FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

CASE REPORT

Case Number: FEC-18-272

CANDIDATE [X]

POLITICAL PARTY []

PC []

CCE []

STATE []

CITY []

DISTRICT []

COUNTY [X]

NAME: CHRISTIAN DAVID SWEENY

DATE APPEAL RECEIVED: 09/17/18

DATE REPORT DUE: 06/29/18 (2018 P1)

DATE OF ELECTRONIC RECEIPT: 07/09/18

Number of Days Late: 10

AMOUNT OF FINE: \$30.00

FINE BASED ON: (..) NUMBER OF DAYS (X) 25% OF RECEIPTS (...) 25% OF EXPENDITURES

TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR REPORTING PERIOD: \$120.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR REPORTING PERIOD: \$100.00

DATE OF FIRST NOTIFICATION: 07/05/18

SUMMARY: Christian David Sweeny was a candidate for Community Council Area 11, Subarea 114 in the 2018 elections. Mr. Sweeny was his own treasurer.

Christian David Sweeny is appealing the fine claiming that he did not obtain access to the filing system until after the report was due. According to Mr. Sweeny, he did not receive his passwords to access the reporting system until July 6th or July 9th. He also states that he filed the report a day after receiving the information.

- The 2018 P1 Original Report covers the period from 06/01/18-06/22/18; it was due on 06/29/18.
- The 2018 P1 Report shows that it was filed on 07/09/18.
- Christian David Sweeny reported receiving 3 contributions, while making 1 expenditure.
- The Miami Dade County Supervisor of Elections has two notes that pertain to Christian David Sweeny's 2018 P1 report.

PRIOR CASES: None.

September 4th, 2018

TO: Florida Elections Commission 107 West Gaines St., Collins Building Suite 224, Tallahassee, FL. 32399-1050.

FROM: Christian David Sweeny, 7501 SW 138 Court, Miami, FL 33183-3032 Phone. 570 878 8501 Email. christiansweeny@yahoo.com.

APPEAL: \$30 Late Filing Fine.

Assessed by the Miami-Dade Elections Department.

Dear Commission;

I recently volunteered to serve on the Community Council in Miami, Florida. The elected position is not compensated, and I was therefore expecting to run unopposed, as did one of my friends. However, a much younger man who apparently is interested in a career in politics, and who sincerely wishes to make an improvement in the community, edged me out in the final vote count. He appears to be both sincere and intelligent, and I wish him luck.

As a result of my recent experience as a candidate, I am now in an unelected position to offer a service to the community. The electoral system in Miami is not without its weaknesses, and I have noted several faults in the operation. I'll describe the faults as accidental, rather than intentional, errors.

Having applied some critical thought and analysis to my experience as a registered candidate, I am now able to offer a polite degree of constructive criticism, and also some positive advice for several rule changes of a procedural nature.

PURPOSE OF THIS LETTER:

Ostensibly, I AM APPEALING FROM A \$30 FINE FOR A LATE FILING OF MY INITIAL 18P1 REPORT. My primary defense is: IMPOSSIBILITY OF PERFORMANCE. The 18P1 report was due on <u>August 29th, 2018</u>. I did not receive the passwords necessary to access the reporting system from the Elections Department until <u>July 6th</u> or July 9th, 2018.

Furthermore, because I did not possess the passwords needed to access the computerized reporting system at the time that the 18P1 report was due, I did not have access to the VR System instructions for filing the 18P1 report. Please also note that the instructions, "How to File Financial Reports Online: A Handbook for Candidates & Committees" are classified as secret, and are locked into the Financial Reporting System. They can only be accessed through the "Help" button after you have logged into the system. Because I now have prior written permission from VR Systems to reproduce one copy of the instructions for my own use, I have reproduced the VR Systems copyright notice in Exhibit #1 as proof of this fact.

PROTEST:

I AM ALSO PROTESTING, PRO FORMA, THE FINE AS IMPROPERLY ISSUED, when it was issued. I did not obtain access to the Filing System until after the report was due. I was diligent and acted responsibly. I filed the 18P1 Report on July 9, 2018, within one business day of receiving the code and passwords, and the fine was apparently issued on July 11th, 2018, by the Miami Dade Elections Department Office. This fine was issued two days after I presented evidence (on July 6th or July 9th) from the United States Postal Service of a failure of the Regular Mail Service. This was two days after I was given the missing information needed to file the 18P1 Report. I believe this matter should have been reviewed locally, and settled in Miami, rather than sent to Tallahassee. However, I have considered the possibility that the personnel in Tallahassee may be better qualified to handle an appeal, which would make my protest Pro Forma.

DEFINITION:

I was told by someone in the Elections Department that the initial letter mailed by the Miami-Dade Elections Department to candidates who complete registration is designated by the Department Staff as an "Acknowledgement Letter." This "Acknowledgement Letter' is apparently intended to contain, among other information, a two page letter providing a specific code name for the candidate, a specific password for accessing the computerized Financial Reporting System, and also two numerical passwords necessary for the candidate and a treasurer to finalize each report. I will use the term "Acknowledgement Letter" to indicate a letter sent by the Elections Department to transmit candidate-specific passwords or numeric signature codes, i.e., classified and restricted material.

PRESUMPTIONS:

The American Common Law System, consisting of Federal, State and Municipal Legislation, is preeminently reasonable, and based on common sense. It is a work in progress, under constant re-evaluation due to "Lessons Learned." The traditional variations that were codified in Federal, State and Municipal Legislation tend to disappear as the different jurisdictions convert to Uniform Codes. The implementation of the system by the staff of the Miami-Dade Elections Department requires that it carefully follow standard procedural codes and normal secretarial methods. They must also update the rules to avoid errors whenever errors occur anywhere in the system, or in the Department's application of the rules. Standard instructions, when strictly followed, give rise to presumptions. I've listed several below.

Presumption #1. Access to the Miami-Dade Elections Department Financial Reporting System is, and must be, restricted to registered candidates. Each registered candidate will be assigned a specific domain in the computerized reporting system; therefore each registered candidate must be issued a specific code name and passwords in order to access their assigned domain. The candidate-specific code-name and passwords needed to access the Miami-Dade Elections Department Financial Reporting System are generated by the Miami-Dade Elections Department is responsible to communicate this secret information to each candidate, individually and confidentially.

Presumption #2. Each Candidate for Elected Office in the Local Government, upon completing the Registration Process and paying \$100 to defray the costs of registration, will be sent an "Acknowledgement Letter," containing standard material of common interest to all candidates, i.e. one or more form letters, and a second enclosure, candidate-specific, consisting of secret identification passwords. The Staff of the

Department will efficiently prepare these Acknowledgement Letters, securely seal them, and forward them to each candidate, individually, by the most secure and efficient delivery system available.

Presumption #3. The Elections Department has chosen to forward these Acknowledgement Letters, containing specific code words and numerical passwords, via U.S. Mail, using either Regular Mail or Certified Mail. Each registered candidate will receive their "Acknowledge Letter" in due course, at the address given in the registration process.

Presumption #4.

The Legal System, which is devised to regulate certain types of human action and to give order to our form of government, is dependent on presumptions of regularity and predictability. Presumptions reflect and result from the established principles of action, and serve to guide human procedure. They may be codified as Procedural Law or as formal instructions. Evidence of irregularities, i.e. personal or material failures, whether accidental or intentional, may be offered to defeat a presumption. Procedural Laws and formal instructions may be violated accidentally (unintentionally,) giving rise to a civil matter, or intentionally, giving rise to a criminal matter.

History is a gathering of Factual Evidence and serves to provide answers to the primary question "What (Happened)?", the contextual questions, When?, Where? and Who?, and the causal question, How? What follows is a specific history of events related to the \$30 fine, essentially arranged in chronological order.

THE ARGUMENT SIMPLIFIED.

- 1. There was an unexplained error in the handling of my "Acknowledgement Letter," dated June 8th, 2018, by the staff of the Elections Department. There is a presumption that the staff followed standard procedure. I offer probative evidence, from the Post Office, to prove an apparent clerical error, on the part of someone unknown, in the preparation and handling of my Acknowledgement Letter. I assume that the error was honest, i.e., accidental rather than intentional, but nevertheless, the error resulted in unintended and disastrous consequences for me. I will offer advice to avoid this apparent error in the future.
- 2. There was a second error in the handling of the "Acknowledgement Letter" by the staff of the Elections Department. Acknowledgement Letters contain classified information critical to the operation of the Financial Reporting System. I offer probative evidence from the Elections Department and/or the Post Office that a choice was made to use Regular Mail, when the staff apparently could have used Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested. I offer advice to avoid this apparent error in the future.
- 3. There was an unexplained failure of the mailing system chosen by the Elections Department to announce the \$30 fine in a subsequent letter dated July 11th, 2018. I attribute no fault to the Elections Department for this delay. I offer probative evidence, from the Post Office and the Elections Department, to prove that neither my wife nor I received notice of a certified letter, dated July 11th, and mailed on July 12th. Amazingly, someone in the Post Office wrote "Not notified, 7/14/18" on the envelope, indicating that I was given no notification of this Certified Letter. In addition, there was an unexplained delay in the handling and eventual return to the Elections Department of this Certified Mail notice of the fine. As a result of this apparent mishandling of a piece of Certified Mail, there was a biblical delay of 40 days and 40 nights for the Election Department to inform me of the assessed fine, amounting to 30 pieces of silver. I mention this unexplained delay of a Certified Mail Letter only to protect my procedural right to appeal the fine. I will have 20 days from the date of receiving actual

notice, <u>August 22d, 2018</u>, to appeal. This appeal will be sent within the 20 day window by Certified Mail, return receipt requested. <u>I will offer some advice to avoid this mailing error in the future.</u>

Exhibit #1. A Xeroxed copy of the Preface to the VR Systems instructions for filing Financial Reports. I include only the copyright statement for the VR Systems Inc.: "How to File Financial Reports Online: A Handbook for Candidates & Committees." This set of instructions is confidential and a proprietary trade secret, not in the public domain. I did not have access to these instructions for filling out financial reports until after the 18P1 was due. Note that I had trouble reading the small print of the on-line instructions and requested, and received, permission from VR Systems, Inc. to make one hard copy for my personal use.

Exhibit #2. A Xeroxed copy of the slit-open envelope used to send the Acknowledgement Letter, mailed on June 12, showing postage fees for Regular Mail. Note the two rubber stamping indicating "RECEIVED UNSEALED AND/OR IN DAMAGED CONDITION AT SUNSET BRANCH MIAMI FL 33186-9998." I do not know precisely when I received this.

Exhibit #3. A Xerox copy of the Email of July 5th, sent at 4:52:39 PM, opened on July 6th or later, amouncing a fine. This email caused me to personally visit the Elections Department (on either July 6th or 9th) and obtain the missing part of the Acknowledgement Letter.

Exhibit #4. Three pages of Xeroxed material, emailed to me on August 22d, 2018, and related to the Certified Letter of July 11th, 2018.

- 1. A Xerox copy of the letter announcing the NOTICE OF LATE FILING –FINE DUE-\$30.00, from the Miami-Dade County Elections Department, Dated July 11th.
- 2. A Xerox copy of the face of the envelope that contained the letter, showing the date of mailing, July 12, by Certified Mail, and the hand-written notation, "Not Notified, 7/14/18." Note the Post Office stamp:

 0008/10/18, RETURN TO SENDER. UNCLAIMED. UNABLE TO FORWARD. Note also the stamp from the Miami-Dade Elections Department: RECEIVED 2018 AUG 17. The envelope was never in my possession and may still be in the hands of the Miami-Dade Elections Department.
- 3. A Xerox copy of the email from the Elections Department. The Elections Department first notified me of this letter and fine by email and by regular mail on August 22, 2018. Note the statement in the email indicating the apparent choice of mail service permitted and apparently available to the Elections Department: "Please keep in mind that most of the letters mailed to candidates are sent via certified mail."

The Events and My Explanation in Chronological Order.

4. On June 12th, 2018, the Miami-Dade Elections Department attempted to send a standard letter acknowledging my registration as a candidate for the position of Community Council, Area 11, Subarea 114. I believe this initial letter from the Elections Department is referred to as an "Acknowledgement Letter." The envelope used <u>presumably</u> contained several pages of standard form letters giving general information of interest to all candidates. Also included should have been a two page special enclosure with classified material specific to my candidacy. The separate enclosure contained a secret Candidate I.D. and Password needed to access the Financial Reporting System. The separate enclosure also

- provided separate numeric Signature Passwords for the Candidate and Treasurer necessary to finalize the treasurer's financial reports. The identity of the person who stuffed and sealed the envelope used for the Acknowledgement Letter is not indicated.
- 5. The two pages containing passwords needed to access the computerized Financial Reporting System, were <u>apparently</u> lost while the letter was proceeding through the Regular Mail. <u>I accept, as a courtesy to the Elections Department, the presumption</u> that the pages containing the assigned Candidate I.D. and Password and Candidate Signature and Treasurer Signature Passwords should have been, <u>and probably were</u>, included in the envelope sent by the Miami-Dade Elections Commission via Regular Mail. This presumption, however, is undercut by evidence of a secretarial or clerical error.
- 6. Unfortunately, for reasons not in evidence, the envelope containing this "Acknowledgement Letter" was slit open along the top flap and then sealed with Scotch Tape, presumably prior to mailing. The identity of the person who slit open the envelope is not known to me. I assume the person was employed by the Elections Commission, and that the responsibility for any honest error committed by an employee ultimately must be borne by the employer, as opposed to an innocent third party. The doctrine of Respondeat Superior applies here, if not to impose vicarious liability, but rather, as a bar for the \$30 fine.
- 7. After a careful physical examination of this envelope, I saw that the envelope had been cut open cleanly, rather than torn open. Had the envelope been torn open, the top edges would have been ragged, and I could suspect an accident had occurred after mailing and during mail delivery. In that case, the Post Office might have applied the two pieces of scotch tape to seal the letter. However, the unusual act of neatly cutting open the Acknowledgement Letter after it had been sealed indicates an intentional and purposeful human act, and serves to raise the question: What reasonable purpose would have been served by opening a sealed letter? This act of opening a sealed letter is not part of a normal mailing procedure. I have no evidence as to why this was done, or by whom. Because there is something wrong with the picture, we must indulge in some Socratic Dialectic plus Critical Thinking and Conjecture
- 8. Query. Why would the Acknowledge Letter have been cut open after it was sealed? I will assume, in the absence of any evidence to the contrary, there are only two plausible explanations. 1. Either something had been included in the envelope improperly, by accident, and had to be removed or, 2. Something had not been placed in the envelope before sealing that should have been included, and it was later added. If someone had been handling and stuffing too many envelopes at the same time, either possibility might apply, or a combination of both. I'll assume the second possibility is more likely to be correct; I will assume the envelope was cut open in order to add something.
- 9. If supposition #2 is correct, there might have been two distinct enclosures, side by side, in the same envelope. If placed in the envelope at two different times, they would conceivably have been independent of each other. If this were the case, there is a distinct possibility that, at some point after the seal was broken, one of the enclosures could have been lost from the open envelope without the other, or that the entire contents slipped out, and only part of the contents were found and replaced.
- 10. The Letter of Acknowledge envelope, after being cut open, for whatever presumed reason, was then sealed lengthwise with a long piece of Scotch Tape. A second piece of tape was later added at the center of the envelope, crosswise and on top of the first. I do not know who placed the two pieces of tape on the envelope or when. I can suspect that the person re-sealing the envelope might have demonstrated some concern for security by adding the second piece of tape. This would have been laudable if true, but the choice of thin scotch tape led to unintended consequences. Of course, it is also possible that the letter was first resealed by someone at the Elections Department with the longer piece

- of tape, and later resealed, by a Postal Employee, with the second piece of tape. Whatever the actual case may be, we'll probably never know. Knowing the ultimate result of sealing the envelope with scotch tape, I can conclude that <u>it would have been better if a new envelope had been used by the Elections Department, to provide a normal and much stronger seal.</u>
- 11. From the Elections Department, I will assume that the resealed Letter of Acknowledgement was then sent to the Post Office, to be forwarded by Regular Mail. The use of Regular Mail, as opposed to Certified Mail, represents a second questionable choice by someone in the Elections Department. However, I do not know what the official policy of the Miami-Dade Elections Department is with respect to the delivery of Acknowledgement Letters containing candidate passwords, or even if there is an official position. Letters from the Elections Department containing documents of importance may, and generally are, sent by Certified Mail. There is language in the Elections Department Email of August 22 to support this belief, which I here quote: "We sent you a letter dated 07/11/2018 which was returned to us by the post office. Attached is a copy of this letter for your information/appropriate action. Please keep in mind that most of the letters mailed to candidates are sent via certified mail. If you have moved or would like us to use a different mailing address, please let us know."
- 12. Arguably, the choice by the Elections Department to use the Regular Mail to send the Acknowledgement Letter with classified information was an egregious error, and also represented the last clear chance for the Elections Department to insure that the candidate specific passwords would be delivered to the intended recipient in a timely manner. Perhaps we can here stipulate that: Letters from the Elections Department containing candidate specific passwords should, as a matter of official policy, be sent only by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested. (Note however, if the damaged envelope had been offered to the Post Office for Certified Mail Delivery, it might have been refused because it had been cut open and sealed with scotch tape. Perhaps this is why the acknowledgement letter was ultimately sent by Regular Mail. Or it might have been accepted for Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, and received more careful handling. We do not know which of the many possible scenarios represents the actual case; we only know the actual results. Therefore, we can stipulate that the Acknowledgement Letter should have been better sealed, but more importantly, should have been sent by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested.
- 13. Because the choice of Regular Mail had to have been made by an employee of the Elections Committee, the doctrine of Respondeat Superior may again be applied to assign responsibility for this choice to the Elections Department. The recipient had no choice in the matter, and should not be held accountable or fined. (I hasten to add, in fairness to the Elections Department, that the use of Certified Mail, while preferable, is not always effective, as we noted above in Exhibit #2, Pages Two & Three. I here interject remarks relating to an instance of actual use of Certified Mail by the Elections Department. A letter of July 11th, 2018, alerting me to a \$30 fine was sent by Certified Mail on July 12th, 2018, but neither my wife nor I received any notice. If this seems strange, consider the fact that the envelope was not returned to the Elections Department until August 17th, 2018, over a month later. I believe the Post Office policy is to not hold an unclaimed Certified Letter for more than 10 days, yet this letter was held for over forty days! To compound the mystery, the envelope bore the truly amazing and cryptic handwritten notation: "Not Notified, 7/14/18." The notation, although apparently true, does not make sense! So much for Certified Mail, and I can only suspect that this particular Certified Mail Letter was mishandled somewhere by a temporary employee of the Post Office, or temporarily misplaced in the Post Office for several weeks. Our regular mailperson is extremely conscientious. As a result, I recommend using a back-up using Email, with an automatic Return Receipt when the email is opened, or which requires a response from the intended recipient.

- 14. I return my attention to the Acknowledgement Letter of June 8th, mailed June 12th. This envelope obviously had a rough journey through the mail. The trip through the mail from the North West of Miami to the South West of Miami apparently involves being handling at several different locations, first as out-going mail, and then again, as incoming mail. The sorting and stamping, both performed by computerized machines that read zip codes, is done at relatively high speed. At the local Post Office of destination, the ultimate sorting for delivery is presumably done, in part, by hand. At some point, the "RECEIVED UNSEALED AND/OR IN DAMAGED CONDITION AT SUNSET BRANCH MIAMI FL 33186-9998" envelope was handled, discovered, and twice stamped. The Post Office stamp, in red ink, provides the evidence to document the damage. Unless one or more pieces of tape were applied to seal the letter, we must assume that nothing was done by the Post Office to seal it.
- 15. I cannot determine at what point in the delivery process the scotch tape seal was broken. The envelope bears a Sunset Post Office Stamp, apparently placed by hand, which may establish where this damage was first discovered. Therefore I am able to put into evidence the following factual information from the Post Office. A Postal Employee twice stamped on the face of the Acknowledgement Letter Envelope the following message in red ink: "RECEIVED UNSEALED AND/OR IN DAMAGED CONDITION AT SUNSET POST OFFICE MIAMI FL 33186-9998." This envelope is still in my possession and was shown to an agent of the Miami-Dade Elections Department. A Xerox copy of the face of the envelope is included with this Appeal as Exhibit #. It is offered as a double proof: both that the envelope was sent through the regular mail, rather than by certified mail, and also, that at some point prior to reception at the Sunset Branch Post Office, the envelope was unsealed and/or in damaged condition. I will add that the envelope arrived at my house completely open on the top flap.
- 16. I will assume that the 2 pages of classified information, folded together, had been placed in the envelope, either before or after the envelope was first sealed. I assume the envelope was then resealed with scotch tape. This is a polite presumption on my part; the employees at the Elections Department have all been extremely courteous and helpful, and I assume they are equally competent and only human. However, I cannot presume that everything that was originally placed in the envelope arrived at its ultimate destination, i.e., my house, just because some of the contents arrived there. Nor should the Appeals Board. This would be an error of optimism. I wasn't that lucky.
- 17. Only one presumption can be supported by the evidence provided by the Post Office. Knowing that the envelope became unsealed and/or in damaged condition at some point, and arrived at its destination completely open at the top, we must now assume that some of the contents may have been lost in transit, or that all of the contents fell out, but only some of them were recovered and replaced. The possibility of a loss is now the unavoidable presumption. Furthermore, because I did not receive one or more of the pages that presumably had been originally placed in the Acknowledgement Letter, the fact that the envelope was RECEIVED UNSEALED AND/OR IN DAMAGED CONDITION AT SUNSET BRANCH MIAMI FL 33186-9998 serves as a reasonable explanation for the loss and a bar to any other presumption Of course, it is possible, through an oversight, that the two pages were never placed in the envelope to begin with, a possibility I will choose to ignore, as a courtesy, because the staff at the Elections Department would surely have found them had they been misplaced.
- 18. I received an email, sent on July 5 and opened on July 6, informing me that I was late in filing the 18P1 report. Although I read the handbook at https://www.miamidade.gov/elections/candidate-qualifying-handbook.asp, and the Guidelines for Successful Campaign Treasurer's Reporting, I was unable to figure out how to access either the financial reporting system. I did not have the VR Systems Instructions that go with it. Furthermore, my total expenditure at that time was \$100 dollars of my own money to register and \$20 placed in the bank account, which I incorrectly assumed was not a contribution, and

- therefore not reportable. At this point in time, I was still hoping to run unopposed and therefore also hoping to spend no money at all. The position I volunteered for, namely as a District Representative on the Community Council, is not compensated. I intended to volunteer my advice as a public services, and I had no intention or apparent need to accept contributions from others for those services. Because I had no means of reading the VR System Reporting Instructions I was not aware that the system requires negative reports, known as waivers, which state, in effect, "NOTHING TO REPORT."
- 19. On receiving a notice that threatened monetary fines I went immediately to the Office of the Miami-Dade Elections Department, and spoke in person with Mr. Willfred "Will" Castro. I believe this was on Friday, July the 6th or the following Monday. I had several pages of questions which we went over. Mr. Castro was thoroughly familiar with the workings of the system and the terminology. He provided me with a rapid education, for which I was grateful. Fortunately, I also had the originally envelope used to send my Acknowledgement Letter, which I showed to Mr. Castro. Mr. Castro realized that I may have been missing information that should have been mailed to me, and went to his office to gather the paperwork.
- 20. Mr. Castro returned and gave me copies of two additional pages that should have been in the Acknowledgement Letter, and which contained my assigned passwords. He advised me to file my first report, the 18P1, as quickly as possible, which I did. I believe the report was posted on Monday, the 9th of July.
- 21. As a "Lesson Learned" I suggest that the Elections Department change their procedural rules to require that all letters containing confidential material and passwords be sent by Certified Mail, or some other system, such as Emails that generate or require return receipts. Their own email, dated August 22, indicates that they already have the ability, and possibly the inherent authority, to do this. CONSLUSION.
- 22. I conclude: the fault, if fault need be assigned, must lie with one or more members of the secretarial or clerical staff in the Elections Department. Two or more distinct errors have been identified in my report to the Appeals Board. Two or more changes to the regulations or in-house instructions are called for if future reoccurrences of these errors are to be avoided. The possibility of, and the responsibility for, making these changes lies with the Miami-Dade Elections Department, mandated by the policy of Respondeat Superior.
- 23. The purpose of the policy of Respondeat Superior, in this case, is to encourage the employer or supervisor to accept responsibility for avoidable errors of a non-criminal nature, and to use due diligence, and develop and promulgate regulations to avoid repetition of the past errors. Procedural changes enacted by the employer to avoid a repetition of this type of loss serve, not to unfairly penalize or burden, but rather, to ultimately benefit, the employer, which in this case, is the Miami-Dade Elections Department. Conceivably, some responsibility may lie with Post Office; the Post Office might have acted to seal the damaged envelope to prevent a loss of contents. I believe that the Post Office recognizes a duty to collect, preserve and trace, if possible, the contents of unsealed and damaged parcels, if the contents are found.
- 24. Frankly, I believe this is a trivial matter, resulting from an accident rather that from negligence. I believe that certain actions by the secretarial staff constitute honest misjudgments as to the sufficiency of Scotch Tape, or whatever brand of tape was used, to securely close an opened envelope. The sufficiency of Regular Mail, in combination with the re-sealed envelope, during a precipitous journey through our automated and mechanized mail delivery system may have been an overly optimistic evaluation, particularly given the classified nature of the contents. The Regular Mail was \$0.47, as opposed to \$3.92 for Certified Mail.

- 25. I have never participated in a election as a candidate before. As a complete novice, I failed to appreciate some of the safeguards that have been built into the Financial Reporting System. I had no way to enter the computerized reporting system, or even to familiarize myself with the VR Systems instruction booklet, until provided with the necessary passwords by the Miami-Dade Elections Department. The instructions, "How to File Financial Reports Online: A Handbook for Candidates & Committees" are inaccessible without the passwords. I was slow to respond when confused. But I was in no way responsible for this failure of the Elections Department to timely provide me with the information that was absolutely necessary to obtain the VR Systems filing instructions and file the 18P1 report.
- 26. In my further defense, when I did receive the necessary passwords from Mr. Wilfred Castro at the Miami-Dade Elections Department, on either July 6th or July 9th, I followed his excellent advice to act promptly. I accessed the Elections Department Financial Report Computer, digested the VR Systems classified instructions as best I could, and then filed the required 18P1 report on July 9th. The Department apparently had my initial report two days before assessing the \$30 fine.
- 27. I have also included additional information, Exhibit #4, simply to preclude any possible misunderstanding that would block my defense on procedural grounds. Although the 18P1 fine was levied on 17 July, 2018, <u>I did not receive actual notice of this fine until August 22d, 2018.</u> Therefore, under the procedural law, as stated to me by phone by a staff member of the Elections Department, <u>I have 20 days from August 22d, 2018, to appeal this \$30 fine</u>. I will submit my appeal, by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, within the 20 day period provided by law.
- 28. I respectfully request that this fine be dismissed based on the evidence provided and the argument presented. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Warm regards, Christian David Sweeny.

EXHIBIT # 1. Confidential Nature of the Instructions provided by the Miami Dade Elections Department for Online Financial Reports.

"How to File Financial Reports Online: A Handbook for Candidates & Committees. Last update to this document: October 19, 2015. The content of this document is confidential and a proprietary trade secret. It is therefore not subject to open disclosure under Florida Public Records laws. This document is provided solely for the use of licensed users of Voter Focus. The content, in whole or in part, is not to be disclosed to any unauthorized person. The information in this document is subject to change without notice. No part of this document may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, for any purpose, without the express written permission of VR Systems Inc. Campaign ToolBox is a trademark of Adjutant Workshop, Inc. © 1995-2015 VR Systems Inc. All rights reserved."

Explanation. I found the print of this secret document too small to read on line, and therefore attempted to contact the VR Systems Inc for permission to print a hard copy, on paper, which I can read. The Elections Department was able to provide a phone number. I contacted Wren Fowler by phone and email.

Request for Permission to make a Copy.

Yahoo/Inbox

Christian Sweeny

My name is Christian David Sweeny, and I am running for Community Council in Miami. I request permission to make one copy of your Voter Focus instructions for filing financial reports online. It is clearly understood that this single copy will be for my personal use as a candidate, and will not be shared with unauthorized persons. I request this permission because I a 76 years of age and find the document is too difficult to read online. Also, I noted a possible error, if I am not a poor judge of colors, on page 6 of the instructions. I don't believe that past reporting periods are shown in beige. I suspect the top of the page is closer in color to beige, if not light brown. Thank you for your assistance in this matter. Warm regards, Christian David Sweeny.

Aug 24 at 12:41 PM

Wren Fowler <wfowler@vrsystems.com>

To:Christian Sweeny Aug 24 at 12:53 PM

Mr Sweeny, As we discussed on the phone, you have our permission to make a copy of the requested documentation for your personal use. Thank you for pointing out the possible error on page 6, we will take a look at that. Have a great afternoon.

Wren Fowler Voter Focus Product Manager

3773 Commonwealth Blvd Tallahassee, FL 32303 550-668-2838

EXHIBIT #2

Subject: Failure to file 18P1 Report Due 6/29/18

From: cmpnfinvr@miamidade.gov

To: christiansweeny@yahoo.com

Date: Thursday, July 5, 2018, 4:52:39 PM EDT

Good afternoon,

Our records indicate that we have not received your 18P1 Report that was due on 06/29/18 and which covers any campaign finance activity from 06/01/18 to 06/22/18.

Please note that, per state law, you are incurring late fines for each day that the report is filed after the deadline. The fines are set at \$50 per day for the first three days late and \$500 for each late day thereafter.

If you recently submitted your report, please disregard this notice. This is simply a courtesy email.

Should you require additional information, please feel free to contact the Candidate Services Unit via email at campaigns@miamidade.gov or via telephone at 305-499-8410.

Regards,
Miami-Dade Elections Department
Government Affairs and Media Relations Division
Campaign Services Unit
Office: 305-499-8410
campaigns@miamidade.gov
www.miamidade.gov
"Delivering Excellence Every Day"

MIAMI-DADE ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS 2700 NW 87TH AVENUE SUITE 100 MIAMI FLORIDA 33172-1632 138_01-17 4/04



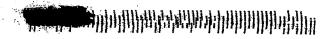


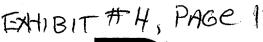
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Mr. Christian David Sweeny 7501 SW 138 Court Miami, FL 33183

RECEIVED UNGEALED AND/OH IN DANAGED CONGITION AT SUNSET BRANCH MAMI FL 33188-9998









Elections 2700 NW 87th Avenue Miami, Florida 33172 T 305-499-8683 F 305-499-8547 TTY: 305-499-8480

miamidade.gov

July 11, 2018

Mr. Christian David Sweeny 7501 SW 138 Court Miami, FL 33183

NOTICE OF LATE FILING – FINE DUE – \$30.00
Christian David Sweeny
18P1 Campaign Treasurer's Report
Due Date: 6/29/2018
Period Covered: 6/1/2018 – 6/22/2018

Dear Mr. Sweeny,

The 18P1 Campaign Treasurer's Report filed with our office was submitted on 7/9/2018 (#1160186). Since this report was not filed by the appropriate filing date, a fine is being assessed for each late day pursuant to Florida Statute 106.07(8)(b).

As such, fines are calculated at a rate of \$50.00 per day for the first 3 days and thereafter, \$500.00 per day for each late day. These fines are not to exceed 25% of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater, for the period covered by the late report. Therefore, since the report was 10 days late, the fine is \$30.00, which is 25.00% of your Total Contributions of \$120.00. Said fine must be received by our office at 2700 NW 87th Avenue, Miami, FL 33172 within twenty (20) days of your receipt of this notice. The check should be made payable to Miami-Dade County paid only from candidate's personal funds.

Florida Statute 106.07(8)(b) goes on to say that the fine may be appealed or disputed based upon unusual circumstances surrounding the failure to file by the designated due date. A hearing before the Florida Elections Commission may be requested, which shall have the authority to waive the fine in part or whole. Any such request must be submitted in writing and must be received by the Florida Elections Commission within 20 days of your receipt of this notice. To request an appeal, please write to the Florida Elections Commission, 107 West Gaines Street, Collins Building, Suite 224, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1050. Our office must also be notified of the intent to bring this matter before the Commission.

I urge you to promptly resolve this matter. If not, in accordance with Florida Statute 106.07(8)(d), we will be required to notify the Florida Elections Commission of this late filing and failure to pay the imposed fine.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the Candidate Services Unit at 305-499-8410.

Sincerely,

Suzy Trutie

Deputy Supervisor of Elections Miami-Dade Elections

Certified No: 7012 0470 0001 2807 9406

MIAMI-DADE ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS 2700 NW 87TH AVENUE SUITE 100 MIAMI FLORIDA 33172-1632 138_01-17 4/04

> 日にいいことに 2018 AUG 17



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Mr. Christian David Sweeny 7501 SW 138 Court

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0008/10/13

RETURN TO SENDER UNCLAIMED UNABLE TO FORWARD

UNC 23169z

Miami, FL 33183

BC: 33172163299 *0506-06740-12-44

EXHIBIT #4, PAGE 3

Late Certified Mail Notice.

_Washington, Yolanda V. (Elections) < Yolanda. Washington@miamidade.gov>

o:christiansweeny@yahoo.com

Cc:Campaign Financing VR (Elections), Innocent, Vanessa (Elections), Castro, Wilfred (Elections), Rodriguez, Roberto (Elections), Trutie, Suzy (Elections)

Aug 22 at 10:02 AM

Good morning,

We sent you a letter dated 07/11/2018 which was returned to us by the post office. Attached is a copy of this letter for your information/appropriate action. Please keep in mind that most of the letters mailed to candidates are sent via certified mail. If you have moved or would like us to use a different mailing address, please let us know.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact our Candidate Services Unit at 305-499-8410.

Thank you,

Yolanda Washington

Miami-Dade County Elections Department

305-499-8422

www.miamidade.gov

Yolandw@miamidade.gov

"Delivering Excellence Every Day"

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FROM:

CHRISTIAN. SWEENIN 7501 SW 138 COURT miami. FL 33183-



U.S. POSTAGE PAID FCM (C. F.N.) MAMIC, FL 3319 64, 16 AMOUNT 16 \$8.04 R2304M111624-44

FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION 107 WEST GAINES ST COLYNS BUILDING, SUITE 224 TALLAHASSEE, FL 32399-1050

TO:

Utility Mailer 10 1/2" x 16"







Elections 2700 NW 87th Avenue Miami, Florida 33172 T 305-499-8683 F 305-499-8547 TTY: 305-499-8480

miamidade.gov

July 11, 2018

Mr. Christian David Sweeny 7501 SW 138 Court Miami, FL 33183

> NOTICE OF LATE FILING – FINE DUE – \$30.00 Christian David Sweeny 18P1 Campaign Treasurer's Report Due Date: 6/29/2018 Period Covered: 6/1/2018 – 6/22/2018

Dear Mr. Sweeny,

The 18P1 Campaign Treasurer's Report filed with our office was submitted on 7/9/2018 (#1160186). Since this report was not filed by the appropriate filing date, a fine is being assessed for each late day pursuant to Florida Statute 106.07(8)(b).

As such, fines are calculated at a rate of \$50.00 per day for the first 3 days and thereafter, \$500.00 per day for each late day. These fines are not to exceed 25% of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater, for the period covered by the late report. Therefore, since the report was 10 days late, the fine is \$30.00, which is 25.00% of your Total Contributions of \$120.00. Said fine must be received by our office at 2700 NW 87th Avenue, Miami, FL 33172 within twenty (20) days of your receipt of this notice. The check should be made payable to Miami-Dade County paid only from candidate's personal funds.

Florida Statute 106.07(8)(b) goes on to say that the fine may be appealed or disputed based upon unusual circumstances surrounding the failure to file by the designated due date. A hearing before the Florida Elections Commission may be requested, which shall have the authority to waive the fine in part or whole. Any such request must be submitted in writing and must be received by the Florida Elections Commission within 20 days of your receipt of this notice. To request an appeal, please write to the Florida Elections Commission, 107 West Gaines Street, Collins Building, Suite 224, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1050. Our office must also be notified of the intent to bring this matter before the Commission.

I urge you to promptly resolve this matter. If not, in accordance with Florida Statute 106.07(8)(d), we will be required to notify the Florida Elections Commission of this late filing and failure to pay the imposed fine.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the Candidate Services Unit at 305-499-8410.

Sincerely,

Suzy Trutie

Deputy Supervisor of Elections

Suny Trutie

Miami-Dade Elections

Certified No: 7012 0470 0001 2807 9406





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ALERT: USPS SERVICES ARE DISRUPTED IN SOME FLORIDA PANHANDLE AREAS IMPACTED B...

USPS Tracking®

FAQs

Track Another Package +

Remove

Tracking Number:

70120470000128079406

Your item has been delivered to the original sender at 1:06 pm on August 13, 2018 in MIAMI, FL 33172.

Delivered

August 13, 2018 at 1:06 pm Delivered, To Original Sender MIAMI, FL 33172

Tracking History

Product Information



Elections 2700 NW 87th Avenue Miami, Florida 33172 T 305-499-8683 F 305-499-8547 TTY: 305-499-8480

miamidade.gov

July 5, 2018

Mr. Christian David Sweeny 7501 SW 138 Court Miami, FL 33183

FAILURE TO FILE NOTICE
Christian David Sweeny
18P1 Campaign Treasurer's Report
Due Date: 6/29/2018
Period Covered: 6/1/2018 – 6/22/2018

Dear Mr. Sweeny,

A review of our files indicates that you failed to file your Campaign Treasurer's Report due on 6/29/2018. Florida Statute 106.07 (8)(b) states that:

"Upon determining that a report is late, the filing officer shall immediately notify the candidate or chair of the political committee as to the failure to file a report by the designated due date and that a fine is being assessed for each late day. the fine is \$50 per day for the first 3 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... Upon receipt of the report, the filing officer shall determine the amount of the fine which is due and shall notify the candidate or chair or registered agent of the political committee ..."

As such, I urge you to promptly respond to this matter to limit additional fines; and in accordance with Florida Statute 106.07(8)(d), we will be required to notify the Florida Elections Commission of your failure to file.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact the Candidate Services Unit at 305-499-8410.

Sincerely,

Suzy Trutie

Deputy Supervisor of Elections

Miami-Dade Elections

Certified No: 7012 0470 0001 2807 8065

	CAMPAIGN TREASURE	R'S REPORT SUMMARY
(1)	Christian David Sweeny	OFFICE USE ONLY
	Name	ONLINE SUBMISSION [1160186]
(2)	7501 SW 138 Court	Submitted on:
	Address (number and street)	7/9/2018 15:49:58 (eastern)
	Miami, FL 33183	
	City, State, Zip Code	
	Check here if address has changed	(3) ID Number:2100
(4)	Check appropriate box(es):	
	☐ Candidate Office Sought: Community Coun	ncil Area/Subarea 11/114
	Political Committee (PC) Electioneering Communications Org. (ECO)	Check here if PC or ECO has disbanded
	Party Executive Committee (PTY)	Check here if PTY has disbanded
	☐ Independent Expenditure (IE) (also covers an	Check here if no other IE or EC reports will be filed
	individual making electioneering communications)	
	(5) Report	Identifiers
Cove	er Period: From 6 /1 /2018 To	6 / 22 / 2018 Report Type: 18P1
X o	riginal Amendment Spe	ecial Election Report
(6)	Contributions This Report	(7) Expenditures This Report
1-7		Monetary
Casl	n & Checks \$,, 120 . 00	Expenditures \$, , 100 .00
Loar	ns \$,, <u>0</u> .00	Transfers to
		Office Account \$, , , 0 . 00
Tota	I Monetary \$,, 120 . 00	
		Total Monetary \$, , 100 . 00
In-Ki	nd \$,, <u>0</u> .00	
		(8) Other Distributions
		\$,,000
(9)	TOTAL Monetary Contributions To Date	(10) TOTAL Monetary Expenditures To Date
at 15	\$,, 12000	\$,, _10000
	United States Section 1981	The state of the s
	(11) Cert It is a first degree misdemeanor for any pers	dification
10	certify that I have examined this report and it is true, corn	ect, and complete:
(T	ype name)	(Type name)
	Individual (only for IE	☐ Candidate ☐ Chairperson (only for PC and PTY)
	orana ara dan recolata Postata da	
X	The state of the s	X
Si	gnature	Signature

CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT - ITEMIZED CONTRIBUTIONS

(1) Name	Christian David Swee	eny		(2) I.D. Numb	er	100
	6/1/2018	n va ra s i i		/22/2018			
(3) Cover Peri	od / /	_ thre	ough	11	(4) Pag	ge	of
(5) Date	(7) Full Name		(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
(6) Sequence Number	(Last, Suffix, First, Middle) Street Address & City, State, Zip Code		ontributor Occupation	Contribution Type	In-kind Description	Amendment	Amount
6/5/2018	Sweeny, Christian I 7501 SW 138 Court Miami, Fl 33183) I	retired.	CA			\$50.0
6/5/2018	Sweeny, Raquel	, I		CA			\$50.0
2	7501 SW 138 Court Miami, Fl 33183						
6/12/2018	Sweeny, Christian I 7501 SW 138 Court Miami, Fl 33183	I		CA			\$20.0
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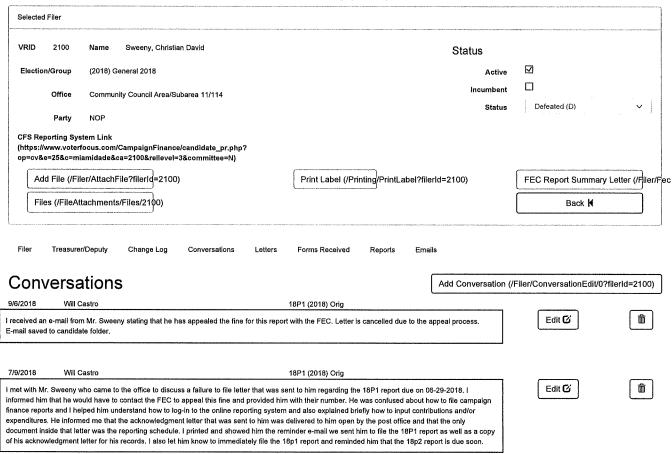
CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT - ITEMIZED EXPENDITURES

(1) Name_C	Christian David	Sweeny	(2) I.D. Number		2100	
	6/1/2018	6/22/2018				
(3) Cover Po	eriod//	through//	(4) Page 1	_ of _	1	

(5) Date	(7) Full Name	(8) Purpose	(9)	(10)	(11)
(6) Sequence Number	(Last, Suffix, First, Middle) Street Address & City, State, Zip Code	(add office sought if contribution to a candidate)	Expenditure Type	Amendment	Amount
6/5/2018	Miami-Dade Elections Dept., 2700 NW 87 Ave Miami, Fl 33172	qualifying fee, community council	МО		\$100.0
//					
//					
//					
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You are here... Home (/) > Filer > Manage (/Filer/Manage/2100)

Filer Record Maintenance (Cand Types)



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Version: 1.0.6848.37966 (10/1/2018 9:05:35 PM)

Florida Elections Commission

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MIAMI-DADE ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT 2700 NW 87th Avenue, Miami, FL 33172 Phone: (305) 499-8410 Date: October 11, 2018

	Fine Assessed	\$30.00						\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
rea 11/114			Certified USPS Number	07/6/2018 7012 0470 00012807 8065	7012 0470 00012807 9406	7012 0470 00012807 8287	7012 0470 00012807 8430 (Canceled)		Date Sent Certified USPS Number		Date Sent Certified USPS Number		Certified USPS Number	
Christian David Sweeny - Community Council Area/Subarea 11/114	Days Late	10	Date Sent	07/6/2018	07/11/2018	08/2/2018	Letter Cancelled due to Appeal	0	Date Sent	0	Date Sent	0	Date Sent	0
Subject: Christian David S	Received/ Submitted	07/9/2018		eports - Our Candidates		plete items from the report		08/10/2018		07/9/2018		07/24/2018		08/1/2018
40	Due Date	06/29/2018	Name	First Notice of a Failure to File Reports - Our Candidates	First Notice of Fine Due	Letter with the incomplete item	Final Notice of a Fine Due	06/29/2018	Name	07/13/2018	Name	07/27/2018	Name	08/3/2018
Christina White, Supervisor of Elections	Original?	Original	Notice(s) Sent:					Amendment	Notice(s) Sent:	Original	Notice(s) Sent:	Original	Notice(s) Sent:	Original
From: Christin	Report	18P1						18P1		18P2		18P3		18P4

MIAMI-DADE ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT 2700 NW 87th Avenue, Miami, FL 33172 Phone: (305) 499-8410

Phone: (305) 499-8410 Notice(s) Sent: Name Date Sent Certified USPS Number		0	Date Sent Certified USPS Number	0	Date Sent Certified USPS Number	2	Date Sent Certified USPS Number	And the state of t	0	Date Sent Certified USPS Number	0	Date Sent Certified USPS Number		Certified USPS Number	
		08/1/2018		08/9/2018		08/19/2018			08/19/2018		08/24/2018		and a material of the control of the	Date Sent	
	08/10/2018		08/10/2018		08/17/2018			08/24/2018		08/24/2018					
	Original	Notice(s) Sent: Name	Amendment	Notice(s) Sent: Name	Original	Notice(s) Sent: Name		Original	Notice(s) Sent: Name	Amendment	Notice(s) Sent: Name	Amendment 11/26/2018	Name		
		18P5		18P5		18P6			18P7		18P7		18TRF Am	Notice(s) Sent:	

APPOINTMENT OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER AND DESIGNATION OF CAMPAIGN DEPOSITORY FOR CANDIDATES

(Section 106.021(1), F.S.)

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

RECEIVED

2018 JUN -5 AM 11: 32

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT

NOTE: This form must be on file with the qualifying officer before opening the campaign account. OFFICE USE ONLY 1. CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX(ES): Initial Filing of Form Re-filing to Change: Treasurer/Deputy Depository Party 2. Name of Candidate (in this order: First, Middle, Last) 3. Address (include post office box or street, city, state, zip 7501 SW 138 COURT. CHRISTIAN DAVID SWEENU MIAMI FL 33183 4. Telephone (570) 878 8501 CHRISTIANSWEENY (2) 6. Office sought (include district, circuit, group number) 7. If a candidate for a nonpartisan office, check if COMMUNITY COUNCIL AREA 11 applicable: My intent is to run as a Write-In candidate. SUBARPA 114 8. If a candidate for a partisan office, check block and fill in name of party as applicable: My intent is to run as a Write-In No Party Affiliation Party candidate. 9. I have appointed the following person to act as my X Campaign Treasurer Deputy Treasurer 10. Name of Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer CHRISTIAN SWEENY 11. Mailing Address 12. Telephone 7501 SW 138 COURT (570), 978 - 850) 17. E-mail address (SMALL Letters) 13. City 16. Zip Code 14. County MIHMI 15. State CHRISTIANSWENY@YAHOO.COM DADE MIAMI 18. I have designated the following bank as my Primary Depository □ Secondary Depository 19. Name of Bank 20. Address 1700 NW 87 AV WELLS FARGO 21. City 22. County MIAMI 23. State 24. Zip Code TORAL 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 26. Signature of Candidate, 6.05.18 Treasurer's Acceptance of Appointment (fill in the blanks and check the appropriate block) I CHRISTIAN DAVID ! Sweewy do hereby accept the appointment (Please Print or Type Name) designated above as: Campaign Treasurer Deputy Treasurer. 06.05-2018

Signature of Campaign Treasurer or Deputy

Castro, Wilfred (Elections)

From: Miami-Dade CF Team <cmpnfinvr@miamidade.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 10:22 AM

To: Christian David Sweeny

Subject: Reminder for 18P1 Report Due 06-29-2018

Good morning,

This is a friendly reminder that the 2018-18P1 Report, which covers any campaign finance activity between 06/01/18 and 06/22/18, is due on 06/29/18.

As you know, candidates must submit campaign finance reports electronically through the Miami-Dade Elections website at www.miamidade.gov/elections/campaignreports no later than midnight of the day designated to avoid late filing fees in accordance with Florida Statute 106.07. Please keep in mind that the PIN numbers for both the Candidate and the Treasurer must be entered prior to submitting the electronic report successfully.

For future reporting dates, guidelines to successful Campaign Treasurer's Reports, and other important information, you may refer to the Candidate Qualifying Handbook online at http://www.miamidade.gov/elections/candidate-qualifying-handbook.asp.

In addition, per Section 12-14.1 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, candidates running for this office must file a separate campaign report (MD-ED 26) to disclose the names of paid campaign workers engaged in vote by mail ballot activities. This form is due at the same time as the Campaign Finance Reports and it is available on our website at http://www.miamidade.gov/elections/Library/run-for-office/md-ed26.pdf. Once the report has been completed, submit a signed electronic copy to campaigns@miamidade.gov. For quicker processing, the email header should include the name of the candidate, the report name, and reference the type of report submitted (i.e. Jane Doe, 2018-18P1 VBM Campaign Report).

Effective January 1, 2017 and in accordance with Ordinance No. 16-46 and 16-75, codified in Sections 12-14.2 and 12-14.2.1 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida, respectively, Miami-Dade County and Municipal Elected Officers, and Candidates must file form MD-ED 28 (http://www.miamidade.gov/elections/library/qualifying-handbook/reporting-of-solicitation-of-contributions.pdf) to publicly disclose the commencement of fundraising activities for Political Committees, Electioneering Communications Organizations, Political Parties, and/or 501(c)4 organizations. This report must be filed within five days of commencing solicitation activities, either directly or indirectly, on behalf of said organization(s).

This is just a courtesy email. If you have already submitted your report, please disregard this notice.

Should you require additional information, please feel free to contact the Candidate Services Unit at 305-499-8410 or via email at campaigns@miamidade.gov.

Miami-Dade Elections Department Government Affairs and Media Relations Division 305-499-8410 campaigns@miamidade.gov www.miamidade.gov/elections "Delivering Excellence Every Day"