

**RECEIVED**

By OGC-CELA at 12:48 pm, Nov 18, 2022

INTERNATIONAL SQUARE
 1825 EYE STREET, NW, SUITE 900
 WASHINGTON, DC 20006-5468
 TELEPHONE: 202-457-0160
 FACSIMILE: 844-670-6009
<http://www.dickinsonwright.com>

KATHERINE N. REYNOLDS
 KReynolds@dickinsonwright.com
 202-659-6944

November 18, 2022

Roy Lockett, Esq.
 Assistant General Counsel
 Complaints Examination & Legal Administration
 Federal Election Commission
 1050 First Street NE Washington, DC 20463

VIA E-MAIL: cela@fec.gov

Re: MUR 8082: Response for South Florida Residents First

We write on behalf of South Florida Residents First and Paul Kilgore, in his official capacity as Treasurer (collectively “SFRF”) in response to a complaint alleging that Stand Up for Justice, an corporation organized under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code, acted as a conduit for anonymous donors to contribute \$50,000 to SFRF to independently support candidates in the State of Florida without being identified. The Complainant’s allegations, as applied to SFRF, are meritless, as SFRF had no knowledge, nor any reason to believe, that Stand Up for Justice’s contribution was made on behalf of anyone else other than Stand Up for Justice. We ask the Federal Election Commission (“FEC” or “Commission”) to immediately find no reason-to-believe and close the file.

Under the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (“FECA” or “the Act”), “[n]o person shall make a contribution in the name of another person or knowingly permit his name to be used to effect such a contribution and no person shall *knowingly* accept a contribution made by one person in the name of another person.”¹ As such, in order for the Commission to find reason-to-believe against SFRF, the Complaint must provide evidence to show that at the time SFRF accepted the contribution, SFRF *knew* that the contribution from Stand Up for Justice was from another donor.

The Complainant provides no such evidence. Instead, the Complainant makes conclusory statements that the SFRF knew that Stand Up for Justice’s contribution was in the name of another without providing any reasoning or support for that statement. The reason they cannot provide such evidence is because SFRF had no knowledge or reason to believe that Stand Up for Justice’s contribution was from anyone other than Stand Up for Justice.

¹ 52 U.S.C. § 30122.

Page 2

This Complaint is yet another complaint that is submitted against a laundry list of respondents regardless of the actual facts at issue. However, consistent with the Complainant's past precedent,² they fail to provide any facts or evidence that are material to finding reason to believe that a violation occurred. Here, the Complainant provides no reasoning or evidence to support their assertion that SFRF *knowingly* accepted a contribution from Stand Up for Justice that SFRF *knew* to be from other individuals. Reason-to-believe is “no rubber stamp”³—complaints based on mere speculation or conclusory statements have not, and should not, be the basis for an investigation.⁴ Therefore, we ask the Commission to find no reason-to-believe and close the file on this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Charlie Spies
Katie Reynolds
Counsel to South Florida Residents First

² Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), is well-known in the campaign finance community for filing hundreds of FEC complaints against individuals and organizations, many of which are frivolous, speculative, and conclusory. *See generally* Statement of Chair James E. “Trey” Trainor III on the Dangers of Procedural Dysfunction (Aug. 28, 2000).

³ Statement of Reasons by Vice Chairman Allen Dickerson and Commission James “Trey” Trainor III at 3, MURs 7427, 7497, 7524, 7553, 7560, 7621, 7654, 7660 and 7558 (NRA, *et. al*).

⁴ *Id.*; *see also* Statement of Reasons of Comm’rs Mason, Sandstrom, Smith, and Thomas at 1, MUR 4960 (Clinton) at 1-2, (Dec. 21, 2000) (“The Commission may find ‘reason to believe’ only if a complaint sets forth sufficient specific facts, which, if proven true, would constitute a violation of [the Federal Election Campaign Act (“FECA” or “Act”), as subsequently amended].”); First General Counsel’s Report at 5, MUR 5467 (Michael Moore) (“[p]urely speculative charges, especially when accompanied by a direct refutation, do not form an adequate basis to find a reason to believe that a violation of the FECA has occurred.”).



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
1050 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20463

STATEMENT OF DESIGNATION OF COUNSEL

Provide one form for each Respondent/Witness

E-MAIL: cela@fec.gov

AR/MUR/RR/P-MUR# 8082

Name of Counsel: Charlie Spies; Katie Reynolds

Firm: Dickinson Wright PLLC

Address: 1825 Eye Street NW, Suite 900

Washington, DC 20006

Office#: 202-466-5964; 202-659-6944 Fax#: _____

Mobile#: _____

E-mail: cspies@dickinson-wright.com; kreynolds@dickinson-wright.com

The above-named individual and/or firm is hereby designated as my counsel and is authorized to receive any notifications and other communications from the Commission and to act on my behalf before the Commission.

11/28/2022		Treasurer
Date	(Signature - Respondent/Agent/Treasurer)	Title
	Paul Kilgore	
	(Name - Please Print)	

RESPONDENT: South Florida Residents First
(Please print Committee Name/ Company Name/Individual Named in Notification Letter)

Mailing Address: _____
(Please Print)

Home#: _____ Mobile#: _____

Office#: _____ Fax#: _____

E-mail: _____

This form relates to a Federal Election Commission matter that is subject to the confidentiality provisions of 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(12)(A). This section prohibits making public any notification or investigation conducted by the Federal Election Commission without the express written consent of the person under investigation.