 PM PDT, Jalil Farid

wrote:

Hi Yang,

It has changed! I believe at the time we weren't incorporated so technically I was unemployed. I founded pooldata.io since then.

Not sure what my title is technically. Software Engineer?

-Jalil

Billie Fisher – Not employed. See email response:



Billie Fischer
To: Yang Deng

Still not employed.

Josh Hannah – Not employed. See email response:



Josh Hannah
To: Yang Deng

Fr, Apr 8 at 11:06 PM

correct!

Hide original message

On Fri, Apr 8, 2022 at 3:06 PM Yang Deng <epaulshi@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hi Mr. Hannah,

Thank you so much for your generous donations to Aarika For Congress campaign!

We received an inquiry from FEC about donor information disclosure and just wanted to verify with you if your occupation is still "Not Employed", or if there is any change. If you could kindly confirm that would be great!

Thanks again!
Yang Deng (Treasurer, AarikaForCongress)
818-917-3088

I believe that Aarika For Congress campaign and I have made the best efforts and done our due diligence to report to FEC our donations and disbursements. It is our first time running for office and reporting to FEC. As illustrated above, when we were notified of mistakes, we addressed them timely. We respectfully request MUR 7974 be dismissed.

If you have any questions, please contact Yang Deng at (818)917-3088.

Sincerely,

Yang Deng

Treasurer, Aarika For Congress

Aarika Rhodes.