#### STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

## In Re: Babar Shahbaz Ahmed

TO: Babar Shahbaz Ahmed 2471 Rain Lily Way Tallahassee, FL 32311-2311 Case No.: FEC 17-294

Division of Elections 500 S Bronough Street, Room 316 Tallahassee, FL 32399

#### NOTICE OF HEARING (INFORMAL HEARING)

A hearing will be held in this case before the Florida Elections Commission on, August 14, 2018 at 9:00 am, *or as soon thereafter as the parties can be heard*, at the following location: First District Court of Appeal, 2000 Drayton Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32399. Due to heightened security access requirements, please bring only essential items into the building and plan to arrive early to allow for delays coming through security.

Failure to appear in accordance with this notice will constitute a waiver of your right to participate in the hearing. Continuances will be granted only upon a showing of good cause.

This hearing will be conducted pursuant to Section 106.25, Florida Statutes, which governs your participation as follows:

If you are the Respondent, you may attend the hearing, and you or your attorney will have 5 minutes to present your case to the Commission. However, some cases (including those in which consent orders or recommendations for no probable cause are being considered) may be decided by an *en masse* vote and, unless you request to be heard or the Commission requests that your case be considered separately on the day of the hearing, your case will *not* be individually heard.

If you are the Complainant, you may attend the hearing, but you will *not* be permitted to address the Commission. In addition, some cases (including those in which consent orders or recommendations for no probable cause are being considered) may be decided by an *en masse* vote and, unless the Respondent requests to be heard or the Commission requests that the case be considered separately on the day of the hearing, the case will *not* be individually heard.

If you are an Appellant, and you have requested a hearing, you may attend the hearing, and you or your attorney will have 5 *minutes* to present your case to the Commission.

Please be advised that both confidential and public cases are scheduled to be heard by the Florida Elections Commission on this date. As an Appellant, Respondent or Complainant in one case, you will *not* be permitted to attend the hearings on other confidential cases.

The Commission will electronically record the meeting. Although the Commission's recording is considered the official record of the hearing, the Respondent may provide, at his own expense, a certified court reporter to also record the hearing.

If you require an accommodation due to a disability, contact Donna Ann Malphurs at (850) 922-4539 or by mail at 107 West Gaines Street, The Collins Building, Suite 224, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, at least 5 days before the hearing.

#### See further instructions on the reverse side.

#### <u>Amy McKeever Toman</u>

Executive Director Florida Elections Commission July 30, 2018 Please refer to the information below for further instructions related to your particular hearing:

If this is a hearing to consider **an appeal from an automatic fine**, the Filing Officer has imposed a fine on you for your failure to file a campaign treasurer's report on the designated due date and, by filing an appeal, you have asked the Commission to consider either (1) that the report was in fact timely filed; or (2) that there were unusual circumstances that excused the failure to file the report timely. You are required to prove your case. If the Commission finds that the report was filed timely or that there were unusual circumstances that excused the failer, in whole or in part. The Commission may reduce a fine after considering the factors in Section 106.265, Florida Statutes. If the Commission finds that the report was not timely filed and there were no unusual circumstances, the fine will be upheld.

If this is a hearing to consider a **consent order before a determination of probable cause has been made**, the Commission will decide whether to accept or reject the consent order. If the Commission accepts the consent order, the case will be closed and become public. If the Commission rejects the consent order or does not make a decision to accept or deny the consent order, the case will remain confidential, unless confidentiality has been waived.

If this is a hearing to consider a **consent order after a determination of probable cause has been made**, the Commission will decide whether to accept or reject the consent order. If the Commission accepts the consent order, the case will be closed. If the Commission rejects the consent order or does not make a decision to accept or deny the consent order, the Respondent will be entitled to another hearing to determine if the Respondent committed the violation(s) alleged.

If this is a **probable cause hearing**, the Commission will decide if there is probable cause to believe that the Respondent committed a violation of Florida's election laws. Respondent should be prepared to explain how the staff in its recommendation incorrectly applied the law to the facts of the case. *Respondent may not testify, call others to testify, or introduce any documentary or other evidence at the probable cause hearing.* The Commission will only decide whether Respondent should be *charged* with a violation and, before the Commission determines whether a violation has occurred or a fine should be imposed, Respondent will have an opportunity for another hearing at which evidence may be introduced.

If this is an **informal hearing**, it will be conducted pursuant Sections 120.569 and 120.57(2), Florida Statutes; Chapter 28 and Commission Rule 2B-1.004, Florida Administrative Code. At the hearing, the Commission will decide whether the Respondent committed the violation(s) charged in the Order of Probable Cause. The Respondent will be permitted to testify. However, the Respondent may not call witnesses to testify.

Respondent may argue why the established facts in the Staff Recommendation do not support the violations charged in the Order of Probable Cause. At Respondent's request, the Commission may determine whether Respondent's actions in the case were willful. The Respondent may also address the appropriateness of the recommended fine. If Respondent claims that his limited resources make him unable to pay the statutory fine, *he must provide the Commission with written proof of his financial resources* at the hearing. A financial affidavit form is available from the Commission Clerk.

# FILED

18 JUN - 1 PM 3: 116

STATE OF FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

## STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

## Florida Elections Commission, Petitioner,

v.

Case No.: FEC 17-294

Babar Shahbaz Ahmed, Respondent.

#### **ORDER OF PROBABLE CAUSE**

THIS MATTER was heard by the Florida Elections Commission (Commission) at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 15, 2018, in Tallahassee, Florida.

On April 10, 2018, Staff recommended to the Commission that there was probable cause to believe that the Florida Election Code was violated. The facts articulated in Staff's Recommendation are adopted by reference and incorporated herein. Based on the Complaint, Report of Investigation, Staff's Recommendation, and oral statements (if any) made at the probable cause hearing, the Commission finds that there is **probable cause** to charge Respondent with the following violation(s):

#### **Count 1:**

On or about July 10, 2017, Babar Shahbaz Ahmed violated Section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes, when he failed to notify the filing officer in writing on the prescribed reporting date that he would not be filing his 2017 M6 Report.

#### THIS SPACE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

The Commission finds that there is no probable cause to charge Respondent with violating

Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes.

**DONE AND ORDERED** by the Florida Elections Commission on May 15, 2018.

M. Scott Thomas, Chairman Florida Elections Commission

Copies furnished to: Stephanie J. Cunningham, Assistant General Counsel Babar Shahbaz Ahmed, Respondent Division of Elections, Complainant

## NOTICE OF RIGHT TO A HEARING

As the Respondent, you may elect to resolve this case in several ways. First, you may elect to resolve this case by <u>consent order</u> where you and Commission staff agree to resolve the violation(s) and agree to the amount of the fine. The consent order is then presented to the Commission for its approval. To discuss a consent order, contact the FEC attorney identified in the Order of Probable Cause.

Second, you may request an <u>informal hearing</u> held before the Commission, if you <u>do not</u> dispute any material fact in the Staff Recommendation. You have 30 days from the date the Order of Probable Cause is filed with the Commission to request such a hearing. The date this order was filed appears in the upper right-hand corner of the first page of the order. At the hearing, you will have the right to make written or oral arguments to the Commission concerning the legal issues related to the violation(s) and the potential fine. At the request of Respondent, the Commission will consider and determine willfulness at an informal hearing. Otherwise, live witness testimony is unnecessary.

Third, you may request a <u>formal hearing</u> held before an administrative law judge in the Division of Administrative Hearings (DOAH), if you dispute any material fact in the Staff Recommendation. You have 30 days from the date the Order of Probable Cause is filed with the Commission to request such a hearing. The date this order was filed appears in the upper righthand corner of the first page of the order. At the hearing, you will have the right to present evidence relevant to the violation(s) listed in this order, to cross-examine opposing witnesses, to impeach any witness, and to rebut the evidence presented against you.

If you do not elect to resolve the case by consent order or request a formal hearing at the DOAH or an informal hearing before the Commission within 30 days of the date this Order of Probable Cause is filed with the Commission, the case will be sent to the Commission for a formal or

informal hearing, depending on whether the facts are in dispute. The date this order was filed appears in the upper right-hand corner of the first page of the order.

To request a hearing, please send a written request to the Commission Clerk, Donna Ann Malphurs. The address of the Commission Clerk is 107 W. Gaines Street, Collins Building, Suite 224, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1050. The telephone number is (850) 922-4539. The Clerk will provide you with a copy of Chapter 28-106, *Florida Administrative Code*, and other applicable rules upon request. No mediation is available.

P:/Order of Probable Cause.docx (07/14) FEC Case # 17-294

#### STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

## In Re: Babar Shahbaz Ahmed

Case No.: FEC 17-294

TO: Babar Shahbaz Ahmed 2471 Rain Lily Way Tallahassee, FL 32311-2311

Division of Elections 500 S Bronough Street, Room 316 Tallahassee, FL 32399

#### NOTICE OF HEARING (PROBABLE CAUSE DETERMINATION)

A hearing will be held in this case before the Florida Elections Commission on, May 15, 2018 at 9:30 am, or as soon thereafter as the parties can be heard, at the following location: 412 Knott Building, Pat Thomas Committee Room, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399.

Failure to appear in accordance with this notice will constitute a waiver of your right to participate in the hearing. Continuances will be granted only upon a showing of good cause.

This hearing will be conducted pursuant to Section 106.25, Florida Statutes, which governs your participation as follows:

If you are the Respondent, you may attend the hearing, and you or your attorney will have 5 *minutes* to present your case to the Commission. However, some cases (including those in which consent orders or recommendations for no probable cause are being considered) may be decided by an *en masse* vote and, unless you request to be heard or the Commission requests that your case be considered separately on the day of the hearing, your case will *not* be individually heard.

If you are the Complainant, you may attend the hearing, but you will *not* be permitted to address the Commission. In addition, some cases (including those in which consent orders or recommendations for no probable cause are being considered) may be decided by an *en masse* vote and, unless the Respondent requests to be heard or the Commission requests that the case be considered separately on the day of the hearing, the case will *not* be individually heard.

If you are an Appellant, and you have requested a hearing, you may attend the hearing, and you or your attorney will have 5 *minutes* to present your case to the Commission.

Please be advised that both confidential and public cases are scheduled to be heard by the Florida Elections Commission on this date. As an Appellant, Respondent or Complainant in one case, you will *not* be permitted to attend the hearings on other confidential cases.

The Commission will electronically record the meeting. Although the Commission's recording is considered the official record of the hearing, the Respondent may provide, at his own expense, a certified court reporter to also record the hearing.

If you require an accommodation due to a disability, contact Donna Ann Malphurs at (850) 922-4539 or by mail at 107 West Gaines Street, The Collins Building, Suite 224, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, at least 5 days before the hearing.

#### See further instructions on the reverse side.

#### <u>Amy McKeever Toman</u>

Executive Director Florida Elections Commission April 30, 2018 Please refer to the information below for further instructions related to your particular hearing:

If this is a hearing to consider **an appeal from an automatic fine**, the Filing Officer has imposed a fine on you for your failure to file a campaign treasurer's report on the designated due date and, by filing an appeal, you have asked the Commission to consider either (1) that the report was in fact timely filed; or (2) that there were unusual circumstances that excused the failure to file the report timely. You are required to prove your case. If the Commission finds that the report was filed timely or that there were unusual circumstances that excused the failer, in whole or in part. The Commission may reduce a fine after considering the factors in Section 106.265, Florida Statutes. If the Commission finds that the report was not timely filed and there were no unusual circumstances, the fine will be upheld.

If this is a hearing to consider a **consent order before a determination of probable cause has been made**, the Commission will decide whether to accept or reject the consent order. If the Commission accepts the consent order, the case will be closed and become public. If the Commission rejects the consent order or does not make a decision to accept or deny the consent order, the case will remain confidential, unless confidentiality has been waived.

If this is a hearing to consider a **consent order after a determination of probable cause has been made**, the Commission will decide whether to accept or reject the consent order. If the Commission accepts the consent order, the case will be closed. If the Commission rejects the consent order or does not make a decision to accept or deny the consent order, the Respondent will be entitled to another hearing to determine if the Respondent committed the violation(s) alleged.

If this is a **probable cause hearing**, the Commission will decide if there is probable cause to believe that the Respondent committed a violation of Florida's election laws. Respondent should be prepared to explain how the staff in its recommendation incorrectly applied the law to the facts of the case. *Respondent may not testify, call others to testify, or introduce any documentary or other evidence at the probable cause hearing.* The Commission will only decide whether Respondent should be *charged* with a violation and, before the Commission determines whether a violation has occurred or a fine should be imposed, Respondent will have an opportunity for another hearing at which evidence may be introduced.

If this is an **informal hearing**, it will be conducted pursuant Sections 120.569 and 120.57(2), Florida Statutes; Chapter 28 and Commission Rule 2B-1.004, Florida Administrative Code. At the hearing, the Commission will decide whether the Respondent committed the violation(s) charged in the Order of Probable Cause. The Respondent will be permitted to testify. However, the Respondent may not call witnesses to testify.

Respondent may argue why the established facts in the Staff Recommendation do not support the violations charged in the Order of Probable Cause. At Respondent's request, the Commission may determine whether Respondent's actions in the case were willful. The Respondent may also address the appropriateness of the recommended fine. If Respondent claims that his limited resources make him unable to pay the statutory fine, *he must provide the Commission with written proof of his financial resources* at the hearing. A financial affidavit form is available from the Commission Clerk.

In Re: Babar Shahbaz Ahmed

Case No.: FEC 17-294

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION FOLLOWING INVESTIGATION**

Pursuant to Section 106.25(4)(c), Florida Statutes, undersigned staff counsel files this written recommendation for disposition of the referral in this case recommending that there is **probable cause** to charge Respondent with violating Section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes, and that there is no probable cause to charge Respondent with violating Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes. Based upon a thorough review of the Report of Investigation submitted on March 20, 2018, the following facts and law support this staff recommendation:

1. On September 7, 2017, the Florida Elections Commission ("Commission") received a referral from the Department of State, Division of Elections ("Division"), alleging that Babar Shahbaz Ahmed ("Respondent") violated Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.

2. Respondent was a 2018 candidate for State Representative, District 9. (ROI Exhibit 11)<sup>1</sup> Respondent withdrew from the race on October 16, 2017. (ROI Exhibit 2)

3. By letter dated October 25, 2017, the Executive Director notified Respondent that Commission staff would investigate the following statutory provisions:

Section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes: As alleged in the complaint, Respondent may have failed to notify the filing officer on the prescribed reporting date that no report would be filed on that date because he had not received funds, made contributions, or expended reportable funds during the following reporting period:

• 2017 M6

Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes: As alleged in the complaint, Respondent may have falsely reported or deliberately failed to include information required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, when he failed to file a report on the prescribed reporting date for the following reporting period:

• 2017 M6

4. By letter dated June 14, 2017, Kristi Reid Bronson, Chief, Bureau of Election Records, sent Respondent a letter acknowledging that the Division had received his Appointment

Staff Recommendation FEC 17-294

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Report of Investigation is referred to herein as "ROI."

of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates form and that his name was placed on the 2018 active candidate list. (ROI Exhibit 9, page 1)

5. The acknowledgment letter advised Respondent that all candidates filing reports with the Division are required to use the electronic filing system ("EFS"), and provided Respondent with a user identification number and initial password to grant access to the EFS. (ROI Exhibit 9, page 1) The letter further advised Respondent that all of the Division's publications and reporting forms were available on its website and directed Respondent to print out the *Calendar of Reporting Dates* as well as other relevant documents. (ROI Exhibit 9, page 3)

6. Respondent's 2017 M6 Report was due to be filed by July 10, 2017; however, Respondent failed to timely file the report or notify the filing officer that no report would be filed. By letters dated July 11, 2017, July 28, 2017, and August 9, 2017, the Division notified Respondent that his 2017 M6 Report had not been received. The letters also notified Respondent that he was still required to notify the Division if he had no reportable financial activity. (ROI Exhibits 3-5)

7. A subpoena was issued to Respondent's designated campaign depository to ascertain whether any financial activity occurred during the relevant reporting period, i.e., June 1, 2017 – June 30, 2017. The financial institution had no record of an account in Respondent's name. (ROI Exhibit 8, page 2)

8. Respondent stated that he is 20 years old and a junior at Florida State University. He stated that he was unaware that he was required to notify the Division when he had no reportable financial activity and that he did not know his EFS credentials. He also stated that he did not raise any funds. (ROI Exhibit 6)

9. As it appears that Respondent had no financial activity, Respondent was required to notify the filing officer in writing that he would not be filing his 2017 M6 Report on the prescribed reporting date, but failed to do so. Therewith, it does not appear that Respondent falsely reported or deliberately failed to include information in his 2017 M6 Report as the report was waived due to a lack of reportable financial activity.

10. As of March 15, 2018, Respondent had not filed his 2017 M6 Report or notified the filing officer that no report would be filed. (ROI Exhibit 7)

11. "Probable Cause" is defined as reasonable grounds of suspicion supported by circumstances sufficiently strong to warrant a cautious person in the belief that the person has committed the offense charged. *Schmitt v. State*, 590 So. 2d 404, 409 (Fla. 1991). Probable cause exists where the facts and circumstances, of which an [investigator] has reasonably trustworthy information, are sufficient in themselves for a reasonable man to reach the conclusion that an offense has been committed. *Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles v. Favino*, 667 So. 2d 305, 309 (Fla. 1st DCA 1995).

12. The facts set forth above show that Respondent was a 2018 candidate for State Representative, District 9. Respondent failed to timely file his 2017 M6 Report or notify the filing officer that no report would be filed. It appears that Respondent had no financial activity during the relevant reporting period, and therefore, was required to notify the filing officer in writing that he would not be filing his 2017 M6 Report on the prescribed reporting date, but failed to do so. Therewith, it does not appear that Respondent falsely reported or deliberately failed to include information in his 2017 M6 Report as the report was waived due to a lack of reportable financial activity.

Based upon these facts and circumstances, I recommend that the Commission find no probable cause to charge Respondent with violating Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes, and find probable cause to charge Respondent with violating the following:

#### <u>Count 1:</u>

On or about July 10, 2017, Babar Shahbaz Ahmed violated Section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes, when he failed to notify the filing officer in writing on the prescribed reporting date that he would not be filing his 2017 M6 Report.

Respectfully submitted on April 10, 2018.

Assistant General Counsel

I reviewed this Staff Recommendation this 10 H day of April 2018.

Amy McKeever oman

Amy McKeever 1 om Executive Director

## FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION REPORT OF INVESTIGATION Case No.: FEC 17-294

**Respondent:** Babar Shahbaz Ahmed Counsel for Respondent: None

**Complainant:** Division of Elections Counsel for Complainant: None

Pursuant to Section 106.25, Florida Statutes, on September 7, 2017, the Florida Elections Commission ("Commission") received information from the Division of Elections (Division) that Respondent violated Chapter 106, Florida Statutes. Commission staff, therefore, investigated whether Respondent violated the following statutes:

Section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes, failure of a candidate that did not receive any contributions or make any expenditures during a reporting period to notify timely the filing officer, in writing, that no report is being filed; and

Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes, prohibiting a person or organization from falsely reporting or deliberately failing to report information required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.

#### I. Preliminary Information:

1. Respondent was a 2018 candidate for the office of State Representative. He is a student at Florida State University. On June 13, 2017, Respondent filed the Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository form (DS-DE 9) with the Division; he appointed himself as treasurer. On October 16, 2017, Respondent filed a withdrawal notice with the Division. To review the DS-DE 9 form, refer to Exhibit 1. To review the withdrawal notice, refer to Exhibit 2.

2. Respondent's filing officer is Kristi Willis, Chief, Bureau of Election Records.

3. Complainant is the Division.

#### **II.** Alleged Violation of Section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes:

4. I investigated whether Respondent violated this section of the election laws by not timely filing a written notice with the filing officer that no report would be filed.

5. According to Complainant, Respondent did not file the 2017 M6 Report nor did he file a written notice with the filing officer that no reportable activity occurred. A report or notice-of-no-activity was due on July 10, 2017. The 2017 M6 Report covered the period from June 1, 2017 through June 30, 2017.

1

6. On July 11, 2017, the Division mailed Respondent notification that the 2017 M6 Report had not been filed or a notice of no reportable activity. To review the letter from the Division, refer to Exhibit 3.

7. On July 28, 2017, the Division mailed a "Second Notice" to Respondent informing him that the 2017 M6 Report had not been filed. The notice reads, "Our records indicate that you have not filed either your campaign treasurer's report or notification that no reportable activity occurred, whichever is applicable." To review the Second Notice, refer to Exhibit 4.

8. On August 9, 2017, the "Final Notice" was mailed to Respondent with delivery confirmation. The verbiage was similar to the previous notice. To review the Final Notice and the delivery confirmation, refer to Exhibit 5.

9. In a written statement, Respondent stated that he did not realize that he was required to "submit a report even if I haven't raised any funds…" He added, "I haven't been able to focus on my campaign because of school, and I realize I am way over my head and should focus on school and other things before I'm ready to run for office." To review the written statement, refer Exhibit 6.

10. I mailed Respondent a questionnaire affidavit but he did not return the affidavit.

11. According to an email from Ms. Willis, as of March 15, 2018, Respondent had not filed the 2017 M6 Report or a notice of no activity. To review the email from Ms. Willis, refer to Exhibit 7.

12. Sunshine Community Bank is listed on the DS-DE 9 as the campaign depository. I subpoenaed the bank for Respondent's campaign account bank records. According to Ms. Michele Clarke, bank representative, the bank found no records pertaining to Respondent's 2018 campaign for State Representative. To review the DS-DE 9 form, refer to Exhibit 1. To review the telephone interview, refer to Exhibit 8, entry 7.

13. No record of Respondent having previously violated this section of the election laws was found.

III. Alleged Violation of Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes:

14. I investigated whether Respondent violated this section of the election laws by falsely reporting or deliberately failing to report information required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.

15. As previously stated in paragraph 12 of this report, no financial records were found pertaining to Respondent's campaign.

16. No record of Respondent having previously violated this section of the election laws was found.

**IV. FEC History:** 

2

17. Respondent has not previously appeared before the Commission.

#### **Conclusion:**

18. On March 19, 2018, I met with Respondent in the Commission's conference room. Respondent reiterated that he did not collect any money or do anything to further his campaign. He stated that he was focused on his classes at Florida State University. He acknowledged receiving the letters from the Division; however, he stated that he just placed them in a file folder.

19. On June 14, 2017, the Division mailed Respondent a letter informing him that his name had been placed on the 2018 active candidate list. The letter informs the reader that all the Division's publications and reporting forms are available on their website. The letter reads, "It is your responsibility to read, understand and follow the requirement of Florida's election laws." The letter also advises the reader to "print a copy of the following documents: Chapters 104 and 106, Florida Statutes, Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook, Calendar of Reporting Dates, and Rule 1S-2.017, Florida Administrative Code." To review the acknowledgement letter, refer to Exhibit 9. To review relevant pages of the Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook, refer to Exhibit 10.

20. On June 13, 2017, Respondent filed his Statement of Candidate form with the filing officer certifying that he had been provided access to read and understand the requirements of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes. To review the Statement of Candidate form, refer to Exhibit 11.

Respectfully submitted on March 20, 2018.

arine B. Wakle Margie B. Wade

Investigation Specialist

#### Current address of Respondent

Babar Shahbaz Ahmed 2471 Rain Lily Way Tallahassee, Florida 32311

### **Current Address of Complainant**

Division of Elections 500 South Bronough Street The R.A. Gray Building, Room 316 Tallahassee, Florida 32399

# Name and Address of Filing Officer:

Ms. Kristi Willis, Chief Bureau of Elections Records 500 South Bronough Street, Room 316 Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Copy furnished to:

David Flagg, Investigations Manager

# FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION REPORT OF INVESTIGATION Babar Shahbaz Ahmed -- FEC 17-294

LIST OF EXHIBITS			
Exhibits #s	Description of Exhibits		
Exhibit 1	DS-DE 9 Form		
Exhibit 2	Notice of Withdrawal		
Exhibit 3	Notification Letter		
Exhibit 4	Second Notice		
Exhibit 5	Final Notice		
Exhibit 6	Respondent's Written Statement		
Exhibit 7	Email from Ms. Willis		
Exhibit 8	Phone Log		
Exhibit 9	Acknowledgement Letter		
Exhibit 10	Relevant Pages from Handbook		
Exhibit 11	Statement of Candidate		

				)			
	80	]	HA	D DE	LIVE	RED	
APPOINTMENT OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER AND DESIGNATION OF CAMPAIGN				RED	EIVEL	5	
DEPOSITORY FOR CANDIA (Section 106.021(1), F.S.)	DATES			17 JUN	3 PM 12:	27	
(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE	)		D	IVISION C	F ELECTI	ONS	
NOTE: This form must be on file with officer before opening the campaign ac						OFFICE U	SE ONLY
1. CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX(ES):							
		Treasure	er/Deputy	Deposito	ry	Office [	_ Party
2. Name of Candidate (in this order: First, Babar Shahbaz Ahmed	Middle, Last)	3. / coo	Address (includ le)	e post offic	e box or s	treet, city, sta	nte, zip
4. Telephone 5. E-mail addre	ess		2471 Rain Lily	/ Way, Tall	ahassee F	L 32311	
( 850) 524 1614 babar.s.ahm	ed@gmail.com						
6. Office sought (include district, circuit, g	roup number)	L	7. If a cand	lidate for a	a <u>nonparti</u>	<u>san</u> office, c	heck if
Florida House of Representative -	District 9	• •	applicat		is to run as	s a Write-In c	andidate.
8. If a candidate for a <u>partisan</u> office, ch	eck block and fi	ll in nan	ne of party as	applicable	: My inte	ent is to run a	sa
Write-In No Party Affiliation	<b>N</b>		Democratic		Pa	rty candid	ate.
9. I have appointed the following person	i to act as my		Campaign Treas	surer	Deput	y Treasurer	
10. Name of Treasurer or Deputy Treasure Babar Ahmed	r				_		
11. Mailing Address			·····		12. Teler	hone	
2471 Rain Lily Way					(850)	524 1614	
13. City 14. County	15. S		16. Zip Code		il address		
Tallahassee Leo			32311			@gmail.com	
18. I have designated the following ban	( as my		mary Depositor	у []	Seconda	ry Depository	
19. Name of Bank Sunshine Community Bank		20. Ad	ldress 1400 E Park Av	/e			
	ounty	1	23. State			24. Zip Cod	e
Tallahassee	Leon		FL			32301	
UNDER PENALTIES OF PERJURY, I DECLARE THAT I HAVE READ THE FOREGOING FORM FOR APPOINTMENT OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER AND DESIGNATION OF CAMPAIGN DEPOSITORY AND THAT THE FACTS STATED IN IT ARE TRUE.							
25. Date $(\frac{13}{2017})$ 26. Signature of Candidate $(\frac{1}{2017})$ <b>X</b> $\frac{1}{2017}$							
27. <b>Treasurer's Acceptance of Appointment</b> (fill in the blanks and check the appropriate block)							
I. Babar Ahmed , do hereby accept the appointment (Please Print or Type Name)			ment				
designated above as: Campaign Treasurer Deputy Treasurer.							
6/13/7.014	Х	F.v.	u.S.L.L	Â	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	<u>ر</u>	
Date		Signa	ture of Campai	gr/Treasur	er or Depu	ity Treasurer	
DS-DE 9 (Rev. 10/10)	SIT					Rule 1 <b>S-2.00</b>	001, F.A.C.

RECEIVED DEPARTMENT OF PH 4:25 2017 OCT 16 PH 4:25 DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

Monday, October 16, 2017

Florida Division of Elections

R.A. Gray Building, Room 316

500 South Bronough Street

Tallahassee, Florida 32399

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Babar Ahmed and I am a candidate running for the Florida House of Representatives -District 9. I'm writing to withdraw my candidacy for the Florida House of Representative - District 9. If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at <u>babar.s.aluned(a/gmail com</u> or at 850 524 1614.

Sincerely,

Babar Ahmed

L EXHIBIT



#### FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE Ken Detzner Secretary of State DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

July 11, 2017

Babar Ahmed 2471 Rain Lily Way Tallahassee, FL 32311-2311 CAN 69894

Dear Mr. Ahmed:

Our records indicate that you have not filed either your campaign treasurer's report or notification that no reportable activity occurred, whichever is applicable. The filing date was July 10, 2017.

The law (s. 106.07(8)(b), Fla. Stat.) requires the filing officer to immediately notify you about the missed filing date and the automatic fines that will be assessed for late filing of a report, if a report was due.

- If reportable activity occurred and you have not filed a report, statutory fines are automatically assessed as follows until you file your report:
  - \* \$50 per day for the first 3 days late
  - \$500 per day for each day after the 3rd day late
  - If the required report immediately precedes a primary and general election, the automatic fine is \$500 for each late day.

The total fine for the untimely report cannot exceed 25% of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater, for the cover period. Even if you end up filing your report late, we cannot waive the statutory fines. We will notify you of the specific amount of fines owed once you file your report. You have 20 days from the day you receive the notice to pay the fine or to appeal the fine to the Florida Elections Commission.

• If no reportable activity occurred for the report date(s), you are still required to notify us in writing, via the Division's Electronic Filing System, that no reportable activity occurred. No automatic fines are statutorily assessed.

However, in all cases, failure to file and/or untimely filing of a report of reportable activity, or if applicable, a notice that no reportable activity occurred, may constitute an apparent violation of chapter 106, Fla. Stat. If we refer such matter to the Florida Elections Commission, the Commission may subsequently impose a civil penalty for each violation under chapter 106.265(1), Fla. Stat.

If you have any questions, please contact the help desk at (850) 245-6280.

Sincerely,

Kristi Reid Bronson, Chief

Bureau of Election Records

The R A Gray Building-Room 316 • 500 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee FL 32399-0250 • (850) 245-6240 • WWW Address: http://dos.myflorida.com/ele • E-Mail: ElecRecords@dos.myflorida.c

EXHIBIT



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE Ken Detzner Secretary of State DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

**Second Notice** 

July 28, 2017

Babar Ahmed 2471 Rain Lily Way Tallahassee, FL 32311-2311

CAN 69894

Dear Mr. Ahmed:

Our records indicate that you have not filed either your campaign treasurer's report or notification that no reportable activity occurred, whichever is applicable. The filing date was July 10, 2017.

We mailed, via regular mail, the first notice of the failure to file the above-mentioned report or notification to the address on file with our office on July 11, 2017.

The first notice which we provided to you specifically explained the automatic fine provisions in the law (s. 106.07(8)(b), Fla. Stat.) for failure to file a required report. Such fines are continuing to accrue for a late-filed report. Also, that notice explained that if no reportable activity occurred for the report date(s), you are still required to provide notification in writing that no reportable activity occurred. Our initial notice further indicated that, in all cases, failure to file and/or untimely filing of a report of reportable activity, or if applicable, a notice that no reportable activity occurred, may constitute an apparent violation of chapter 106, Fla. Stat. If we refer such matter to the Florida Elections Commission, the Commission may subsequently impose a civil penalty for each violation under chapter 106.265(1), Fla. Stat.

If you have any questions, please contact the help desk at (850) 245-6280.

Sincerely, ind Willio -t A

Kristi Reid Willis, Chief Bureau of Election Records

The R A Gray Building-Room 316 • 500 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee FL 32399-0250 • (850) 245-6240 • WWW Address: http://dos.myflorida.com/ele • E-Mail: ElecRecords@dos.myflorida.c

EXHIBIT



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE Ken Detzner Secretary of State

#### DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

**Final Notice** & CUSTOMER **Delivery Confirmation:** RECEIPT

9114 9014 9645 0849 2366 16 For Tracking or inquiries go to USPS.com or cali 1-800-222-1811 USPS TRACKING #

August 9, 2017

Babar Ahmed 2471 Rain Lily Way Tallahassee, FL 32311-2311

CAN 69894

Dear Mr. Ahmed:

A recent review of the Division's records show that the Division has not yet received the belowreferenced campaign treasurer's report or the required notification that no reportable activity occurred, whichever is applicable, during the following cover period:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Report</u>	<u>Cover Period</u>
2017	M6	6/1/17 - 6/30/17

The Division has previously notified you of the unfiled report or notification. Please file your report or notification. If the report is not filed within 7 days of receipt of this letter, the Division will refer this matter to the Florida Elections Commission, which may impose civil penalties of up to \$1000 per violation, apart from that automatic fine provisions of s. 106.07(8)(b), Fla. Stat.) that are applicable only to campaign finance reports.

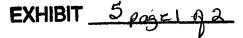
As we stated in the prior notices, even if you now file the report or notification, the untimely filing of a report of reportable activity, or if applicable, a notice that no reportable activity occurred, may constitute an apparent violation of chapter 106, Fla. Stat. If we refer such matter to the Florida Elections Commission, the Commission may subsequently impose a civil penalty for each violation under chapter 106.265(1), Fla. Stat.

If you have any questions, please contact the help desk at (850) 245-6280.

Sincerely,

ind Willis

Kristi Reid Willis, Chief **Bureau of Election Records** 



The R A Gray Building-Room 316 • 500 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee FL 32399-0250 • (850) 245-6240

USPS.com® - USPS Tracking Results

# **USPS Tracking**<sup>®</sup> Results

FAQs > (http://faq.usps.com/?articleId=220900)

Track Another Package +

Remove X

Page 1 of 4

Tracking Number: 9114901496450849236616

Updated Delivery Day: Friday, August 11, 2017 Product & Tracking Information

See Available Actions

Delivered

Postal Product:

Features: USPS Tracking<sup>®</sup>

DATE & TIME

STATUS OF ITEM

LOCATION

August 11, 2017, 11:11 am

Delivered, In/At Mailbox

TALLAHASSEE, FL 32311

Your item was delivered in or at the mailbox at 11:11 am on August 11, 2017 in TALLAHASSEE, FL. 32311.

August 11, 2017, 6:52 am

Out for Delivery

TALLAHASSEE, FL 32311

TALLAHASSEE, FL 32311

August 11, 2017, 6:42 am

Sorting Complete

August 11, 2017, 5:11 am

Arrived at Post Office

TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301

EXHIBIT 5 page 20

https://tools.usps.com/go/TrackConfirmAction?tRef=fullpage&tLc=2&text28777=&tLabels... 9/6/2017



Case No.: FEC 17-308, Respondant: Babar Shahbaz Ahmed Babar Ahmed to: Florida Elections Commission 10/19/2017 09:54 AM Hide Details From: Babar Ahmed <babar.s.ahmed@gmail.com> To: Florida Elections Commission <fec@myfloridalegal.com>

To whom it may concern,

My name is Babar Ahmed, I'm 20 years old and I am a junior at Florida State University studying Economics and English Literature. I'm responding to the letter I received in the mail regarding Case No.: FEC 17-308, Respondant: Babar Shahbaz Ahmed.

I have big dreams to be a public servant and help the people of my community. I want to rise to a position of leadership where I can make change to Tallahassee; the city I grew up in and love. Because of this, I decided to run for the Florida House of Representative for my district (district 9).

I understand that according to Florida law anyone who runs for office must disclose any donations and file a monthly financial report. At first I didn't realize that I have to submit a report even if I haven't raised any funds for my campaign. But when I did learned whats required, I contacted the Florida Division of Elections. I didn't know my electric filing system credentials to log on to file my monthly report, so I filled a request and faxed it over back in August (form attached). I haven't heard from the FDE since and I forgot about it.

On Monday, October 16th, 2017 I submitted my letter of withdrawal from the race. Since the first day I submitted my forms to officially run for office until the day I withdrew my candidacy, I raised \$0. I haven't been able to focus on my campaign because of school, and I realize I am way over my head and should focus on school and other things before I'm ready to run for office. My apologies, I'm ready to rectify any mistakes I've made and I fully understand that I am not ready for the responsibility of being a part of our local government.

I am writing also to ask for help, what can I do to eradicate this and get this behind me? I no longer am running for office so I no longer needed to file monthly reports so this mistake won't happen again. I would be grateful for any guidance.

Thank you for your time, I greatly appreciate it.

With much appreciation,

Best Regards, Babar Ahmed

Florida State University 2019 Economics | English Literature 850.524.1614

EXHIBIT \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

#### **Margie Wade**

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Willis, Kristi R. <Kristi.Willis@DOS.MyFlorida.com> Thursday, March 15, 2018 8:55 AM Margie Wade RE: 69894

No he did not file the reports. He also never filed the 2017 M8 or M9 or his termination report.

From: Margie Wade [mailto:Margie.Wade@myfloridalegal.com] Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 3:54 PM To: Willis, Kristi R. <Kristi.Willis@DOS.MyFlorida.com> Subject: 69894

Hi Kristi,

I am following up on the referrals on Babar Ahmed, account number 69894, 2018 candidate for State Representative.

- 1. Did he file the 2017 M6 Report or notification of no activity?
- 2. Did he file the 2017 M7 Report or notification of no activity?
- 3. If so, on what dates were they filed?
- 4. If reports were filed, were they complete?

# Margie B.Wade

Investigation Specialist Florida Elections Commission 107 West Gaines Street, Suite 224 Tallahassee, Florida 32399 850.922.4539 ex. 113 (phone) 850.921.0783 (fax)

> The Department of State is committed to excellence. Please take our <u>Customer Satisfaction Survey</u>.

EXHIBIT

FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION **PHONE LOG** Case No.: FEC 17-294

**Respondent:** Babar Ahmed

**Complainant:** Division of Elections

1. **Date and time:** December 19, 2017 @ 10:21 a.m.

Name: Respondent

**Phone #:** 850-524-1614

**Summary:** I called Respondent to follow-up on information from his written statement. He stated in his written statement that he wanted to settle this issue as soon as possible. He did not answer; I left a message on his voice mail.

Memo to File? No

Entered by: MBW

2. Date and time: December 19, 2017 @ 10:27 a.m.

Name: Respondent

**Phone #**: Called me

**Summary:** I explained that I was the investigator assigned to his case and I had reviewed his written statement. He reiterated that he wanted to get this over with as soon as possible. I explained the investigation process and the pre-probable cause consent order procedure. He stated that he wanted to try to work out a pre-probable cause agreement. I told him that I would speak with the attorney assigned to his case.

Memo to File? No Entered by: MBW

3. Date and time: January 29, 2018 @ 1:39 p.m.
Name: Sunshine Community Bank
Phone #: 850-894-1178
Summary: I called the bank to find out the procedure to issue a subpoena to their institution. I reached a voice mail and left a message.
Memo to File? No
Entered by: MBW

- 4. Date and time: January 30, 2018 @ 1:41 p.m.
  Name: Sunshine Community Bank
  Phone #: 850-894-1178
  Summary: I called the bank to find out the procedure to issue a subpoena to their institution.
  I reached a voice mail and left a message.
  Memo to File? No
  Entered by: MBW
- 5. Date and time: February 1, 2018 @ 10:06 a.m.
   Name: Michele Clarke, VP, Sunshine Community Bank
   Phone #: 850-219-7307

EXHIBIT 8 page 1 g 3

Summary: I returned an earlier call from Ms. Clark. She did not answer. I left a message on her voice mail. Memo to File? No Entered by: MBW

6. Date and time: February 26, 2018 @ 9:36 a.m.
Name: Michele Clarke, VP, Sunshine Community Bank
Phone #: 850-219-7307
Summary: I called to follow up on a subpoena served on January 31, 2018; the production was due on February 19, 2018. Ms. Clark was not in; I left a message on her voice mail.
Memo to File? No
Entered by: MBW

 Date and time: March 9, 2018 @ 11:59 a.m.
 Name: Michele Clarke, VP, Sunshine Community Bank Phone #: 850-219-7307

**Summary:** Ms. Clark called me at 10:53 a.m. and left a message on my voice mail. Ms. Clarke stated that she had called this office and left messages that they did not find any documents under Respondent's name. she stated that after logging this information they destroyed the subpoena. She stated that she recently received a voice mail that the FEC needs some kind of declaration page. She left her email address (mclarke@sunshinebank.com) and her phone number.

I returned her call and informed her that I had not received any messages from her regarding the subpoena issued to their bank. She stated, "Well, I spoke with some attorney; then another one call and left a jumbled message that I couldn't understand about a declaration and a general phone number." She asked that I send her a copy of "whatever form we needed her to complete."

I explained that a statement on their letterhead would suffice; however, her signature should be notarized. I told her that I would email a copy of the subpoena to her so that she can reference the subpoena number in her sworn statement. **Memo to File?** No

Entered by: MBW

- 8. Date and time: March 16, 2018 @ 11:12 a.m. Name: Respondent
  Phone #: 850-524-1614
  Summary: I called Respondent for the final interview. He did not answer: I left a message on his voice mal.
  Memo to File? No Entered by: MBW
- 9. Date and time: March 19, 2018 @ 11:09 a.m. Name: Respondent

**Phone #:** 850-524-1614

Summary: I called Respondent for the final interview. I explained that I had completed the investigation and was calling to see in he had any final comments. He stated that he

EXHIBIT 8 page 2 A

thought the cases would be settled. I explained that the attorney handling the case tried to contact him regarding a PPCO but was not successful. He asked if he could meet with me and the attorney this afternoon to discuss settlement. He stated that he could meet with us at 2:30 p.m. I agreed.

Memo to File? No Entered by: MBW

10. Date and time: Name: Phone #:

Summary: Memo to File? No Entered by:

11. Date and time: Name: Phone #: Summary: Memo to File? No<sup>'</sup> Entered by:

- 12. Date and time: Name: Phone #: Summary: Memo to File? No Entered by:
- 13. Date and time: Name: Phone #: Summary: Memo to File? No Entered by:

14. Date and time: Name: Phone #: Summary: Memo to File? No Entered by:

EXHIBIT 8 page 3 of 3

INV001 (12/01)



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT Of STATE

RICK SCOTT Governor

KEN DETZNER Secretary of State

June 14, 2017

Babar Shahbaz Ahmed 2471 Rain Lily Way Tallahassee, Florida 32311

Dear Mr. Ahmed:

This will acknowledge receipt of the Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for the office of State Representative, which was placed on file in our office on June 13, 2017. Your name has been placed on the 2018 active candidate list.

#### Campaign Treasurer's Reports

Your first campaign treasurer's report will be due on **July 10, 2017**. The report will cover the period of June 1-30, 2017 (M6). All candidates who file reports with the Division of Elections are required to file by means of the Division's Electronic Filing System (EFS).

#### Credentials and Sign-ons

Below is the web address to access the EFS and your user identification number. The enclosed sealed envelope contains your initial password. Once you have logged in using the initial password, you will be immediately prompted to change it to a confidential sign-on. You, your campaign treasurer, and deputy treasurers are responsible for protecting these passwords from disclosure and are responsible for all filings using these credentials, unless the Division is notified that your credentials have been compromised.

EFS Website Address: https://efs.dos.state.fl.us Identification Number: 69894

Division of Elections R.A. Gray Building, Suite 316 • 500 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32399 850.245.6240 • 850.245.6260 (Fax) dos.myflorida.com/elections/



EXHIBIT <u>9 page 1 0 3</u>

Babar Ahmed June 14, 2017 Page Two

#### Pin Numbers

Pin numbers are confidential secure credentials that allow you to submit reports and update personal information. The enclosed sealed envelope contains your confidential pin numbers.

Each candidate is required to provide the Division of Elections with confidential personal information that may be used to allow access in the event that password is forgotten or lost. When you enter the campaign account screen, there will be a drop down box where you pick a question (such as *What is your mother's maiden name?*) and supply an answer. All passwords and answers to questions are stored as encrypted data and cannot be viewed by Division staff and given out over the phone. Please notify the Division if your credentials have been compromised.

#### **Timely Filing**

All reports filed must be completed and filed through the EFS no later than midnight, Eastern Standard Time, of the due date. Reports not filed by midnight of the due date are late filed and subject to the penalties in Section 106.07(8), Florida Statutes. In the event that the EFS is inoperable on the due date, the report will be accepted as timely filed if filed no later than midnight of the first business day the EFS becomes operable. No fine will be levied during the period the EFS was inoperable.

Any candidate failing to file a report on the designated due date shall be subject to a fine of \$50 per day for the first 3 days late and, thereafter, \$500 per day for each late day, not to exceed 25% of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater, for the period covered by the late report. However, for reports immediately preceding each primary and general election, the fine shall be \$500 per day for each late day, not to exceed 25% of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater, for the period covered by the late report.

#### Electronic Receipts

The person submitting the report on the EFS will be issued an electronic receipt indicating and verifying the report was filed. Each campaign treasurer's report filed by means of the EFS is considered to be under oath by the candidate and campaign treasurer and such persons are subject to the provisions of Section 106.07(5), Florida Statutes.

EXHIBIT 9 page 2

Babar Ahmed June 14, 2017 Page Three

#### Instructions and Assistance

An online instruction guide is available to you on the EFS to assist with navigation, data entry, and submission of reports. The Division of Elections will also provide assistance to all users by contacting the EFS Help Desk at (850) 245-6280.

All of the Division's publications and reporting forms are available on the Division of Elections' website at <u>http://dos.myflorida.com/elections/</u>. It is your responsibility to read, understand, and follow the requirements of Florida's election laws. Therefore, please print a copy of the following documents: Chapters 104 and 106, Florida Statutes, *Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook, Calendar of Reporting Dates*, and Rule 1S-2.017, Florida Administrative Code.

Please let me know if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

end D

Kristi Reid Bronson, Chief Bureau of Election Records

KRB/zjs

Enclosures

9 pages EXHIBIT

EXHIBIT 10 tasel 18

Florida Department of State Division of Elections R. A. Gray Building, Room 316 500 South Bronough Street Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 850.245.6240

(Rev. 01/22/16)

Table of Contents	
Chapter 1: Background	
Chapter 2: The Campaign Financing Act	
Chapter 3: Offices to be Elected in 2016	
Chapter 4: Glossary of Terms	
Chapter 5: Becoming a Candidate	
What to File7	
Filing Officer	
Resign-to-Run	
Federal Hatch Act for State and Local Employees9	
Federal Hatch Act for Federal Employees9	
Changing Parties for Partisan Offices10	
Changing the Designation of Office	
Pro Rata Refund Example	
Chapter 6: Statement of Solicitation	
Who Must File Form DS-DE 102, Statement of Solicitation12	
When to File	
Penalty for Late Filing	
Public Website and Mission Statement12	
Additional Reporting12	
Chapter 7: Prohibited Acts	
Speaking at Political Meetings	
Using State-Owned Aircraft or Motor Vehicle13	
Using Services of State, County, Municipal, or District Officers or Employees	
Making Contributions in the Name of Another13	
Solicitation from Religious, Charitable and Civic Organizations13	
Accepting Contributions in a Government- Owned Building14	
Making Malicious Statements	
Making False Representation of Military Service14	
Certifying a False Report14	
Limitations on Political Activity for Judicial Candidates14	
Judicial Candidates and the Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee (JEAC)	
Chapter 8: Campaign Treasurers	
Appointing Campaign Treasurers and Deputy Treasurers16	
Duties and Responsibilities	

i EXHIBIT <u>10 page 2 19 8</u>

	Resignation or Removal	18
Cl	hapter 9: Campaign Depositories	19
	Primary Campaign Depository	19
	Secondary Campaign Depository	19
-	Separate Interest-Bearing Accounts and Certificates of Deposit	20
	Campaign Checks	20
	Debit Cards	21
	Credit Cards	21
Cl	hapter 10: Contributions	22
	Unauthorized Contributions	
	Anonymous Contributions	22
	In-Kind Contributions	23
	Loans	23
	Cash Contributions	23
	Debit and Credit Card Contributions	24
	Contribution Limits for Candidates	.24
	Foreign Contributions	.25
	Violations	.25
	Deadlines for Accepting Contributions	. 25
. Cl	hapter 11: Expenditures	.26
	Definition	. 26
	General Requirements	. 26
	Checks	. 26
	Living Expenses	. 27
	Petty Cash Funds	.27
	Limits on Petty Cash Fund Amounts	.27
	Independent Expenditures	.27
	Credit Cards	. 29
	Debit Cards	. 29
	Electioneering Communications	.30
	Expenditures for Electioneering Communications	.31
C	hapter 12: Political Advertising	. 32
	Candidate Disclaimers	.32
	Exceptions to Disclaimer Requirements	.33
	Disclaimer for Write-in Candidates	.35

ii EXHIBIT <u>ID page 3 14 8</u>

Non-incumbent Advertisements	
Advertisement Provided In-kind	
Chapter 13: Other Disclaimers	
Endorsements in Political Advertisements	
Independent Expenditure Disclaimers	
Disclaimers for Other than Independent Expenditures	
Disclaimers on Novelty Items	
Language Other Than English	40
Electioneering Communications Disclaimers	40
Other Political Disclaimer Examples	41
Miscellaneous Advertisements	42
Use of Closed Captioning and Descriptive Narrative in all Television Broadcasts	42
Chapter 14: Fund Raisers	43
Contributions from Fund Raisers	43
Expenditures for Fund Raisers	43
Tickets	43
Chapter 15: Telephone Solicitation	44
Telephone Solicitation	
Registered Agent	45
Chapter 16: Filing Campaign Reports	46
Where to File	46
When to File	46
Penalty for Late Filing	
Notice of No Activity	47
Incomplete Reports	47
Reporting Total Sums	
Reporting Contributions	
Returning Contributions	
Reporting Expenditures	
Special Requirements for Judicial Retention Candidates	
Chapter 17: Termination Reports	
Prior to Disposing of Surplus Funds	
Disposing of Surplus Funds	
Money from Separate Interest-Bearing Account or Certificate of Deposit	
Campaign Loans Report	52

EXHIBIT to pase 4 4 8

Chapter 18: Reporting for Individuals Seeking a Publicly Elected Position on a Party Executive Committee54
Where to File
When to File54
Termination Reports Not Required54
Penalty for Late Filing
Incomplete Reports
Reporting Requirements
Chapter 19: Electronic Filing of Campaign Reports56
Accessing the EFS
Creating Reports
Submitting Reports
Electronic Receipts
Chapter 20: Office Accounts
Using the Office Account
Reporting Office Account Funds
Chapter 21: Carryover Campaign Funds61
Chapter 22: Recordkeeping
Contributions
Expenditures
Preservation of Accounts63
Inspections63
Chapter 23: Bookkeeping Suggestions64
Chapter 24: Florida Elections Commission65
Automatic Fine Appeal Process65
Complaint Process
Appendix A: Frequently Asked Questions66
Candidates
Campaign Finance
Appendix B: 2016 Deadlines for Accepting Contributions73

iv EXHIBIT <u>lo page 5 A8</u>

# **Chapter 1: Background**

The information contained in this publication is intended as a quick reference guide only and is current upon publication. To the extent that this handbook covers material beyond that contained in law or rule, the Division of Elections (Division) offers such material to candidates as guidelines. Chapters 97-106. Florida Statutes, the Constitution of the State of Florida, Division of Elections' opinions and rules, Attorney General opinions, county charters, city charters and ordinances, and other sources should be reviewed in their entirety for complete information regarding campaign financing and qualifying.

In addition, the following publications produced by the Division should be reviewed for further information:

- State Qualifying Handbook
- Candidate Petition Handbook
- Candidate Electronic Filing System
   User's Guide
- Calendar of Reporting Dates

All forms and publications mentioned in this handbook are available on the Division's website at:

## http://dos.myflorida.com/elections/formspublications/

Other helpful websites are:

#### **Florida Elections Commission:**

http://www.fec.state.fl.us

#### **Florida Elected Officials:**

http://dos.myflorida.com/elections/con tacts/elected-officials/

#### **Florida Supervisors of Elections:**

http://dos.myflorida.com/elections/contact s/supervisor-of-elections/

#### Florida Association of City Clerks:

http://www.floridaclerks.org

#### **Florida Attorney General:**

http://myfloridalegal.com

#### **Federal Election Commission:**

#### http://www.fec.gov

1 EXHIBIT <u>10 page le 1) 8</u>

# Chapter 16: Filing Campaign Reports

Each campaign treasurer designated by a candidate shall file regular reports of all contributions received and all expenditures made by or on behalf of such candidate.

The candidate and his or her campaign treasurer shall certify as to the correctness of each report. Each person so certifying shall bear the responsibility for the accuracy and veracity of each report. Any campaign treasurer or candidate who willfully certifies the correctness of any report while knowing that such report is incorrect, false or incomplete commits a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(Section <u>106.07</u>, F.S.)

#### Where to File

A campaign treasurer is required to file campaign treasurer's reports with the officer with whom the candidate registers.

Candidates filing reports with the Division are required to file by means of the <u>Electronic Filing System</u>. If the candidate's filing officer is other than the Division, contact the appropriate filing officer to find out the requirements.

The web address for filing online with the Division is: <u>https://efs.dos.state.fl.us/</u> (Section <u>106.07(2)</u>, F.S.)

#### When to File

Reports must be filed on the 10th day following the end of each calendar month from the time the candidate registers, except that if the 10th day occurs on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the report shall be filed on the next business day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

A statewide candidate must file reports:

- On the 60th day immediately preceding the primary election, and each week thereafter, with the last weekly report being filed on the 4th day immediately preceding the general election.
- 2. On the 10th day immediately preceding the general election, and each day thereafter, with the last daily report being filed the 5th day immediately preceding the general election.

All other candidates must file reports on the 60th day immediately preceding the primary election and bi-weekly on each Friday thereafter through and including the 4th day immediately preceding the general election, with additional reports due on the 25th and 11th days before the primary election and the general election.

For candidates that file with the Division, see the "Reporting Dates Calendar" at:

http://dos.myflorida.com/elections/formspublications/publications/

46 EXHIBIT 10 page 7 of 8

An individual seeking a publicly elected position on a political party executive committee who receives a contribution or makes an expenditure must file a single report of all contributions and expenditures on the 4th day immediately preceding the primary election. (See <u>Chapter 18, Reporting</u> for Individuals Seeking a Publicly Elected Position on a Party Executive Committee.)

Unless the electronic filing requirements of Section 106.0705, Florida Statutes, apply, reports shall be filed no later than 5 p.m. of the day designated. A report postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service no later than midnight of the day designated is deemed timely filed. A report received by the filing officer within 5 days after the designated due date that was delivered by the U.S. Postal Service is deemed timely filed unless it has a postmark indicating the report was mailed after the designated due date. A certificate of mailing obtained from and dated by the U.S. Postal Service at the time of mailing or a receipt from an established courier company, which bears a date on or before the date on which the report is due, is proof of mailing in a timely manner. Reports filed with the **Division through the Electronic Filing System** (EFS) are due no later than midnight, Eastern Time, of the due date.

> (Sections <u>106.07</u>, <u>106.0705</u> and <u>106.141</u>, F.S.)

**Penalty for Late Filing** 

Any candidate failing to file a report on the designated due date shall be subject to a fine of \$50 per day for the first three days late and, thereafter, \$500 per day for each late day, not to exceed 25 percent of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is

greater, for the period covered by the late report. However, for the reports immediately preceding the primary and general election, the fine shall be \$500 per day for each late day, not to exceed 25 percent of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater, for the period covered by the late report. For a candidate's termination report, the fine shall be \$50 per day for each late day, not to exceed 25 percent of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater for the period covered by the late report. All fines must be paid from the candidate's personal funds - not campaign funds.

(Section <u>106.07(2)</u> and (8), F.S.)

#### Notice of No Activity

In any reporting period during which a candidate has not received funds or made any expenditures, the filing of the required report for that period is waived. However, the candidate must notify the filing officer in writing on or before the prescribed reporting date that no report is being filed on that date. (A notice of no activity filed with the Division must be filed electronically using the <u>EFS</u>.) The next report filed must specify that the report covers the entire period between the last submitted report and the report being filed.

(Section <u>106.07</u>, F.S.)

#### **Incomplete Reports**

If a campaign treasurer files a report that is deemed incomplete, it shall be accepted on a conditional basis. The campaign treasurer will be notified by the filing officer as to why the report is incomplete. The campaign

HAD DELIVERED			
STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE (Section 106.023, F.S.) (Please print or type)	OFFICE USE ONLY RECEIVED 17 JUN 13 PM 12: 27 DIVISION OF ELECTIONS SECRETARY OF STATE		
I, Babar Shahbaz Ahmed			
candidate for the office of <b>Flori</b>	da House of Representatives - District 9		
have been provided access to read a	nd understand the requirements of		
Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.			
X Signature of Candidate	L (c/13/2017) Date		
Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Des failure to file this form is a first degree misd	the qualifying officer within 10 days after the ignation of Campaign Depository is filed. Willful lemeanor and a civil violation of the Campaign to \$1,000, (ss. 106.19(1)(c), 106.265(1), Florida		
DS-DE 84 (05/11) EXHIBIT	11		

•



FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION 107 W. Gaines Street, Suite 224 Collins Building Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1050 Telephone: (850) 922-4539 Fax: (850) 921-0783 www.fec.state.fl.us; fec@myfloridalegal.com

October 25, 2017

Babar Shahbaz Ahmed 2471 Rain Lily Way Tallahassee, FL 32311-2311

#### RE: Case No.: FEC 17-294; Respondent: Babar Shahbaz Ahmed

Dear Mr. Ahmed:

On September 7, 2017, the Florida Elections Commission received a complaint alleging that you violated Florida's election laws. I have reviewed the complaint and find that it contains one or more **legally sufficient allegations**. The Commission staff will investigate the following alleged violations:

Section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes: As alleged in the complaint, Respondent may have failed to notify the filing officer on the prescribed reporting date that no report would be filed on that date because he had not received funds, made contributions, or expended reportable funds during the following reporting period:

• 2017 M6

Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes: As alleged in the complaint, Respondent may have falsely reported or deliberately failed to include information required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, when he failed to file a report on the prescribed reporting date for the following reporting period:

• 2017 M6

When we conclude the investigation, a copy of the Report of Investigation (ROI) will be mailed to you at the above address. Based on the results of the investigation, a staff attorney will make a written recommendation (Staff Recommendation or SR) to the Commission as to whether there is probable cause to charge respondent with violating Chapters 104 or 106, Florida Statutes. You will have an opportunity to respond to both the ROI and the SR. The Commission will then hold one or more hearings to determine whether the alleged violations occurred and, if so, the amount

 $\bigcirc$ 

Babar Shahbaz Ahmed October 25, 2017 Page 2 FEC 17-294

of the fine to be imposed. You and the complainant will receive notice at least 14 days before any hearing at which your case is to be considered.

Please note that all documents related to this matter will be mailed to the above address unless you **notify us of a new address**. Also, please remember that complaints, Commission investigations, investigative reports, and other documents relating to an alleged violation of Chapters 104 or 106, Florida Statutes, are **confidential** until the Commission finds probable cause or no probable cause.

For additional information, please refer to the "Frequently Asked Questions" section of the Commission's website (<u>www.fec.state.fl.us</u>).

If you have additional questions, please contact **Samantha Spore**, the investigator assigned to this case at extension 110.

Sincerely,

Amy McKeever Toman

Executive Director

AMT/enr

# DIVISION OF ELECTIONS FEC NOTICE FORM

To FEC from Division of Elections

2011 SEP - 7 P 3: 37

RECEIVED

STATE OF FLORIDA

Name:Babar Shahbaz AhmedAccount Number:69894Treasurer:Babar Shahbaz Ahmed

The Division of Elections hereby provides this notice to the Florida Elections Commission pursuant to Sections 106.07(8)(d), 106.22(7) and 106.25, Florida Statutes. An apparent violation of Chapter 106, F.S., has occurred based upon the candidate's alleged failure to file a report after notice as required by section 106.07(8)(d), Florida Statutes, or failure to notify the filing officer on the prescribed reporting date that no report was to be filed as required by Section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes.

The following report or notice is outstanding after notification:

2017 M6

Sent By: Kristi Reid Willis Date: September 6, 2017

ejr

#### AFFIDAVIT

#### STATE OF FLORIDA

#### **County of Leon**

#### Kristi Reid Willis, being duly sworn, says:

- 1. I am the Chief of the Bureau of Election Records of the Division of Elections (Division). In that capacity, I oversee the Division's duties related to the filing of campaign finance reports.
- 2. This affidavit is made upon my personal knowledge, including information obtained from review of the attached records, of which I am the custodian.
- 3. I am of legal age and competent to testify to the matters stated herein.
- 4. Babar Shahbaz Ahmed (69894) is a 2018 candidate for the office of State Representative.
- 5. On June 13, 2017, Mr. Ahmed filed the Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository with the Division. He appointed himself as treasurer.
- 6. The 2017 M6 campaign treasurer's report was due on July 10, 2017. On July 11, 2017, the Division mailed Mr. Ahmed notification that the 2017 M6 treasurer's report had not been filed.
- 7. On July 28, 2017, the Division mailed Mr. Ahmed notification that the 2017 M6 treasurer's report had not been filed.
- 8. On August 9, 2017, the Division mailed Mr. Ahmed final notification with delivery confirmation that the 2017 M6 treasurer's report had not been filed. (See attached letter and delivery confirmation.)
- 9. Mr. Ahmed did not notify the Division of Elections prior to or on the prescribed reporting date for the 2017 M6 report that no report was to be filed.

10. As of September 6, 2017, Mr. Ahmed has not filed the 2017 M6 report.

I hereby swear or affirm that the foregoing information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

id Willis

Signature of Affiant

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me this 6<sup>th</sup> day of **September**, 2017.

Signature of Notary Public - State of Florida

Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public Personally Known





#### FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Ken Detzner Secretary of State

## DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

Final Notice USPS TRACKING # Delivery Confirmation: USPS TRACKING # & CUSTOMER RECEIPT

9114 9014 9645 0849 2366 16 For Tracking or inquiries go to USPS.com or call 1-800-222-1811

August 9, 2017

Babar Ahmed 2471 Rain Lily Way Tallahassee, FL 32311-2311

Dear Mr. Ahmed:

A recent review of the Division's records show that the Division has not yet received the belowreferenced campaign treasurer's report or the required notification that no reportable activity occurred, whichever is applicable, during the following cover period:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Report</u>	<u>Cover Period</u>
2017	M6	6/1/17 - 6/30/17

The Division has previously notified you of the unfiled report or notification. Please file your report or notification. If the report is not filed within 7 days of receipt of this letter, the Division will refer this matter to the Florida Elections Commission, which may impose civil penalties of up to \$1000 per violation, apart from that automatic fine provisions of s. 106.07(8)(b), Fla. Stat.) that are applicable only to campaign finance reports.

As we stated in the prior notices, even if you now file the report or notification, the untimely filing of a report of reportable activity, or if applicable, a notice that no reportable activity occurred, may constitute an apparent violation of chapter 106, Fla. Stat. If we refer such matter to the Florida Elections Commission, the Commission may subsequently impose a civil penalty for each violation under chapter 106.265(1), Fla. Stat.

If you have any questions, please contact the help desk at (850) 245-6280.

Sincerely,

in Willis

Krisli Reid Willis, Chief Bureau of Election Records CAN 69894

USPS.com<sup>®</sup> - USPS Tracking<sup>®</sup> Results

Page 1 of 4

