#### STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

#### In Re: Richard J. Venerable

Case No.: FEC 15-344

TO: Richard J. Venerable 255 Bry-Lynn Drive West Melbourne, FL 32904

Sue Frank, City Clerk 2240 Minton Road West Melbourne, FL 32904

#### **NOTICE OF HEARING (INFORMAL HEARING)**

A hearing will be held in this case before the Florida Elections Commission on, February 17, 2016 at 10:00 am, or as soon thereafter as the parties can be heard, at the following location: Florida State Conference Center, 555 West Pensacola Street, Room #108, Tallahassee, Florida 32306.

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 February 2, 2016 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 failure, it may waive the fine, 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

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STATE OF MLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

#### STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

Florida Elections Commission, Petitioner,

v.

Case No.: FEC 15-344

Richard J. Venerable, Respondent.

**ORDER OF PROBABLE CAUSE** 

THIS MATTER was heard by the Florida Elections Commission (Commission) at its

regularly scheduled meeting on November 17, 2015, in Tallahassee, Florida

Based on the Complaint, Report of Investigation, Staff's Recommendation, and oral statements made at the probable cause hearing, the Commission finds that there is **probable cause** to charge Respondent with the following violation:

#### Count 1

On or about April 10, 2015, Respondent violated Section 106 07(7), Florida Statutes, when he 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 2015 M3 Report.

DONE AND ORDERED by the Florida Elections Commission on November 17, 2015.

M. Scott Thomas, Chairman Florida Elections Commission

Copies furnished to: Jaakan A. Williams, Assistant General Counsel Richard J. Venerable, Respondent Sue Frank, 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)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.

#### STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

#### In Re: Richard J. Venerable

Case No.: FEC 15-344

TO: Richard J. Venerable 255 Bry-Lynn Drive West Melbourne, FL 32904

Sue Frank, City Clerk 2240 Minton Road West Melbourne, FL 32904

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

A hearing will be held in this case before the Florida Elections Commission on, November 17, 2015 at 10:30 AM, or as soon thereafter as the parties can be heard, at the following location: Department of Business and Professional Regulation, 1940 North Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 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:

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

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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.

#### STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

In Re: Richard J. Venerable

Case No.: FEC 15-344

#### 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 Based upon a thorough review of the Report of Investigation submitted on August 3, 2015, the following facts and law support this staff recommendation:

1 On May 13, 2015, the Florida Elections Commission ("Commission") received a sworn complaint from Sue Frank ("Complainant"), alleging that Richard J Venerable ("Respondent") violated Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.

2 Respondent is a candidate for the office of Mayor for the City of West Melbourne  $(ROI Exhibit 1)^1$ 

3 Complainant alleged that Respondent failed to notify his filing officer in writing that no report would be filed on the applicable reporting date for the following report: 2015 M3 Report.

4. By letter dated July 21, 2015, the Executive Director notified Respondent that Commission staff would investigate the following statutory provision:

Section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes: As alleged in the complaint, Respondent 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 reporting period:

• 2015 M3 (March 2-March 31)

5. Respondent filed his State of Florida Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates form ("DS-DE 9"), on March 2, 2015, and appointed Tracy Venerable as deputy treasurer. (ROI Exhibit 1)

6. On March 2, 2015, Respondent signed and dated the "2016 Announced Candidate Information Checklist" indicating that he had received a copy of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes,

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

the Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook, and the Reporting Dates for Campaign Treasurer Reports, etc. (ROI Exhibit 2)

7 The 2013 Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook explained the requirement of filing a waiver-of-report when the candidate has no financial activity to disclose. (ROI Exhibit 3, pages 4 and 6)

8. The Candidate EFS User's Guide explained the process for filing a waiver-ofreport using the electronic filing system (EFS). Listed on page 13 are specific instructions about checking the box next to "waiver" when there is no financial activity to disclose. (ROI Exhibit 4, pages 4, 5, and 6)

#### Alleged Violation: Section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes

9. In pertinent part, Section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes, state:

[A]ny candidate or political committee not reporting by virtue of this subsection on dates prescribed elsewhere in this chapter shall notify the filing officer in writing on the prescribed reporting date that no report is being filed on that date. (emphasis added)

10. The table below reflects Respondent's untimely written notifications to the Division:

Rep	ort Re	port Cover Period	Date Notification Du	e Date Notification Filed	No. of Days Late
2015	M3 3/1/1	5 - 3/31/15	4/10/15	6/25/15	76

11. Respondent failed to provide a written response to the referral. (See ROI, paragraph 9) However, during a July 27, 2015 phone interview with Commission staff, Respondent stated that he was a first-time candidate that "screwed up by relying on someone else to do my reporting. I should've been going behind him but I was working out of state and I was rarely home." (See Attachment "A," Phone log, entry # 5)

12 Despite having access to read and review Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, the 2013 Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook, and the EFS Guide Book, Respondent failed to timely notify the filing officer on the prescribed reporting date that no report would be filed for the 2015 M3 Report (ROI Exhibit 5)

13 "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 1<sup>st</sup> DCA 1995).

14. The facts set forth above show that Respondent is a candidate for the office of Mayor of the City of West Melbourne. During his campaign, Respondent failed to timely notify the filing officer on the prescribed reporting date that no report would be filed for the 2015 M3 Report.

Based upon these facts and circumstances, I recommend that the Commission find probable cause to charge Respondent with violating the following statutory provision:

#### Count 1:

On or about April 10, 2015, Respondent violated Section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes, when he 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 2015 M3 Report

Respectfully submitted on September  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{I}}^{\mathcal{H}}$ , 2015

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Jaakan A. Williams Assistant General Counsel

Hojday of September 2015. I reviewed this Staff Recommendation this Amy McKeever Toman

Executive Director

#### FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION PHONE LOG Case No.: FEC 15-344

Respondent: Richard J. Venerable

Complainant: Susan Frank

**Date and time:** July 9, 2015 @ 10:42 a.m.

Name: Complainant

**Phone #:** 321.837.7774

1

Summary: I telephoned Respondent's filing officer to determine (1) whether candidate filings are posted somewhere on the city's website; (2) whether Respondent is serving as his own campaign treasurer; and (3) whether anything—treasurer's report or waiver—has been filed for the 2015 M3 reporting period

Complainant, the municipal clerk for the City of West Melbourne, advised me that candidate filings are not posted on the city's website The filing officer advised me that a waiver for the M3 reporting period was filed on June 25, 2015; it was due on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

As for my question pertaining to the campaign's treasurer, the filing officer was unsure. After reviewing the candidate's file, she could only find a form for the appointment of a deputy treasurer—Respondent's wife, Tracy Venerable.

I asked the filing officer whether she would fax a copy of the waiver for the 2015 M3 reporting period to me. Complainant said that she would but she asked whether she could go ahead and fax copies of everything that was filed late, so I would not have to call her again. I told her that this would be okay **Memo to File?** No

Entered by: dbf

- Date and time: July 23, 2015 @ 3:25 pm
  Name: Respondent
  Phone #: (321) 213-3558
  Summary: I attempted telephone contact to make initial contact I left a message to return my call.
  Memo to File? No
  Entered by: CKO
- 3 Date and time: July 24, 2015 @ 2:50 pm
   Name: Respondent
   Phone #: (321) 213-3558
   Summary: I attempted telephone contact to inquire about allegations I left a message to return my call.
   Memo to File? No
   Entered by: CKO
- 4 **Date and time:** July 27, 2015 @ 11:00 am

# ATTACHMENT "A"

#### Name: Sue Frank—Filing Officer Phone #: (321) 837-7774

**Summary:** I had telephone contact to request additional information from her: DS-DE 9 form, filing history, acknowledgement letter, statement of candidate, 2015 M3 Report, and any other pertinent information for Respondent. Ms. Frank advised me that she would gather up all of this information and email it to my attention. She did explain that no acknowledgement letter was given to any of the candidates. She told me that she has a checklist that she has the candidates sign acknowledging receipt of required documents. I requested this checklist as well.

Memo to File? No Entered by: CKO

5 Date and time: July 27, 2015 @ 12:00 pm Name: Respondent

**Phone** #: (321) 213-3558

Summary: I had telephone contact to make initial contact Respondent advised me that he was a first-time candidate that "screwed up by relying on someone else to do my reporting for me I should've been going behind him but I was working out of state and I was rarely home That's my own fault and I take full responsibility" I inquired if he had read/printed Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, Calendar of Reporting Dates, and the Candidate and Campaign Ireasurer Handbook Respondent admitted that he had read each of these I inquired about report activity Respondent told me that his campaign did not spend any monies during the election campaign. He told me that the "automatic bank fees" that are withdrawn on the account are the only activity going on with the depository He told me that he would call me back with account number information for me to complete subpoena

Memo to File? No Entered by: CKO

6.

Date and time: July 27, 2015 @ 2:00 pm
Name: Respondent
Phone #: (321) 213-3558
Summary: I had voice message on my answering machine from Respondent. Respondent advised me that his depository is at TD Bank and the account number is I also obtained his email address: rikv08@aol.com
Memo to File? No
Entered by: CKO

7 Date and time: July 30, 2015 @ 2:15 pm
Name: Sue Frank—Filing Officer
Phone #: (321) 837-7774
Summary: I attempted telephone contact to verify some information I left a message to have my call returned
Memo to File? No
Entered by: CKO

#### FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

#### Report of Investigation for Failure to Notify Filing Officer

#### Case Number FEC 15-344

Section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes, failure of a candidate who 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

#### Respondent: Richard J Venerable

Complainant: Sue Frank

**Respondent Type:** 

🔀 Candidate

Political Committee

#### I. Preliminary Information:

1 An appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository (DS-DE 9) was filed on March 2, 2015 (Ex. 1)

2. An acknowledgement receipt was provided to Respondent on March 2, 2015 acknowledging that Respondent had received all of the Division's publications and reporting forms, including Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, the Candidate and *Campaign Treasurer Handbook*, and the Calendar of Reporting Dates (Ex. 2)

3. The Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook, discusses filing a waiver when there is no activity to disclose on page 47 (Ex 3)

4. Pages 12, 13, 44, and 45 of the *Candidate EFS User's Guide* discuss how to notify the Division on the prescribed reporting date that no report will be filed using the EFS. Specifically, page 13 instructs the user to click the box next to "waiver" if there is no activity to disclose (Ex. 4)

5 In a telephone interview on April 2, 2015, Kristi Reid-Bronson clarified that once the waiver box is chosen and a new report is opened as shown on Page 12, the only available option on the report summary screen will be "Go To File Report" as shown on Page 13. Choosing "Go To File Report" will take the user directly to the screens where the candidate/treasurer PINS are entered as shown on Pages 44 and 45

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

6 Respondent's filing history reflects the 2015 M3 Waiver-of-Report was filed on June 25, 2015. The information regarding the 2015 M3 waiver-of-report is summarized below. (Ex. 5)

Report	Report Cover Period	Date Notification Due	Date Notification Filed	No. of Days Late
2015 M3	3/1/15 - 3/31/15	4/10/15	6/25/15	76

7 Respondent did not provide a written response to the referral

8 Respondent was interviewed by telephone on July 27, 2015 in which he stated that he was a firsttime candidate that "screwed up by relying on someone else to do my reporting for me I should've been going behind him but I was working out of state and I was rarely home" Respondent advised me that his campaign did not spend any monies during the campaign, with the exception of bank fees that were automatically deducted

#### III. FEC History:

9 Respondent has not had any prior cases before the Commission.

**Conclusion:** 

10 Respondent stated during the telephone interview that he did read Chapter 106, Florida Statutes
and/or the Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook. Respondent signed his Statement of Candidate
form on March 2, 2015 (Ex. 6)
SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR: Date: 8315

#### FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION REPORT OF INVESTIGATION Richard J. Venerable -- FEC 15-344

	LIST OF EXHIBITS
Exhibits #s	Description of Exhibits
Exhibit 1	Respondent's DS-DE 9 form
Exhibit 2	Acknowledgement Receipt
Exhibit 3	Relevant pages from the Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook
Exhibit 4	Relevant pages from the Candidate EFS User's Guide
Exhibit 5	2015 M3 Waiver-of-Report
Exhibit 6	Statement of Candidate

APPOINTMENT OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER AND DESIGNATION OF CAMPAIGN DEPOSITORY FOR CANDIDATES (Section 106.021(1), F.S.) (PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)	an an tain an tain an tain an tain. An an tain an ta	
NOTE: This form must be on file with the qualifying officer before opening the campaign account.	OFFICE USE ON	NLY
1. CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX(ES):		
	Treasurer/Deputy 🔲 Depository 🔲 Office 🔲 Pa	arty
2 Name of Candidate (in this order: First, Middle, Last)	3. Address (include post office box or street, city, state, zip	
Richard J Venerable 4 Telephone 5 E-mail address	_ 255 Bry-Lynn Drive West Melbourne FL 32904	
(321)213-3558 RikVØ8@aol.com	Litor Melbourne :	
6. Office sought (include district, circuit, group number)	7 If a candidate for a <u>nonpartisan</u> office, check if applicable: My intent is to run as a Write-In candida	
8. If a candidate for a <u>partisan</u> office, check block and fil		
Write-In No Party Affiliation	Party candidate	
9. I have appointed the following person to act as my	Campaign Treasurer 🔀 Deputy Treasurer	
10. Name of Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer Tracy Venerable		
11. Mailing Address 250 Bry-Lynr, Drive	(32)) 480-5753	<u>) .</u>
13. City 14 County 15. Sta West Melbourne Brevard FL	- 32904 TBrisco 5120001.com	
18 I have designated the following bank as my	Primary Depository     Secondary Depository	
19 Name of Bank TD Bank	20 Address	
21. City 22. County	23. State 24. Zip Code	
	E FOREGOING FORM FOR APPOINTMENT OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER A Y AND THAT THE FACTS STATED IN IT ARE TRUE.	
25. Date	26 Signature of Candidate	
March 2, 2015	X China	
27. Treasurer's Acceptance of Appointment I, TYACY VENERABIE (Please Print or Type Name)	t (fill in the blanks and check the appropriate block) , do hereby accept the appointment	
(Please Print or Type Name)	,	
designated above as: Campaign Treasurer	Pr Deputy Treasurer	
March 2, 2015 X	Mary enerable	_
	Signature of Øampaign Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer	
DS-DE 9 (Rev. 10/10)	Rule 1S-2.0001, F.A	L.U.,
EXHIBIT		



#### 2016 Announced Candidate Information Checklist

candidate for the Office of

(Circle one of the following)

**City Council Member** 

acknowledge receipt of the following:

- 1. City of West Melbourne Election Information Handout
- 2. Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, on Campaign Financing
- 3. Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook
- 4. Reporting Dates for Campaign Treasurer Reports and copies of forms
- 5 City of West Melbourne Charter and Code of Ordinances relating to elections
- 6. Nominating Petition forms
- 7 City of West Melbourne Political Sign Regulations
- 8 Polling Place Activities on Election Day
- 9. Guide to the Sunshine Amendment and Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees

10 Voter Registration List for West Melbourne will be available from the City Clerk at the end of July 2016. Prior to July 2016, a copy may be obtained from the Brevard County Supervisor of Elections

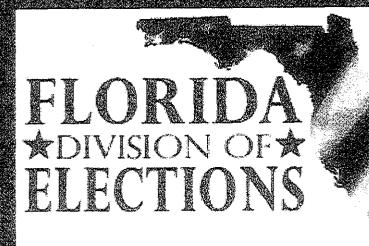
**3-3**-15 Date

Signature of Candidate

EXHIBIT

2/5/2015

Candidate & Campaign Treasurer Handbook



November 2013 Florida Department of State Division of Elections R. A. Gray Building, Room 316 500 South Bronough Street Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 (850) 245-6240

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This publication is available in alternate format upon request by contacting the Division of Elections at 850 245 6240.

EXHIBIT 3(50f6)

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 106.07, 106.0705 and 106.141, 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 106.07(2) and (8), F.S.)

#### Waiver of Report

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 indicate there is no activity by filing a waiver of report on the prescribed due date. (Waivers filed with the Division must be filed using the EFS.) The next report filed must specify that the report covers the entire period between the last submitted report and the report being filed.

(Section 106.07, 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 treasurer must file an addendum to the incomplete report within seven days of notification. The addendum must include all necessary information to complete the report.

(Section 106.07(2), F.S.)

#### Reporting Total Sums

Each campaign treasurer's report required by Chapter 106, F.S., shall contain the total sums of all loans, in-kind contributions, and other receipts by or for such candidate, and total sums of all expenditures made by such candidate during the reporting period. The

reporting forms shall be designed to elicit separate totals for in-kind contributions, loans, and other receipts

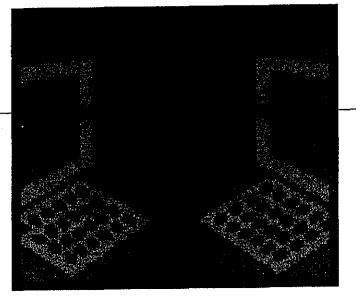
(Section 106.07, F.S.)

EXHIBIT 3(bof b

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Department of State Division of Elections

# Candidate EFS User's Guide



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

EFS HELP LINE: 850-245-6280

January 2011

EXHIBIT  $4(16f_6)$ 

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EXHIBIT 4 (2,76)

# Create a New Report by Data Entry

From the Welcome Screen, click

Filings

and then

Home	<b>E</b> Filings	Campaign Account	Sign Out	Help			
Welco Electio	TINK ST	**C	em (EFS) provid	ed by the Florida D	epartment of Sta	ite, Division of	
	s Recent reports crea	Reports ted from external syst		s provided by this s the electronic file :			
be des	cribed. Errors	hrough the online sys may be corrected thr nd uploaded for furthe	ough the electron		2014 a 1 1 2 4 4 6 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	12 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	

	ort are automatically as	isociated with the <i>Re</i>	e. The beginning a porting Year and a	Report Type	
Election Cycl	e: 2010 General Ele	ction			
Report Typ	F2 2010				
Coverage Perio	d: 7/17/2010	7/30/2010	Due Date: 🔯	0/06/2010	
30) sn	echi Election Report	C wa	ver	<u></u>	
No. 1 To State of a large of a la	aign Finance Report port file meeting the de	2월 26일 1월 2월 2일 2월	lions may be uploa	ided at the time a re	port is opened
A CZIDIDAIOG PIDZICA (91		report text or zip file			

Click arrow next to Election Cycle. Scroll to the cycle associated with the report you are entering

Click arrow next to Report Type and select the report type that corresponds to the appropriate cover period and due date.

The Cover Period dates will automatically fill in based on the Calendar of Election and Reporting Dates The end date can be changed for candidate termination reports.

12 **EXHIBIT** 

The Due Date will automatically fill in based on the Calendar of Election and Reporting Dates

#### \*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*

If this report is a waiver of report (no activity), click the 🖾 box next to Waiver.

	2 Martin Martin Martin		
Election Cycle:	2010 General Election		
Report Type:	5 F2 2010		
Service States and the service of	Provide Street S		provide state and the second state
Coverage Persod:	7/17/2010 7/30/201	e (Du	e Ozte: 08/06/2010
19月1日日 19月1日			
A State of the second	of the num (Rinstitute	C Wolver	

Click Open Report at the bottom of the screen. A **Report Detail** screen (view only) will appear This screen will not indicate any activity until individual detail data is entered, saved and a review is performed.

Report: 2010 - G4 - 27 2010	) General Electio		Covers: 10/1	5/2010-10/28/2010	Due: 10/29/2010
Americament 🔲 Waiv	er	Complete Status: In	complete Detail Records		
File Date:		Review Status: No	t Reviewed		
Status: Cala Entry		Last Review:	a Friday		
#ofTransactions: 0	Review	Recalculate	Ge To FileReport	Append File	e'Report Save
Contributions	Total Amount		Expenditures	Total Amount	
Cash and Checks:		0.00	Monetary:	0.00	
Loans:	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	0.00	Transfers to Off Acct:	0.00	
Total Monetary:		0,00	Total Monetary:	0.00	
In-Kind:		0,00	Other Distributions:	0.00	
Review Messages	·····				
Created: 10/2	6/2010 11:41:2	5 AM By: 50552	Revised:	10/25/2010 11:41:25 AM	By: 50552

EXHIBIT 4/4786

### **File the Report**

If the Review Status is Updated Detail - Needs Review the report has not been reviewed since the last update. (See page 38 for instructions on how to submit the report to the system for review.)

If the status of the
report is <u>Complete</u>
<u>Detail Records</u> , you
are ready to file the
report.

port: 2010 - F3 - 26 201	u General Election	Sec. Sec. Sec. Sec.	Covers: 8/7/2	110-0119/2010	Due: 8/20/2010
🗋 Demondment 🖉 Walv	e 🖓	Complete Status:	complete Detail Records		
e Date:		Review Status: R	eviewed		
Data Enbry	<u> </u>	Last Review; 8	/19/2010 3:56:42 PM_	<u>bio</u>	
and the second secon					
of Transactions: 1	Review	Recalculate	Go To File Report	Append File	Delete Report Save
Contributions	Total Amount	r i e e constante da la constante de la constante da la constante da la constante da la constante da la constan E constante da la constante da l	Expenditures	Total Amount	
Casin and Checks:	0	<u>00</u>	Monetarya		51.00
Loans	0	00	Transfers to Off Acct:	ov[_n=se_v_	0.00
Total Monetary:	<u> </u>	<u>00</u>	Total Monetary.		51.00
Qin-Kind:	.e[0	<u>oo</u>	Other Distributions:		0.00
Review					
restages					
Created: 8/19	/2010 2:01:35 PM	8v: 50557	2 Revised:	8/19/2010 3:56:	2 PM

Go To File Report Click on

The candidate enters his or her PIN, and then selects

Report Approved

NOTE: A PIN is the same	as your signature attesting to the <b>v</b>	validity of the report.	
tep 1: Enter the candidate	s∕chairperson PIN.		
tep 2: Select the 'Report .	Approved' button		
Report: 2010 - F3 - 26	Coverage Period: 8/7/2010-8/19	/2010 Due: 8/20/2010	
	n an an an an ann an ann an ann an ann an a		18 19 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18
Review Status:	Reviewed	Monorial C. Amer	nded
Review Status:	Re lawed	NOhiginal (⊘Amer iiVaiver	nded
	Reviewed	i	nded

EXHIBIT 4

If there is more than one treasurer, click on the drop down and select the treasurer that is filing the report

Campaign Treasurer: Tames Bond! File Report The treasurer enters his or her PIN and then clicks Due: 8/20/2010 Report: 2010 - F3 - 26 Coverage Period: 8/7/2010-8/19/2010 Review Status: Reviewed • Original & Amended Campaign Treasurer: Dames Bond 一切都會 PIN for specified Treasurer: To Edit Report Again Select Cancel: Cancel File Report

<u>IMPORTANT NOTE</u>: If changes need to be made <u>after</u> a candidate enters his PIN, the treasurer must <u>undo</u> the candidate's PIN validation before the system will allow changes. See page 48 for instructions.

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EXHIBIT 4 (bofb)

	VER C	Х 		
	VER C			
		<b>DF REPORT</b>	n an	JUN 25 15 AM 10:58
	(PLEAS	SE TYPE)	OFF	
·			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Richard Vener		-	West Melbourne Mayo	r ce Sought
	IN 3	ime		
255 Bry Lynn			West Melbourne FL 32	
	Add	ress	City	State Zip Cod
			Party Execut inications organization (ECO). An	ECO must file a report (not a
د الحد ، عرب سار ها ۲۶ ( احمد در محمد سویر وی الار است. در محمد می ا	ر و سرد کا المالیوارد میرود در روستار برای با الاقل اور	e contributions or expenditures s changed since last report	Check here if PC has DISI	BANDED and will no longer file
MONTHLY		[ PRIMARY ELECTION	ox and Complete Applicab	OTHER REPORT TYP
Indicate report # M_3	ŧ	Indicate report #	indicate report #	Indicate report type and # as applicable:
NOTIFI	CATION O	F NO ACTIVITY IN CAMPA	IGN ACCOUNT FOR THE RE	
0	3/01/2015	TH	ROUGH <u>03/31/2015</u>	
X		ter a transformation a	<u>li p</u>	A. L. Song
	international de la companya de la c	Signature	ан на община на община на селото на селото на селото селото на селото селото на селото селото селото селото се Селото селото	Date
X	n na ana ang sa	Signature		Date
QUIRED SIGNAT		Candidate and Campaig Political Committees: Chairman and Compaig Polity Executive Committe Treasurer and Chairma	n (s. 106 29(2) F.S.)	s 106 07(5) FS)
		lired report is waived. Howeve	n there has been no activity in the r the filing officer must be notified o report is being filed	

ę

OFFICE USE ONLY STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE (Section 106.023, F.S.) (Please print or type) 1. Richard J Venerable candidate for the office of MALIDY have been provided access to read and understand the requirements of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes. Х Marci Signature of Candidate Each candidate must file a statement with the qualifying officer within 10 days after the Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository is filed. Willful failure to file this form is a first degree misdemeanor and a civil violation of the Campaign Financing Act which may result in a fine of up to \$1,000, (ss. 106.19(1)(c), 106.265(1), Florida Statutes). DS-DE 84 (05/11) EXHIBIT



FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION 107 W. Gaines Street, Suite 224 Collins Building Iallahassee, Florida 32399-1050 Telephone: (850) 922-4539 Fax: (850) 921-0783

July 21, 2015

Richard J. Venerable 255 Bry-Lynn Drive West Melbourne, FL 32904

#### RE: Case No.: FEC 15-344; Respondent: Richard J. Venerable

Dear Mr Venerable:

On May 13, 2015, 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 violation:

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

• 2015 M3 (March 2-March 31)

You may respond to the allegation above by filing a notarized statement providing any information regarding the facts and circumstances surrounding the allegation. Your response will be included as an attachment to the investigator's report

When we conclude the investigation, a copy of the Report of Investigation will be mailed to you at the above address. You may file a response to the report within 14 days from the date the report is mailed to you. Based on the results of the investigation, legal staff will make a written recommendation to the Commission on whether there is probable cause to believe you have violated Chapter 104 or 106, Florida Statutes A copy of the Staff Recommendation will be mailed to you and you may file a response within 14 days from the date the recommendation is mailed to you. Your timely filed response(s) will be considered by the Commission when determining probable cause.

The Commission will then hold a hearing to determine whether there is probable cause to believe you have violated Chapters 104 or 106, Florida Statutes. You and the complainant will receive a

notice of hearing at least 14 days before the hearing. The notice of hearing will indicate the location, date, and time of your hearing. You will have the opportunity to make a brief oral statement to the Commission, but you will not be permitted to testify or call others to testify, or introduce any documentary or other evidence.

At any time before a probable cause finding, you may notify us in writing that you want to enter into negotiations directed towards reaching a settlement via consent agreement.

The Report of Investigation, Staff Recommendation, and Notice of Hearing will be mailed to the above address as this letter. Therefore, if your address changes, you must notify this office of your new address. Otherwise, you may not receive these important documents. Failure to receive the documents will not delay the probable cause hearing.

Under section 10625, Florida Statutes, complaints, Commission investigations, investigative reports, and other documents relating to an alleged violation of Chapters 104 and 106, Florida Statutes, are <u>confidential</u> until the Commission finds probable cause or no probable cause. The confidentiality provision does not apply to the person filing the complaint. However, it does apply to you unless you waive confidentiality in writing. The confidentiality provision does not preclude you from seeking legal counsel. However, if you retain counsel, your attorney must file a notice of appearance with the Commission before any member of the Commission staff can discuss this case with him or her.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Cedric Oliver, the investigator assigned to this case.

Sincerely,

Amy McKeever Toman Executive Director

AMT/enr

STATE OF FLORII FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMM 107 West Gaines Street, Suite 224, Tallahassee, F Telephone Number: (850) 922-4539 www.fec.state.fl.us CONFIDENTIAL COMPLAIN	ISSION Plorida 32399-1050 RECEIVED 2015 MAY 13 P 12:51 T FORM
The Commission's records and proceedings in a case are confidential a cause. A copy of the complaint will be provided to the person again	intil the Commission rules on probable in USSION
1. PERSON BRINGING COMPLAINT:	
Name: Sue Frank, City Clerk	Work Phone: (321) 837-7774
Address: 2240 Minton Road	Home Phone: ()
City: West Melbourne County: Brevard State: FL	Zip Code: 32904
2. <u>PERSON AGAINST WHOM COMPLAINT IS BROUG</u> A person can be an individual, political committee, committee of electioneering communication organization, club, corporation, parts other type of organization. (If you intend to name more than one in complaints.) Name of individual or entity: <u>Richard J. Venerable</u>	continuous existence, political party, nership, company, association, or any
	Phone: (321)213-3558
Address:       255 Bry-Lynn Drive         City:       West Melbourne       County:       Brevard       State:       FL	Zip Code: 32904
If individual is a candidate, list the office or position sought: Ma	yor of West Melbourne
<ul> <li>Have you filed this complaint with the State Attorney's Office?</li> <li>3. <u>ALLEGED VIOLATION(S)</u>: Please list the provisions of The Florida Election Code that you believe violated. The Commission has jurisdiction only to investigation the Chapter 106, and Section 105.071, Florida Statutes. Also, please in</li> </ul>	(check one) Yes No eve the person named above may have following provisions: Chapter 104,
<ul> <li>The facts and actions that you believe support the violation</li> <li>The names and telephone numbers of persons you believed</li> <li>A copy or picture of the political advertisements you ment</li> <li>A copy of the documents you mention in your statement,</li> <li>Other evidence that supports your allegations.</li> </ul>	e may be witnesses to the facts, tion in your statement,
Pursuant to Florida Statutes 106.07(8)(d) Mr. Venerable has no	t submitted a Campaign Finance
contribution/expenditure report, or a Waiver of Report for the	period covering March 2, 2015
(date of DS-DE 9 form) through March 31, 2015. On April 15,	
period to see if the report was sent by U.S. P.S. and postmark	
letter to Mr. Venerable informing him that I had not receiv	
April 24, 2015 I mailed a certified/return receipt letter to I	

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1

that I still had not received the report and informing him that I must receive the report

-

within three days from receipt of the certified letter. The certified letter notification was received in my office on April 29, 2015 showing the letter was signed for on April 27, 2015. On May 4, 2015 at 12:14 p.m. I spoke to Mr. Venerable on the phone explaining I had not received his report. He stated he had been out of town but thought the report had been submitted. He would check and get back in touch with me. Today is May 7, 2015 at 2:51 p.m. and Mr. Venerable has not spoken to me or submitted his report that was

due on April 10, 2015.

Additional materials attached (check one)? Ves

#### 4. <u>OATH</u>

STATE OF FLORIDA COUNTY OF Brevard

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

	Sug Frank
to S	Original Signature of Person Bringing Complaint
	Sworn to and subscribed before me this 7th day of May , 20 15
	Musure D. Penneng ter
	 Signature of Officer Authorized to Administer Ooths or Notary public CHRISTINE D PENNINGTON Commission # EE 077356 Expires June 25, 2015 Booded Thru Troy Fain Insurance 500-355-7019
	(Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public) Personally known X Or Produced Identification
	Type of Identification Produced

Any person who files a complaint while knowing that the allegations are false or without merit commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in Sections 775.082 and 775.083, Florida Statutes. MAYOR Hal J. Rose

DEPUIY MAYOR Bill Mettrick

COUNCIL MEMBERS Pat Bentley Stephany Eley Barbara A Smith John "Coach" Tice Andrea Young



City Council/Clerk Department Sue Frank, City Clerk CITY HALL 2240 Minton Road West Melbourne, FL 32904 Phone: (321) 837-7774 Fax: (321) 768-2390 www.westmelbourne.org

April 15, 2015

Mr. Richard J Venerable 255 Bry-Lynn Drive West Melbourne, FL 32904

Dear Mr. Venerable:

Your campaign treasurer's report, which was due on April 10, 2015, covering the period running from March 2, 2015 through March 31, 2015 has not been received. This report needs to be submitted immediately.

Section 106.07(8)(b), *Florida Statutes*, provides for a fine of \$50 per day for the first three days a report is late and, thereafter \$500 per day, although a fine cannot exceed 25% of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater, for the period covered by the late report. Please note that for the report immediately preceding the 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. For 90 day termination reports, the fine is \$50 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. For 90 day termination reports, the fine is \$50 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.

The statute also allows for appeal of the fine. The statute states:

"Any candidate or chair of a political committee may appeal or dispute the fine, based upon, but not limited to, unusual circumstances surrounding the failure to file on the designated due date, and may request and shall be entitled to a hearing before the Florida Elections Commission, which shall have the authority to waive the fine in whole or in part. The Florida Elections Commission must consider the mitigating and aggravating circumstances contained in s. 106.265(1) when determining the amount of a fine, if any, to be waived. Any such request shall be made within 20 days after receipt of the notice of payment due. In such case, the candidate or chair of the political committee shall, within the 20-day period, notify the filing officer in writing of his or her intention to bring the matter before the commission."

Once your report has been received, fees may be assessed as per Section 106.07(8)(b), *Florida Statutes*. All fines must be paid from the candidate's personal funds.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 321-837-7774.

Sincerely,

Sue Frank

Sue Frank, CMC City Clerk

MAYOR Hal J Rose

DEPUTY MAYOR Bill Mettrick

COUNCIL MEMBERS Pat Bentley Stephany Eley Barbara A. Smith John "Coach" Tice Andrea Young



City Council/Clerk Department Sue Frank, City Clerk CITY HALL 2240 Minton Road West Melbourne, FL 32904 Phone: (321) 837-7774 Fax: (321) 768-2390 www.westmelbourne.org

April 24, 2015

Mr. Richard J. Venerable 255 Bry-Lynn Drive West Melbourne, FL 32904

#### CERTIFIED/RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Dear Mr. Venerable:

On April 15, 2015 I had sent you notice that the campaign treasurer's report, which was due on April 10, 2015, covering the period running from March 2, 2015 through March 31, 2015 had not been received. As of today, this report still has not been received. Your report is required to be filed within three (3) days from receipt of this letter.

Section 106.07(8)(b), *Florida Statutes*, provides for a fine of \$50 per day for the first three days a report is late and, thereafter \$500 per day, although a fine cannot exceed 25% of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater, for the period covered by the late report. Please note that for the report immediately preceding the 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. For 90 day termination reports, the fine is \$50 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. For 90 day termination reports, the fine is \$50 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.

The statute also allows for appeal of the fine. The statute states:

"Any candidate or chair of a political committee may appeal or dispute the fine, based upon, but not limited to, unusual circumstances surrounding the failure to file on the designated due date, and may request and shall be entitled to a hearing before the Florida Elections Commission, which shall have the authority to waive the fine in whole or in part. The Florida Elections Commission must consider the mitigating and aggravating circumstances contained in s. 106.265(1) when determining the amount of a fine, if any, to be waived. Any such request shall be made within 20 days after receipt of the notice of payment due. In such case, the candidate or chair of the political committee shall, within the 20-day period, notify the filing officer in writing of his or her intention to bring the matter before the commission."

Once your report has been received, this office will notify you of the specific amount of your fine. All fines must be paid from the candidate's personal funds.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 321-837-7774.

Sincerely,

Sue Fron/

Sue Frank, CMC City Clerk

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DE	LIVERY
<ul> <li>Complete Items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete Item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.</li> <li>Print your name and address on the reverse</li> </ul>	A. Signature	
<ul> <li>so that we can return the card to you.</li> <li>Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.</li> </ul>	B. Received by (Printed Name)	C. Date of Deliver
Article Addressed to: Mr. Richard J. Venerable	D. Is delivery address different from item 12	
West Melbourne, FL 32904	Service Type     Certified Mail®      Priority Mail Express®     Registered     Return Receipt for Merchandl     Insured Mail     Collect on Delivery	
	4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee)	🗆 Yes
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