



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Washington, DC

VIA CERTIFIED AND ELECTRONIC MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

February 25, 2021

Mary Jean Dowell

Vancouver, WA 98684

RE: MUR 7730

Dear Ms. Dowell:

The Federal Election Commission reviewed the allegations in your complaint received on April 27, 2020. On February 17, 2021, based upon the information provided in the complaint, the Commission decided to exercise its prosecutorial discretion to dismiss the allegations as to unknown respondents and close its file in this matter. Accordingly, the Commission closed its file in this matter on February 17, 2021. A copy of the General Counsel's Report, which more fully explains the basis for the Commission's decision, is enclosed.

Documents related to the case will be placed on the public record within 30 days. *See* Statement of Policy Regarding Disclosure of Closed Enforcement and Related Files, 68 Fed. Reg. 70,426 (Dec. 18, 2003) and Statement of Policy Regarding Placing First General Counsel's Reports on the Public Record, 74 Fed. Reg. 66132 (Dec. 14, 2009).

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).

Sincerely,

Lisa J. Stevenson
Acting General Counsel

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff S. Jordan".

BY: Jeff S. Jordan
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosure
General Counsel's Report

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
ENFORCEMENT PRIORITY SYSTEM
DISMISSAL REPORT

MUR: 7730

Respondent: Unknown Respondent

Complaint Receipt Date: April 27, 2020

Response Date: N/A

**Alleged Statutory/
Regulatory Violations:**

**52 U.S.C. §§ 30122, 30124
11 C.F.R. §§ 110.4(b), 110.16**

The Complaint alleges that unknown persons used her personal information to make a \$200 contribution to either the Republican National Committee (“RNC”) or Donald J. Trump for President, Inc. (“Trump campaign”) in her name. She explains that she legitimately bought about \$70 of Trump campaign souvenirs and alleges that the unknown respondent used her banking information to make the \$200 contribution.¹ Commission records do not show a contribution in the Complainant’s name to either the RNC or the Trump campaign.²

Based on its experience and expertise, the Commission has established an Enforcement Priority System using formal, pre-determined scoring criteria to allocate agency resources and assess whether particular matters warrant further administrative enforcement proceedings. These criteria include (1) the gravity of the alleged violation, taking into account both the type of activity and the amount in violation; (2) the apparent impact the alleged violation may have had on the

¹ Compl. at 1. Complainant asserts that she received a letter from the RNC stating that she made \$277.70 in campaign contributions in 2019, which she denies she made. *Id.* at 1. She states that in November 2019, she bought about \$70 worth of souvenirs from the Trump campaign, and about \$85 worth of souvenirs from the Trump Hotel Store, but she made no other purchases or contributions to the Trump campaign or to the RNC in 2019. *Id.* at 1, 2-8. Complainant states that her bank accounts did not indicate that any contribution to the Trump campaign or the RNC was deducted from her account. *Id.* at 1, 11.

² While Commission records do not show that Complainant made any contributions to the RNC or Trump campaign in 2019, these records show that during the 2019-2020 election cycle, Complainant made 41 individual contributions to Democratic Presidential candidates through ActBlue in small amounts totaling \$86.50. *Id.* at 2-3; see also Individual Contributions, FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, <https://www.fec.gov/data/receipts/individual-contributions/> (search function).

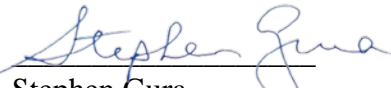
electoral process; (3) the complexity of the legal issues raised in the matter; and (4) recent trends in potential violations and other developments in the law. This matter is rated as low priority for Commission action after application of these pre-established criteria. Given that low rating, the lack of available information supporting the allegations in the complaint, and the relatively low dollar amount involved, we recommend that the Commission dismiss the Complaint consistent with the Commission's prosecutorial discretion to determine the proper ordering of its priorities and use of agency resources.³ We also recommend that the Commission close the file and send the appropriate letters.

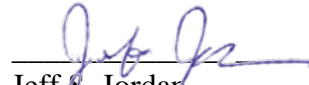
Lisa J. Stevenson
Acting General Counsel


Charles Kitcher
Acting Associate General Counsel

11.02.20
Date

BY:


Stephen Gura
Deputy Associate General Counsel


Jeff S. Jordan
Assistant General Counsel


Donald E. Campbell
Attorney

³ *Heckler v. Chaney*, 470 U.S. 821, 831-32 (1985).