



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

**VIA UPS SIGNATURE REQUESTED
AND ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Benjamin Drill

[REDACTED]

Elmore, OH 43416

[REDACTED]

March 28, 2025

RE: MUR 8303

Dear Mr. Drill:

On February 25, 2025, the Federal Election Commission reviewed the allegations in your Complaint received August 20, 2024, and based on the information provided therein and information provided by the respondent, determined to exercise its prosecutorial discretion to dismiss the allegations contained in the Complaint. Accordingly, the Commission closed the file in this matter.

The Commission will place documents related to the case on the public record today. *See* Disclosure of Certain Documents in Enforcement and Other Matters, 81 Fed. Reg. 50,702 (Aug. 2, 2016). Enclosed is a copy of the General Counsel's Report, which more fully explains the Commission's decision.

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, allows a complainant to seek judicial review of the Commission's dismissal of this action. *See* 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(8). If you have any questions, please contact Justine A. di Giovanni, the attorney assigned to this matter, at (202) 694-1650.

Sincerely,

Lisa J. Stevenson
Acting General Counsel

Wanda D. Brown

BY: Wanda D. Brown
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosure:
General Counsel's Report

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
ENFORCEMENT PRIORITY SYSTEM
DISMISSAL REPORT

Respondent: Friends of Sherrod Brown and
Judith Zamore in her official
capacity as treasurer

Receipt Dates: Aug. 20, 2024 (MUR 8303)

Response Date:

**Alleged Statutory and
Regulatory Violation:** 52 U.S.C. § 30122
11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b)

The Complaint in MUR 8303

allege that an unknown person made, and Friends of Sherrod Brown and Judith Zamore in her official capacity as treasurer (the “Committee”) knowingly accepted, a contribution in the name of another.¹ The Complaint make this allegation as to two contributions the Committee reported as made by Carol Ann Baker aggregating \$350 in May 2024, stating that these contributions cannot have been made by that individual because Baker died in December 2023.²

¹ Compl. at 1, MUR 8303 (Aug. 20, 2024) [hereinafter MUR 8303 Compl.].

² MUR 8303 Compl. at 1.

[REDACTED] MUR 8303 (Friends of Sherrod Brown)

EPS Dismissal Report

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1 [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED]
3 Based on its experience and expertise, the Commission has established an Enforcement
4 Priority System using formal, pre-determined scoring criteria to allocate agency resources and assess
5 whether matters warrant further administrative enforcement proceedings. These criteria include
6 (1) the gravity of the alleged violation, taking into account both the type of activity and the amount
7 in violation; (2) the apparent impact the alleged violation may have had on the electoral process;
8 (3) the complexity of the legal issues raised in the matter; and (4) recent trends in potential violations
9 and other developments in the law. This matter is rated as low priority for Commission action after
10 application of these pre-established criteria. Given that low rating, the apparent low dollar amount
11 involved, and the Committee's amendment of its 2024 July Quarterly Report, we recommend that
12 the Commission [REDACTED] dismiss the Complaint in MUR 8303
13 consistent with the Commission's prosecutorial discretion to determine the proper ordering of its
14 priorities and use of agency resources.⁶ We also recommend that the Commission close the file
15 effective 30 days from the date the certification of this vote is signed (or on the next business day

6 *Heckler v. Chaney*, 470 U.S. 821, 831-32 (1985).

██████ MUR 8303 (Friends of Sherrod Brown)
EPS Dismissal Report
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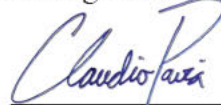
1 after the 30th day, if the 30th day falls on a weekend or holiday) as to all Respondents and send the
2 appropriate letters.

3 Lisa J. Stevenson
4 Acting General Counsel

5 January 28, 2025

6 Date

BY:



Claudio J. Pavia

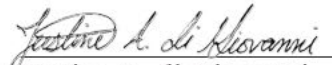
Deputy Associate General Counsel



Wanda Brown

Assistant General Counsel

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Justine A. di Giovanni
Attorney