

General Counsel's Office

Federal Election Commission

999 E Street, NW

Washington, DC 20463

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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

MUR # 6172 2009 FEB 11 14 10: 06

Reference ~~MUR-6171~~

The Cooney campaign did accept a \$1000 check from the Allegan County Democratic Committee, the amount allowed under federal law. An additional \$1000 check was sent to the Cooney campaign from the Allegan County Democratic Committee, but never used by the campaign and returned in full to the Allegan County Democratic Committee.

After receiving the check initially, the Cooney campaign sought to return it immediately, as required by federal law, but the Allegan County Democratic Committee's Treasurer had gone on vacation. Robert Snyder, Treasurer for the Cooney campaign, attempted contact the Treasurer several times intending to return the check, but was unsuccessful.

After being unable to contact the Treasurer from the Allegan County Democratic Committee, Mr. Snyder attempted to report the contribution as required by federal law, although the Cooney campaign did not intend to use the \$1000 and still intended to return the contribution. However, Mr. Snyder was thwarted by the FEC's reporting software, which does not allow a State Committee ID number to be reported. The funds remained in the Cooney campaign's possession, although they were put to no use.

In the weeks after the November election, Mr. Snyder made best efforts to contact the Allegan County Treasurer and return the check, but his calls continued to go unanswered. During this time period, the Cooney campaign maintained an account balance of approximately \$1000 – although the campaign had long since ended – in full anticipation of returning the contribution

On or about February 21, 2009, Robert Snyder was contacted by the Allegan County Democratic Committee regarding the check. The next morning, he mailed the \$1000 check back to them. The Cooney campaign will amend its next report to reflect this transaction, and fully cooperate with the FEC in any way it requests.

Thank you,



Robert Snyder, Treasurer, Cooney for Congress

Joseph R. Hawver, J.D.

Counsel for Robert Snyder, Treasurer, Cooney for Congress

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