

22L-12

REPORTS ANALYSIS DIVISION REFERRAL
 TO
 OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

DATE: March 14, 2022

ANALYST: R. Bradley Austin

I. COMMITTEE: FRIENDS OF WARREN CHRISTOPHER
 C00550004
 Leticia C. Smith, Esq., Treasurer
 12138 Central Avenue, Suite 971
 Mitchellville, MD 20721

II. RELEVANT STATUTES: 11 CFR §102.3
 11 CFR §102.4
 11 CFR §113.1
 11 CFR §113.2
 52 U.S.C. §30103(d)
 52 U.S.C. §30114(b)(2).

III. BACKGROUND:

Personal Use of Campaign Funds

FRIENDS OF WARREN CHRISTOPHER (“the Committee”) failed to clarify its status and explain its use of \$117,764.01 in residual campaign funds after failing to file the required disclosure reports for periods following the 2017 October Quarterly Report.

On April 26, 2016, Warren Christopher (“the Candidate”) lost the Primary Election for the U.S. House of Representatives in Maryland’s 4th Congressional District.

On January 9, 2017, the Committee filed a FEC Form 99 (Miscellaneous Text Document) that stated, in part:

“This letter serves as notification that Friends of Warren Christopher Committee had no activity subsequent to the April 2016 primary. The candidate was unsuccessful in the April 2016 Primary and no activity took place thereafter. There was no activity during the October quarterly

reporting dates of 7/1/16 and 9/30/16 or beyond” (Image 201701090300129397).

On February 1, 2017, the Committee filed its 2016 Year-End and 2017 October Quarterly¹ Reports. Both reports disclosed no financial activity and disclosed the Committee’s closing cash-on-hand balance as \$117,764.01 (Images 201702019042401072 and 201702019042401068).

On February 2, 2017, Leticia Smith, the Committee’s Treasurer, contacted the Reports Analysis Division (RAD) Analyst. Ms. Smith indicated, among other items, that she would like to terminate the Committee. The RAD Analyst explained that the Committee would need to resolve its cash-on-hand balance to be eligible to terminate. Ms. Smith stated the Committee’s actual cash-on-hand balance was close to zero and that she would review the campaign’s financial records (Attachment 3).

Between October 28, 2019 and January 13, 2020, RAD Management spoke with Ms. Smith on several occasions about terminating the Committee. RAD Management highlighted that the Committee would need to file the missing disclosure reports for the periods after the 2017 October Quarterly Report or provide an FEC Form 99 explaining the disposal of residual funds to qualify for termination. Ms. Smith stated she would work on obtaining bank records and contact the former treasurer for the Committee (Attachment 3).

On May 18, 2020, the Committee was sent a Request for Additional Information (“RFAI”) verification letter. The RFAI stated, in part:

“Your most recent report discloses a significant amount of residual cash on hand. Please explain the committee's intended use of the residual campaign funds. ...

Be aware that committee assets, including cash-on-hand, may not be converted to personal use. Personal use is any use of funds in a campaign account of a present or former candidate to fulfill a commitment, obligation or expense of any person that would exist irrespective of the candidate's campaign or duties as a federal office holder. 11 CFR §113.1” (Image 202005180300071227).

Between July 10, 2020 and October 13, 2021, RAD Management again contacted Ms. Smith by phone and email multiple times to request that she file an explanation of residual funds for the public record. Ms. Smith indicated she would research the matter and obtain bank records. She stated her understanding was that the Candidate closed the campaign account (Attachment 3).

¹ While this report was filed as a 2017 October Quarterly Report, with the coverage dates of July 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017, it appears that the Committee intended to file it as a 2016 October Quarterly Report. The Committee received a Notice of Failure to File for the latter reporting period, and the date of this filing preceded the 2017 October Quarterly coverage period. The February 2, 2017 RAD communication log indicates that the treasurer acknowledged this reporting error (Attachment 3).

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FRIENDS OF WARREN CHRISTOPHER
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To date, no further communications have been received from the Committee regarding this matter.

O-Index

3/11/2022 9:46 AM

O-Index (2021-2022)															
Cmte. ID: C00550004 Cmte. Name: FRIENDS OF WARREN CHRISTOPHER															
Treasurer Name: SMITH, LETICIA CARROLL ESQ Address: 12138 CENTRAL AVE SUITE 971, MITCHELLEVILLE, MD 20721															
Cmte. Type: H (HOUSE) Cmte. Designation: P (PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE OF A CANDIDATE) Filing Frequency: QUARTERLY FILER															
Form Tp	Rpt Tp	A/I	Recpt Dt	Pgs	Begin Img#	Beg Cvg Dt	End Cvg Dt	Ltr Mail Dt	Begin Cash	Recpts	Disb	End Cash	Debts	Loans	Debts & Loans
RQ7	Q1		4/30/2021	2	202104300300116608	1/1/2021	3/31/2021	4/30/2021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RQ7	Q2		8/2/2021	2	202108020300121701	4/1/2021	6/30/2021	8/2/2021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RQ7	Q3		11/3/2021	2	202111030300127929	7/1/2021	9/30/2021	11/3/2021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RQ7	YE		2/15/2022	2	202202150300132740	10/1/2021	12/31/2021	2/15/2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals										\$0	\$0				

O-Index (2019-2020)															
Cmte. ID: C00550004 Cmte. Name: FRIENDS OF WARREN CHRISTOPHER															
Treasurer Name: SMITH, LETICIA CARROLL ESQ Address: 12138 CENTRAL AVE SUITE 971, MITCHELLEVILLE, MD 20721															
Cmte. Type: H (HOUSE) Cmte. Designation: P (PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE OF A CANDIDATE) Filing Frequency: QUARTERLY FILER															
Form Tp	Rpt Tp	A/I	Recpt Dt	Pgs	Begin Img#	Beg Cvg Dt	End Cvg Dt	Ltr Mail Dt	Begin Cash	Recpts	Disb	End Cash	Debts	Loans	Debts & Loans
RQ7	Q1		4/30/2019	2	201905010300038772	1/1/2019	3/31/2019	4/30/2019	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RQ7	Q2		7/31/2019	2	201907310300043548	4/1/2019	6/30/2019	7/31/2019	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RQ7	Q3		10/30/2019	2	201910300300049364	7/1/2019	9/30/2019	10/30/2019	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RQ7	YE		2/19/2020	2	202002190300055996	10/1/2019	12/31/2019	2/19/2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RQ7	Q1		4/30/2020	2	202004300300066252	1/1/2020	3/31/2020	4/30/2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RQ7	Q2		7/30/2020	2	202007310300079218	4/1/2020	6/30/2020	7/30/2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RQ7	Q3		11/3/2020	2	202011030300091005	7/1/2020	9/30/2020	11/3/2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RQ7	YE		2/16/2021	2	202102160300106011	10/1/2020	12/31/2020	2/16/2021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals										\$0	\$0				

O-Index (2017-2018)															
Cmte. ID: C00550004 Cmte. Name: FRIENDS OF WARREN CHRISTOPHER															
Treasurer Name: SMITH, LETICIA CARROLL ESQ Address: 12138 CENTRAL AVE SUITE 971, MITCHELLEVILLE, MD 20721															
Cmte. Type: H (HOUSE) Cmte. Designation: P (PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE OF A CANDIDATE) Filing Frequency: QUARTERLY FILER															
Form Tp	Rpt Tp	A/I	Recpt Dt	Pgs	Begin Img#	Beg Cvg Dt	End Cvg Dt	Ltr Mail Dt	Begin Cash	Recpts	Disb	End Cash	Debts	Loans	Debts & Loans
MS-T			1/9/2017	3	201701090300129397				-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MS-P			1/25/2017	1	201701250300076136				-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RQ7	Q1		5/1/2017	2	201705010300085522	1/1/2017	3/31/2017	5/1/2017	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RQ7	Q2		8/2/2017	2	201708020300088767	4/1/2017	6/30/2017	8/2/2017	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RQ2	Q3	N	5/18/2020	2	202005180300071227	7/1/2017	9/30/2017	5/18/2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RQ7	YE		2/16/2018	2	201802160300098319	10/1/2017	12/31/2017	2/16/2018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RQ7	Q1		4/30/2018	2	201804300300007870	1/1/2018	3/31/2018	4/30/2018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RQ7	Q2		7/31/2018	2	201807310300014910	4/1/2018	6/30/2018	7/31/2018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RQ7	Q3		10/31/2018	2	201810310300023115	7/1/2018	9/30/2018	10/31/2018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RQ7	YE		2/19/2019	2	201902190300031809	10/1/2018	12/31/2018	2/19/2019	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
F3N	Q3	N	2/1/2017	4	201702019042401068	7/1/2017	9/30/2017		\$117,764	\$0	\$0	\$117,764	-	-	\$0
Totals										\$0	\$0				



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL TO:

Friendsofwarrenchristopher@gmail.com

December 1, 2021

Warren Christopher
12138 Central Avenue, Suite 971
Mitchellville, Maryland 20721

RE: AT 21-01 (Friends of Warren Christopher)

Dear Mr. Christopher:

The Federal Election Commission's Office of General Counsel is considering whether to recommend that the Commission administratively terminate the reporting obligation of Friends of Warren Christopher. *See* 52 U.S.C. § 30103(d)(2); 11 C.F.R. § 102.4. In reviewing the Committee's disclosure reports, however, we note that your Committee last reported a remaining cash-on-hand totaling \$117,764.01.

We need additional information to formulate our recommendation. We therefore request that you provide: (1) detailed information regarding how the Committee disposed of its last reported cash-on-hand totaling \$117,764.01, or (2) the Committee's plans for disposing of these funds.

Please respond to this letter, by email to DAIberico@fec.gov, by December 13, 2021, with the requested information. The lack of a response, or a response that does not show that the funds were disposed of in a manner consistent with the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, and the Commission's regulations, may result in the Office of General Counsel referring the Committee for enforcement action.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 694-1608 or at DAIberico@fec.gov.

Sincerely,

Danita Alberico

Danita Alberico
Attorney
OGC Policy Division

**FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

VIA ELECTRONIC MAILTO:

December 1, 2021

Leticiasmith@lslegalmediation.com, and
Leticiasmith@kw.com

Leticia Carroll Smith, Treasurer, Friends of Warren Christopher
12138 Central Avenue, Suite 971
Mitchellville, Maryland 20721

RE: AT 21-01 (Friends of Warren Christopher)

Dear Ms. Smith:

The Federal Election Commission's Office of General Counsel is considering whether to recommend that the Commission administratively terminate the reporting obligation of Friends of Warren Christopher. *See* 52 U.S.C. § 30103(d)(2); 11 C.F.R. § 102.4. In reviewing the Committee's disclosure reports, however, we note that you last reported that the Committee had remaining cash-on-hand totaling \$117,764.01.

We need additional information to formulate our recommendation. We therefore request that you provide: (1) detailed information regarding how the Committee disposed of its last reported cash-on-hand totaling \$117,764.01, or (2) your plans for disposing of these funds.

Please respond to this letter, by email to DAIberico@fec.gov, by December 13, 2021, with the requested information. The lack of a response, or a response that does not show that the funds were disposed of in a manner consistent with the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, and the Commission's regulations, may result in the Office of General Counsel referring the Committee for enforcement action.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 694-1608 or at DAIberico@fec.gov.

Sincerely,

Danita Alberico

Danita Alberico
Attorney
OGC Policy Division