STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

In Re: Florida Democratic Women's Caucus
Political Committee

TO: Tiffany N. Barnes, Chair
287 Revell Road
Crawfordville, FL 32327-2327

Case No.: FEC 19-166

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

NOTICE OF HEARING (INFORMAL HEARING)

A hearing will be held in this case before the Florida Elections Commission on August 26, 2020 at 8:30 am, EST, or as soon thereafter as the parties can be heard.

Please note that because of COVID-19, this will be a virtual meeting conducted by remote video or teleconference. Enclosed you will find additional details on joining the video conference via GoToWebinar, 9-Digit Meeting ID 602-468-659, or via teleconference by dialing (866) 901-6455 and entering the meeting access code 515-462-864, when prompted. If you wish to speak before the Commission, you will need to appear by webcam and will be sworn in remotely. Please be advised that the Commission will consider multiple cases, so you will need to wait until your case is considered. If you have any questions, please contact Commission staff at (850) 922-4539.

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 motions to dismiss 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 motions to dismiss 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. 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.

Tim Vaccaro

Executive Director Florida Elections Commission August 13, 2020 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 **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.



Florida Elections Commission

107 West Gaines Street, Suite 224 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1050 Telephone: (850) 922-4539 · Facsimile: (850) 921-0783 FEC@mvfloridalegal.com · www.fec.state.fl.us



Commission Meeting August 26, 2020at 8:30AM via GoToWebinar and OpenVoice

In order to participate in the public portion of the August 26, 2020, Florida Elections Commission meeting, please follow the instructions below:

- A. GoToWebinar Remote Video Conferencing
 - 1. Open your web browser and search GoToWebinar or enter www.gotowebinar.com
 - 2. Select Join A Webinar in the upper right corner of the website
 - 3. Enter the 9-digit Webinar ID: 602-468-659 And your email address
 - 4. Register your name and email address
 - 5. You will automatically join to the meeting as an attendee. Attendees are muted and can choose to their webcam.
- B. OpenVoice Teleconference
 - 1. Call 1-866-901-6455
 - 2. Enter Audio Access Code 515-462-864
 - 3. You will automatically join the meeting as an attendee. Attendees are muted.

While this is a public meeting and advanced registration is not mandatory, we ask that if you plan to attend via Video Conference or Teleconference, that you notify our office in advance. This will give the Commission the opportunity to organize the agenda as efficiently as possible. It will be the goal of the Commission to hear cases in which parties are present, first, in order to reduce the standby time of the parties in attendance.

You can call or email our office of your intent to participate or of any questions you may have regarding this meeting. Please provide the case number(s) when contacting our office.

Thank you,

Commission Staff

STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

In Re:	Florida Democratic Women's Caucus Political Committee		Case No.: FEC 19-166	
		/		
TO:	Tiffany N. Barnes, Chair		Division of Elections	
	287 Revell Road		500 S Bronough Street, Room 316	
	Crawfordville, FL 32327-2327		Tallahassee, FL 32399	

NOTICE OF HEARING (INFORMAL HEARING)

A hearing will be held in this case before the Florida Elections Commission on August 26, 2020 at 8:30 am, EST, or as soon thereafter as the parties can be heard.

Please note that because of COVID-19, this will be a virtual meeting conducted by remote video conference only. Prior to the meeting, the Commission office will send you a set of participant instructions, which will include login information for the meeting. Please be advised that the Commission will consider multiple cases that day, so you will need to wait until your case is considered. If you have questions, please contact Commission staff at (850) 922-4539.

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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 motions to dismiss 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.

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See further instructions on the reverse side.

Tim Vaccaro

Executive Director Florida Elections Commission July 28, 2020 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 **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.

STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

In Re: Florida Democratic Women's Caucus Case No.: FEC 19-166

Political Committee

TO: Tiffany N. Barnes, Chair Division of Elections
287 Revell Road 500 S. Bronough Street, Boom 31

28/ Revell Road
Crawfordville, FL 32327-2327

500 S Bronough Street, Room 316
Tallahassee, FL 32399

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF HEARING (INFORMAL HEARING)

You are hereby notified that the previously scheduled **hearing for March 24-25, 2020 is cancelled**. It is anticipated that your case will be heard at the next regularly scheduled meeting, which is currently set for May 2020. A Notice of Hearing will be mailed approximately 14 days prior to the hearing date indicating the exact date, time, and location.

Tim Vaccaro

Executive Director Florida Elections Commission March 12, 2020

STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

In Re: Florida Democratic Women's Caucus Case No.: FEC 19-166
Political Committee

TO: Tiffany N. Barnes, Chair

287 Revell Road Crawfordville, FL 32327-2327 Division of Elections 500 S Bronough Street, Room 316 Tallahassee, FL 32399

NOTICE OF HEARING (INFORMAL HEARING)

A hearing will be held in this case before the Florida Elections Commission on, March 24, 2020 at 1:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the parties can be heard, at the following location: House Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Room 28-H, Tallahassee, Florida 32399. Due to heightened security access requirements, please bring only essential items into the building and plan to arrive early to allow for delays coming through security.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

See further instructions on the reverse side.

Tim Vaccaro

Executive Director Florida Elections Commission March 9, 2019 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.

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STATE OF FLORIDA BLECTIONS COMMISSION

STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

Florida Elections Commission, Petitioner,

Case No.: FEC 19-166

v.

Florida Democratic Women's Caucus Political Committee,

Respondent.

ORDER OF PROBABLE CAUSE

THIS MATTER was heard by the Florida Elections Commission (Commission) at its regularly scheduled meeting on November 19, 2019, in Tallahassee, Florida.

On September 10, 2019, Staff recommended to the Commission that there was probable cause to believe that the Florida Election Code was violated. The facts articulated in Staff's Recommendation are adopted by reference and incorporated herein. Based on the Complaint, Report of Investigation, Staff's Recommendation, and oral statements (if any) made at the probable cause hearing, the Commission finds that there is **probable cause** to charge Respondent with the following violation(s):

Count 1:

On or about January 10, 2019, Florida Democratic Women's Caucus Political Committee violated Section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes, when it failed to notify the filing officer in writing on the prescribed reporting date that it would not be filing its 2018 M12 Report.

The Commission finds that there is **no probable cause** to charge Respondent with violating Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes.

DONE AND ORDERED by the Florida Elections Commission on November 19, 2019.

Joni Alexis Poitier, Vice Chair Florida/Elections Commission

Copies furnished to:

Michael T. McGuckin, Assistant General Counsel Florida Democratic Women's Caucus Political Committee, Respondent Division of Elections, Complainant

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO A HEARING

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

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

Third, you may request a <u>formal hearing</u> held before an administrative law judge in the Division of Administrative Hearings (DOAH), if you dispute any material fact in the Staff Recommendation. You have 30 days from the date the Order of Probable Cause is filed with the Commission to request such a hearing. The date this order was filed appears in the upper right-hand 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: Florida Democratic Women's Caucus Political Committee

Political Committee

TO: Florida Democratic Women's Caucus Political

Committee

Tiffany N. Barnes, Chair

287 Revell Road

Crawfordville, FL 32327-2327

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

Case No.: FEC 19-166

NOTICE OF HEARING (PROBABLE CAUSE DETERMINATION)

A hearing will be held in this case before the Florida Elections Commission on, **November 19, 2019 at 9:00 am,** *or as soon thereafter as the parties can be heard*, at the following location: **Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Room 110-S, Tallahassee, Florida 32399.** Due to heightened security access requirements, please bring only essential items into the building and plan to arrive early to allow for delays coming through security.

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

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

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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.

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Tim Vaccaro

Executive Director Florida Elections Commission November 1, 2019 Please refer to the information below for further instructions related to your particular hearing:

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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:	Florida Democratic Women's	Case No.:	FEC 19-166
	Caucus Political Committee		

STAFF RECOMMENDATION FOLLOWING INVESTIGATION

Pursuant to Section 106.25(4)(c), Florida Statutes, undersigned staff counsel files this written recommendation for disposition of the referral in this case recommending that there is **probable cause** to charge Respondent with violating **Section 106.07(7)**, Florida Statutes, and that there is **no probable cause** to charge Respondent with violating **Section 106.19(1)(c)**, Florida Statutes. Based upon a thorough review of the Report of Investigation submitted on August 19, 2019, the following facts and law support this staff recommendation:

- 1. On March 21, 2019, the Florida Elections Commission ("Commission") received a referral from the Department of State, Division of Elections ("Division"), alleging that Florida Democratic Women's Caucus Political Committee ("Respondent") violated Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.
 - 2. Respondent is a political committee registered with the Division. (ROI Exhibit 2)¹
- 3. By letter dated June 5, 2019, the Executive Director notified Respondent that Commission staff would investigate the following statutory provisions:

Section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes: As alleged in the complaint, Respondent, a political committee registered with the Division of Elections, 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 2018 M12 reporting period.

Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes: As alleged in the complaint, Respondent, a political committee registered with the Division of Elections, may have falsely reported or deliberately failed to include information required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, when it failed to file a report on the prescribed reporting date for the 2018 M12 reporting period.

4. By letter dated January 10, 2018, Kristi Reid Willis, Chief, Bureau of Election Records, sent Respondent a letter acknowledging that the Division had received its Statement of

¹ The Report of Investigation is referred to herein as "ROI."

Organization and Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Political Committees forms. (ROI Exhibit 3, page 1)

- 5. The acknowledgment letter advised Respondent that all political committees filing reports with the Division are required to use the electronic filing system ("EFS"), and provided Respondent with a user identification number and initial password to grant access to the EFS. (ROI Exhibit 3, page 1) The letter further advised Respondent that all of the Division's publications and reporting forms were available on its website and directed Respondent to print out the *Calendar of Reporting Dates* as well as other relevant documents. (ROI Exhibit 3, page 2)
- 6. Respondent's 2018 M12 Report was due to be filed by January 10, 2019; however, Respondent failed to timely file the report or notify the filing officer that no report would be filed. (ROI Exhibit 8, page 1) By letters dated January 11, 2019, January 23, 2019, and March 1, 2019, the Division notified Respondent that its 2018 M12 Report had not been received. The letters also notified Respondent that it was still required to notify the Division if the committee had no reportable financial activity. (ROI Exhibits 4 & 5) The March 1, 2019 letter was confirmed delivered. (ROI Exhibit 5, page 2)
- 7. A subpoena was issued to Respondent's designated campaign depository to ascertain whether any financial activity occurred during the relevant reporting period, i.e., December 1, 2018 December 31, 2018. Respondent's bank records do not show any reportable financial activity during the relevant reporting period. (ROI Exhibit 6)
- 8. Tiffany N. Barnes, chairperson and treasurer for Respondent, stated that she did not submit a notice of no activity for the relevant reporting period as it was around the time her grandfather passed away. She also stated that all notices have now been filed with the Division. (ROI, pp. 2-3, ¶15)
- 9. As it appears that Respondent had no financial activity, Respondent was required to notify the filing officer in writing that it would not be filing its 2018 M12 Report on the prescribed reporting date, but failed to do so. Therewith, it does not appear that Respondent falsely reported or deliberately failed to include information in its 2018 M12 Report as the report was waived due to a lack of reportable financial activity.
- 10. As of August 15, 2019, Respondent had not filed the report or submitted a notice of no activity. (ROI Exhibit 8, page 1)
- 11. "Probable Cause" is defined as reasonable grounds of suspicion supported by circumstances sufficiently strong to warrant a cautious person in the belief that the person has committed the offense charged. Schmitt v. State, 590 So. 2d 404, 409 (Fla. 1991). Probable cause exists where the facts and circumstances, of which an [investigator] has reasonably trustworthy information, are sufficient in themselves for a reasonable man to reach the conclusion that an offense has been committed. Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles v. Favino, 667 So. 2d 305, 309 (Fla. 1st DCA 1995).

12. The facts set forth above show that Respondent is a political committee registered with the Division. Respondent failed to timely file its 2018 M12 Report or notify the filing officer that no report would be filed. It appears that Respondent had no financial activity during the relevant reporting period, and therefore, was required to notify the filing officer in writing that it would not be filing the committee's 2018 M12 Report on the prescribed reporting date, but failed to do so. Therewith, it does not appear that Respondent falsely reported or deliberately failed to include information in its 2018 M12 Report as the report was waived due to a lack of reportable financial activity.

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

Count 1:

On or about January 10, 2019, Florida Democratic Women's Caucus Political Committee violated Section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes, when it failed to notify the filing officer in writing on the prescribed reporting date that it would not be filing its 2018 M12 Report.

Respectfully submitted on September 10, 2019.

Stephanie J. Cuhningham Assistant General Counsel

I reviewed this Staff Recommendation this 10 day of September 2019.

Tim Vaccaro

Executive Director

FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION REPORT OF INVESTIGATION Case No.: FEC 19-166

Respondent: Florida Democratic Women's Caucus Political Committee

Complainant: Division of Elections

Pursuant to Section 106.25, Florida Statutes, on March 21, 2019, the Florida Elections Commission (Commission) received information from the Division of Elections (Division) that Respondent violated Chapter 106, Florida Statutes. Commission staff, therefore, investigated whether Respondent violated the following statutes:

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

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

I. Preliminary Information:

- 1. Respondent, Florida Democratic Women's Caucus Political Committee, is a political committee registered with the Division. Tiffany N. Barnes is the chairperson and treasurer.
 - 2. Complainant is the Division.
 - 3. Respondent's filing officer is Kristi Reid Willis, Chief, Bureau of Election Records.
- 4. On January 8, 2018, Respondent's Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Political Committees form (DS-DE 6) was filed with the Division. Tiffany N. Barnes was appointed as chairperson and treasurer. To review the DS-DE 6 form, refer to Exhibit 1.
- 5. On January 4, 2018, Respondent's Statement of Organization of Political Committee form (DS-DE 5) was filed with the Division. Respondent's area, scope and jurisdiction are listed as, "Statewide political committee to support or oppose candidates for statewide, multicity, legislative, county, and municipal offices, and other activities not prohibited by Chapter 106 FS." To review the DS-DE 5 form, refer to Exhibit 2.
 - 6. On January 10, 2018, Ms. Willis sent Respondent's chairperson a letter

acknowledging that Respondent's name had been placed on the active committee list. The letter advised Respondent's chairperson that all committees filing reports with the Division are required to file by means of the Division's electronic filing system (EFS). Respondent's chairperson was provided with a user identification number and initial password allowing her access to the EFS.

- 7. The letter also advised Respondent's chairperson that all of the Division's publications and reporting forms are available on their website, including Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, the *Political Committee Handbook*, and the Calendar of Reporting Dates. The letter further advised Respondent's chairperson that it was her responsibility to read, understand, and follow the requirements of Florida's elections laws. To review the acknowledgement letter, refer to Exhibit 3.
- 8. On January 11 and January 23, 2019, the Division sent Respondent's chairperson letters stating she had not filed either a campaign report or notification that no reportable activity occurred and reminded her that the filing date was January 10, 2019. The letters were mailed to the address listed on the DS-DE 5 and DS-DE 6 forms. To review the letters dated January 11 and January 23, 2019, refer to Exhibit 4.
- 9. On March 1, 2019, the Division sent Respondent's chairperson a letter marked "Final Notice" stating that the 2018 M12 campaign report, or the required notification that no reportable activity occurred, had not been filed. The letter was mailed to the address listed on the DS-DE 5 and DS-DE 6 forms and was delivered on March 2, 2019. To review the letter marked Final Notice as well as delivery confirmation for each letter, refer to Exhibit 5.
- 10. On March 21, 2019, the Commission received a referral from the Division alleging that Respondent failed to report campaign activity during the 2018 M12 reporting period, or in the alternative, failed to notify the filing officer that no report would be filed. The allegations will be discussed in the paragraphs that follow.

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

- 11. I investigated whether Respondent violated this section of the election laws by not notifying the filing officer, in writing, with a notification-of-no-activity that no report would be filed due to not receiving any contributions or making any expenditures during the 2018 M12 reporting period.
- 12. I subpoenaed Respondent's campaign account records from the designated campaign depository, BB&T Bank. The monthly bank statement for December 2018 disclosed no financial activity during the month. To review the January bank statement, refer to Exhibit 6.
- 13. Based on information from the bank statement, it appears that Respondent was required to notify the filing officer, in writing, with a notification-of-no-activity for the 2018 M12 reporting period.
 - 14. Respondent's chairperson did not respond to the referral.
- 15. In a telephone interview on August 15, 2019, Ms. Barnes was asked why a notification-of-no-activity was not filed during the reporting period. She said that it was around

the time of when her grandfather passed away. Ms. Barnes added that all reports have now been filed with the Division.

- 16. In an e-mail dated August 15, 2019, Ms. Willis stated that nothing has been filed for the 2018 M12 reporting period. To review the e-mail from Ms. Willis, refer to Exhibit 7.
- 17. According to Respondent's filing history, a notification-of-no-activity was filed for 11 reporting periods prior to the 2018 M12 reporting period. To review Respondent's filing history, refer to Exhibit 8.
- 18. No record was found to indicate that Respondent has previously violated this section of the election laws.

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

- 19. I investigated whether Respondent violated this section of the election laws by not reporting campaign activity during the 2018 M12 reporting period.
- 20. To review the circumstances regarding Respondent's campaign activity, please refer to paragraphs 12 and 13.
- 21. No record was found to indicate that Respondent has previously violated this section of the election laws.

IV. FEC History:

22. Respondent has no prior history with the Florida Elections Commission.

Conclusion:

- 23. On August 15, 2019, I interviewed Respondent's chairperson by telephone for the purpose of providing her with a brief overview of the case and to afford her an opportunity for any questions or comments. Ms. Barnes said that she had nothing to add to the case at this time but added that she is in the process of taking steps to disband the political committee.
- 24. In addition to serving as chairperson and treasurer for Respondent, Ms. Barnes also served as the chairperson and treasurer for The Big Blue Tent, a political committee registered with the Division. Further, Respondent was a 2016 candidate for the Wakulla County Commission, District 3; she was defeated.

Respectfully submitted on August 19, 2019.

Keith Smith

Investigation Specialist

Current address of Respondent	Current address of Complainant
Florida Democratic Women's Caucus PC 287 Revell Road Crawfordville, Florida 32327	Division of Elections 500 South Bronough Street – Room 316 Tallahassee, Florida 32399
Name and Address of Filing Officer:	Chair of Committee
Kristi Reid Willis, Chief Bureau of Election Records 500 South Bronough Street – Room 316 Tallahassee, Florida 32399	Tiffany N. Barnes, Chairperson Florida Democratic Women's Caucus PC 287 Revell Road Crawfordville, Florida 32327

Copy furnished to: David Flagg, Investigations Manager

FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Florida Democratic Women's Caucus PC -- FEC 19-166

# ## # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # #	LIST OF EXHIBITS			
Exhibits #s	Description of Exhibits			
Exhibit 1	DS-DE 6			
Exhibit 2	DS-DE 5			
Exhibit 3	Ack ltr			
Exhibit 4	01/11/19 & 01/23/19 ltrs			
Exhibit 5	Final Notice ltr/delivery confirmation			
Exhibit 6	Bank statement			
Exhibit 7	E-mail from Kristi @ Division			
Exhibit 8	Filing history			

APPOINTMENT OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER AND DESIGNATION OF CAMPAIGN **DEPOSITORY FOR POLITICAL COMMITTEES**

(Sections 106.011(1) and 106.021(1), F.S.)

BE HIVED 18 JAN -8 PM 12: 04 DIVISION OF STATE

Original Appointment of Treasurer Reappointment of Treasurer Committee or Organization Florida Democratic Women's Caucus Political Committee 3. Name of Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer 4. Email (optional) 5. Telephone (904) 327-4309 3. Name of Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer 4. Email (optional) 5. Telephone (optional) (<u>.</u>			
1. Committee or Organization Florida Democratic Women's Caucus Political Committee (904) 327-4309 3. Name of Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer 4. Email (optional) 5. Telephone (optional) (1) Tiffany N. Barnes 6. Mailing Address P.O. Box 1656, Crawfordville, FL 32326 7. Street Address 287 Revell Rd., Crawfordville, FL 32327 8. The following bank has been designated as the Primary Depository Secondary Depository 9. Name of Bank BB&T 10. Street Address 11. City 12. State FL 32301-1529 14. Signature of Chairman Tiffany N. Barnes Campaign Treasurer's Acceptance of Appointment Tiffany N. Barnes Campaign Treasurer's Acceptance of Appointment Treasurer or deputy treasurer for Florida Democratic Women's Caucus (Committee or Organization) UNDER PENALTIES OF PERJURY, I DECLARE THAT I HAVE READ THE FOREGOING CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S ACCEPTANCE OF APPOINTMENT AND THAT THE FACTS STATED ARE TRUE. 1	CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX:	water water water or well and the contraction of th		OFFICE USE ONLY
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		Lefter	M. Bain	<u></u>
	Date DS-DE 6 (Rev. 7/10)	Signature of Campa	ign Treasurer or	Deputy Treasurer :

STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATION OF POLITICAL COMMITTEE

(PLEASE TYPE)

ROFFICE USE ONLY

2018 JAN -4 AM 10: 46

UIVISION OF ELECTIONS

1. Full Name of Committee	······································	 		Telephone	
Florida Democratic Wome	en's Caucus Political Cor	mmittee		9043274309	
Mailing Address (include cit P.O. Box 1656 Crawfordville, FL 32326	y, state and zip code)	-		<u> </u>	
Street Address (include city, 287 Revell Rd. Crawfordville, FL 32327	state and zip code)			·	
Affiliated or Connected Or committees)	ganizations (includes othe	r committees of co	ntinuous ex	distence and political	
Name of Affiliated or Connected Organization	Mai	ling Address	,	Relationship	
Florida Democratic Wome Caucus		P.O. Box 1656 Crawfordville, FL 32326		Founder	
3. Area, Scope and Jurisdicti		istative, county, and municipal o	offices, and other a	ctivities not prohibited by Chapter 100 F.S	
4. Nature of Organization or Political	Organization's Special Inte	rest (e.g., medical,	legal, educ	ation, etc.)	
5. Identify by Name, Address	and Position, the Custodia	an of Books and Ad	counts (inc	clude treasurer's name)	
Full Name	Mailing Add	ress	Com	mittee Title or Position	
Tiffany N. Barnes	P.O. Box 1656 Crawfordville, FL 32326			Treasurer	
			-	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	EXHIBIT 2	(1 & 2)			

6. List by Name, Address Finance Committee, If A	and Position, Other Principal Any (include chairman's name	Officers, including Officers	and Members of the
Full Name	Mailing Add	ress C	ommittee Title or Position
Tiffany N. Barnes	P.O. Box 1656 Crawfordville, FL 32326	(- · · ·	woman
	d .		· .
List by Name, Address, Committee is Supporting	Office Sought and Party Affiling (if none, please indicate)	ation Each Candidate or O	ther Individual that this
. Full Name	Mailing Address	Office Sought	Party
To be Determined		,	
8. List Any Issues this Co	mmittee is Supporting: To be	determined	
List Any Issues this Co	mmittee is Onnesina:	determined	
9. If this Committee is Sup NONE	pporting the Entire Ticket of a	Party, Give Name of Party	
	ition, What Disposition will be ner committees as		
11. List all Banks, Safety I	Deposit Boxes, or Other Depo	sitories Used for Committe	e Funds
Name of Bank or Dep	ository & Account Number	Mailin	g Address
BB&T		123 S. Monroe St Tallahassee, FL 32301-1529	
	,		·
12. List all Reports Require and Positions of Such	ed to be Filed by this Commit Officials, If Any	tee with Federal Officials a	nd the Names, Addresses
Report Title	Dates Required to be Filed	Name & Position of Officia	Mailing Address
Form 8871 Form 1120 POL Form 990 as may be required	Upon Formation March 15th annually May 15th annually	Internal Revenue Service	Ogden, UT 84201
STATE OF Florida		Wakulla	COUNTY
Tiffany N. Barnes , certify that the information in this Statement of			
Organization is complete, true and correct			
X Sephan A. Barnes 1-2-18			
Signature of C	hairman of Political Committee	(202)	Date

DS-DE 5 (Rev. 06/11) - Rule 1S-2.017

page 2



RICK SCOTT Governor KEN DETZNER Secretary of State

January 10, 2018

Tiffany N. Barnes, Chairperson
Florida Democratic Women's Caucus Political Committee
Post Office Box 1656
Crawfordville, Florida 32326

Dear Ms. Barnes:

This will acknowledge receipt of the Statement of Organization and Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Florida Democratic Women's Caucus Political Committee, which were placed on file in our office on January 8, 2018 This information appears to comply with the requirements of Section 106.03, Florida Statutes, and the name of this organization has been placed on our active committee list as a political committee.

Campaign Treasurer's Reports

Your first campaign treasurer's report will be due on <u>February 12, 2018</u>. The report will cover the period of January 1-31, 2018 (M1). All political committees that file reports with the Division of Elections are required to file by means of the Division's Electronic Filing System (EFS).

EFS Access

Below is the web address to access the EFS and the committee's user identification number. The enclosed sealed envelope contains the committee's filing credentials.

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

Identification Number: 70281

Timely Filing

All reports must be completed and filed through the EFS not later than midnight, Eastern Standard Time, of the due date. Reports not filed by midnight, Eastern Standard Time, of the due date are late filed and subject to the penalties in Section 106.07(8), Florida Statutes. In the event that the





Tiffany N. Barnes, Chairperson January 10, 2018 Page Two

EFS is inoperable on the due date, the report will be accepted as timely filed if filed no later than midnight, Eastern Standard Time, of the first business day the EFS becomes operable. No fine will be levied during the period the EFS was inoperable.

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

Electronic Receipts

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

Instructions and Assistance

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

All of the Division's publications and reporting forms are available on the Division of Elections' website at http://dos.myflorida.com/elections/. It is your responsibility to read, understand, and follow the requirements of Florida's election laws. Therefore, please print a copy of the following documents: Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, *Political Committee Handbook*, Calendar of Reporting Dates, and Rule 18-2.017, Florida Administrative Code.

Please let me know if you need additional information.

Reed Willis

Sincerely,

Krist Reid Willis, Chief

Bureau of Election Records

KRW/ljr

Enclosures

EXHIBIT 3 (2 = 2)



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE Michael Ertel

Michael Ertel Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

January 11, 2019

Tiffany N. Barnes, Chairperson Florida Democratic Women's Caucus Political Committee Post Office Box 1656 Crawfordville, FL 32326-2326 PAC 70281

Dear Ms. Barnes:

Our records indicate that you have not filed either your campaign treasurer's report or notification that no reportable activity occurred, whichever is applicable. The filing date was January 10, 2019.

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

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

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

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

However, in all cases, failure to file and/or untimely filing of a report of reportable activity, or if applicable, a notice that no reportable activity occurred, may constitute an apparent violation of chapter 106, Fla. Stat. If we refer such matter to the Florida Elections Commission, the Commission may subsequently impose a civil penalty for each violation under chapter 106,265(1), Fla. Stat.

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

Kristi Reid Willis, Chief

Sincerely,

Bureau of Election Records

XHIBIT 4 (142)



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Ken Detzner Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

Second Notice

January 23, 2019

Tiffany N. Barnes, Chairperson Florida Democratic Women's Caucus Political Committee Post Office Box 1656 Crawfordville, FL 32326-2326

PAC 70281

Dear Ms. Barnes:

Our records indicate that you have not filed either your campaign treasurer's report or notification that no reportable activity occurred, whichever is applicable. The filing date was January 10, 2019.

We mailed, via regular mail, the first notice of the failure to file the above-mentioned report or notification to the address on file with our office on January 11, 2019.

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

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

Sincerely,

Kristi Reid Willis, Chief Bureau of Election Records

EXHIBIT 4 (2 & 2)



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Laurel M. Lee Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

Final Notice

Delivery Confirmation:

& CUSTOMER RECEIPT

USPS TRACKING # 9114 9014 9645 1724 1558 93

For Tracking or inquiries or call 1-800-222-1811.

March 1, 2019

Tiffany N. Barnes, Chairperson Florida Democratic Women's Caucus Political Committee Post Office Box 1656 Crawfordville, FL 32326-2326

PAC 70281

Dear Ms. Barnes:

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

<u>Year</u>	<u>Report</u>	Cover Period
2018	M12	12/1/18 - 12/31/18

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Kristi Reid Willis, Chief Bureau of Election Records

USPS Tracking*

FAQs > (https://www.uspandem/faqs/uspstracking-faqs.htm)

Track Another Package +

Tracking Number: 9114901496451724155893

Remove X

Expected Delivery on

SATURDAY

2 MARCH 2019 (1) by

8:00pm (i)

Θ	De	live	red
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March 2, 2019 at 6:12 am Delivered, PO Box CRAWFORDVILLE, FL 32327

Get Updates V

Text & Email Updates	~
Tracking History	· · ·
Product Information	~

See Less ^

Can't find what you're looking for?

Go to our FAQs section to find answers to your tracking questions.



857-03-01-00 10106 0 C 001 30 50 004
FLORIDA DEMOCRATIC WOMENS CAUCUS
287 REVELL RD
CRAWFORDVILLE FL 32327-2418

Your account statement

For 12/31/2018

Contact us



BBT.com



(800) BANK-BBT or (800) 226-5228

Three Great Business Credit Cards The Choice is Yours

No matter your preference, there's a BB&T business credit card to meet your needs! Save on interest with the low annual percentage rate on our BB&T Bright® for Business credit card. Earn cash back on the things you buy for your business every day with the BB&T Spectrum Cash Rewards for Business credit card or make travel purchases more rewarding with the BB&T Spectrum Travel Rewards for Business credit card. Visit BBT.com/SmallBusinessCards or your local BB&T financial center to learn more.

BB&T, Member FDIC. Credit cards are issued by Branch Banking and Trust and are subject to credit approval.

■ COMMUNITY |

Account summary

Your previous balance as of 11/30/2018	\$107.35
Checks	- 0.00
Other withdrawals, debits and service charges	- 0.00
Deposits, credits and interest	+0.00
Your new balance as of 12/31/2018	= \$107.35

AMENDMENT TO THE BUSINESS SERVICES PRODUCT AND PRICING GUIDE

Effective February 10, 2019, the Overdraft Protection Transfer fee from a linked BB&T Business Visa® Credit Card will be 4% of each overdraft transfer (\$10.00 minimum, \$75.00 maximum). The fee will be charged to the BB&T Business Visa Credit Card. Limit one fee per linked account, per day. Please refer to your BB&T Commercial Card Plan Agreement for applicable rates and fees when using a linked BB&T Business Visa Credit Card.

Impacted products: all commercial checking accounts, except Business Value 500 Checking. The fee does not apply to Business Value 500 Checking.

Overdraft Transfer Fee thru other, non- BB&T Business Visa® Credit Card sources remains unchanged @ \$12.50. The fee is limited to one fee per linked account per day and does not apply to Business Value 500 Checking clients.

Continued use of your account after February 10, 2019 constitutes your acceptance of these changes. If you do not have a copy of the Business Services Pricing Guide, contact your local BB&T financial center, your relationship manager, or call 1-800-BANK BBT (1-800-226-5228) to request a current copy.

BB&T Overdraft Fees and Options

1. Overdraft Protection is available through linking your checking account to other accounts at BB&T.

EXHIBIT	\sim
	V

Keith Smith

From:

Willis, Kristi R. (Bronson) < Kristi. Willis@DOS. MyFlorida.com>

Sent:

Thursday, August 15, 2019 10:24 AM

To:

Keith Smith

Subject:

RE: Referrals - (ID #69917) and (ID #70281)

69917 - the 2018 M12 had not been filed. The 2019 M1 and M2 have been filed.

70281 - the 2018 M12 had not been filed. The 2019 M2 has been filed.

From: Keith Smith < Keith. Smith@myfloridalegal.com>

Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2019 10:17 AM

To: Willis, Kristi R. (Bronson) < Kristi. Willis@DOS. MyFlorida.com>

Subject: Referrals - (ID #69917) and (ID #70281)

EMAIL RECEIVED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCE

Hi Kristi:

Has a campaign report or notification-of-no-activity ever been filed for the 2018 M12, 2019 M1 and 2019 M2 reporting periods for The Big Blue Tent (ID #69917)

And, has a campaign report or notification-of-no-activity ever been filed for the 2018 M12 and 2019 M2 reporting periods for Florida Women's Democratic Caucus PC (ID #70281).

As always, thanks for your assistance in this matter.

Keith Smith
Investigator
Florida Elections Commission
107 W. Gaines St. – Suite 224
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 922-4539 x112
(850) 921-0783 - Fax

Eml: keith.smith@myfloridalegal.com

www.fec.state.fl.us



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Florida Department of State - Division of Elections

Florida Election System Reports

C	andidate/Committee Lookup	
Name:		
Election:		
	`	2
Acct:	70281	
Туре:	Pol Action Comm	
	Search Reset	

Pol Action Comm Name: Florida Democratic Women's Caucus Political Committee Account: 70281

,,,,,	0001111. 1 0201		Dava	- Eine		Amount	Amount
Date Due Ty	pe Date Filed	Status	Days Late	Fine Assessed	Appealed	Amount Fined	Amount Paid
8/12/2019 M	7 8/6/2019						
7/10/2019 M	6 8/6/2019	PEN	27	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
6/10/2019 M	5 8/6/2019	FEC	57	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
5/10/2019 M	4 8/6/2019	FEC	88	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
4/10/2019 M	3 8/6/2019	FEC	118	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
3/11/2019 M	2 8/6/2019	FEC	148	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
2/11/2019 M	1 8/6/2019	FEC	176	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
1/10/2019 M	12	FEC	0	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
12/10/2018 M	11 12/25/2018	CLO	15	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
11/2/2018 G	7 12/25/2018	CLO	53	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
11/1/2018 D	6 12/25/2018	CLO	54	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
10/31/2018 D	5 12/25/2018	CLO	55	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
10/30/2018 D	4 12/25/2018	CLO	56	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
10/29/2018 D	3 12/25/2018	CLO	57	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
10/28/2018 D	2 12/25/2018	CLO	58	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
10/27/2018 D	1 12/25/2018	CLO	59	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
10/26/2018 G	6 12/25/2018	CLO	60	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
10/25/2018 G	4 12/25/2018	CLO	61	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
10/19/2018 G	5 12/25/2018	CLO	67	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
10/5/2018 G	3 9/30/2018						
9/28/2018 G2	2A 9/30/2018	CLO	2	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
9/21/2018 G	2 9/30/2018	CLO	9	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
9/14/2018 G1	IA 9/30/2018	CLO	16	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
9/7/2018 G	1 9/7/2018						
8/31/2018 P7	A 9/7/2018	CLO	7	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
8/24/2018 P	7 8/24/2018						
8/17/2018 P	6 8/17/2018						
8/10/2018 P	5 8/10/2018						
8/3/2018 P	4 7/30/2018						
7/27/2018 P	3 7/30/2018	CLO	3	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
7/20/2018 P2	2A 7/30/2018	CLO	10	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
7/13/2018 P	2 7/13/2018						
7/6/2018 P1	IA 7/7/2018	CLO	1	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
6/29/2018 P	1 6/30/2018	CLO	1	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
6/11/2018 M	5 6/11/2018						
5/10/2018 M	4 5/10/2018						
4/10/2018 M	3 4/10/2018						
3/12/2018 M	2 3/12/2018						
2/12/2018 M	1 2/5/2018						



Florida Democratic Women's Caucus Political Committee

Campaign Finance Activity

Note: The information presented below was obtained from the Committee's/Candidate's Campaign Treasurer's Report filed with the Division of Elections. About the Campaign Finance Data Base. If all contributions for a reporting period are less than 1 dollar Then they may not be displayed.

	Contributions						
	Filing Period	Monetary	Loans	InKind	Expend	Other	Transfers
W	01/01/2018 - 01/31/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0	02/01/2018 - 02/28/2018	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	03/01/2018 - 03/31/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	04/01/2018 - 04/30/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	05/01/2018 - 05/31/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	06/01/2018 - 06/22/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	06/23/2018 - 06/29/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	06/30/2018 - 07/06/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	07/07/2018 - 07/13/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	07/14/2018 - 07/20/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	07/21/2018 - 07/27/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	07/28/2018 - 08/03/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	08/04/2018 - 08/10/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	08/11/2018 - 08/23/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	08/24/2018 - 08/24/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	. 0.00	0.00	0.00
W	08/25/2018 - 08/31/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W		<u> </u>	IBIT 0.00	0 022	4) 0.00	0.00	0.00

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	09/01/2018 - 09/07/2018						
W	09/08/2018 - 09/14/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	09/15/2018 - 09/21/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0,00	0.00
W	09/22/2018 - 09/28/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	09/29/2018 - 10/05/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	10/06/2018 - 10/12/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	10/13/2018 - 10/19/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	10/20/2018 - 10/26/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	10/27/2018 - 10/27/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	10/28/2018 - 10/28/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	10/29/2018 - 10/29/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	′ 10/30/2018 - 10/30/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	10/31/2018 - 10/31/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	10/20/2018 - 11/01/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	11/02/2018 - 11/30/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	01/01/2019 - 01/31/2019	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	02/01/2019 - 02/28/2019	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	03/01/2019 - 03/31/2019	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	-04/01/2019 -04/30/2019	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	05/01/2019 - 05/31/2019	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	06/01/2019 - 06/30/2019	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	` 0.00
W	07/01/2019 - 07/31/2019	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
•	All Dates (Totals)	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Note: (E) indicates that report was filed electronically

X Indicates that detail has not been released

W Indicates that a waiver was filed and Indicates that a loan report was filed

Select Sort Order	Select Output Type
Date(Ascending)	Display On Screen 🗸
,	
Submit Query Now	
Comme addry from	
Query the Campaign Finance Da	to Baco

EXHIBIT <u>8 (4.64)</u>



FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

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

www.fec.state.fl.us; fec@myfloridalegal.com

June 5, 2019

Tiffany N. Barnes, Chair Florida Democratic Women's Caucus Political Committee 287 Revell Road Crawfordville, FL 32327-2327

RE: Case No.: FEC 19-166; Respondent: Florida Democratic Women's Caucus Political Committee

Dear Ms. Barnes:

On March 21, 2019, the Florida Elections Commission received a complaint alleging that your committee violated Florida's election laws. I have reviewed the complaint and find that it contains one or more **legally sufficient allegations**. The Commission staff will investigate the following alleged violations:

Section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes: As alleged in the complaint, Respondent, a political committee registered with the Division of Elections, 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 2018 M12 reporting period.

Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes: As alleged in the complaint, Respondent, a political committee registered with the Division of Elections, may have falsely reported or deliberately failed to include information required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, when it failed to file a report on the prescribed reporting date for the 2018 M12 reporting period.

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

Florida Democratic Women's Caucus Political Committee June 5, 2019 Page 2 FEC 19-166

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

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

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

If you have additional questions, please contact Keith Smith, the investigator assigned to this case.

Sincerely

Tim Vaccaro
Executive Director

TV/med







Re: Case No: FEC 19-235; 19-184; 19-166 Florida Elections Commission to: Nikki Barnes

Sent by: Donna Malphurs

05/07/2019 01:20 PM

From: To: Florida Elections Commission/OAG "Nikki Barnes" <nikki_ford@att.net>

For information on how to close a committee, please contact your filing officer (the qualifying officer with whom you registered the committees), which is the Division of Elections at 850-245-6200.

Sincerely,

Donna Ann Malphurs Agency Clerk

"Nikki Barnes"

I just received these complaints via certified mail... 05/07/2019 12:53:1

From:

"Nikki Barnes" <nikki_ford@att.net>

To: Date: fec@myfloridalegal.com 05/07/2019 12:53 PM

Subject:

Case No: FEC 19-235; 19-184; 19-166

I just received these complaints via certified mail. I need to know the process of closing these committees since they are not being used.

Sent from my iPhone

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS FEC NOTICE FORM

To FEC from Division of Elections

Name:

Florida Democratic Women's Caucus Political Committee

Account Number:

70281

Chairperson:

Tiffany N. Barnes

Treasurer:

Tiffany N. Barnes

Registered Agent: Tiffany N. Barnes

The Division of Elections hereby provides this notice to the Florida Elections Commission pursuant to Sections 106.07(8)(d), 106.22(7), and 106.25(2), Florida Statutes. apparent violation of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, has occurred based upon the failure to file a report after notice or failure to file a notification to the filing officer in writing that no report was being filed on the prescribed reporting date under s. 106.07(7).

Report(s):

2018 M12

Sent By:

Kristi Reid Willis March 20, 2019

Date:

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF FLORIDA

County of Leon

Kristi Reid Willis, being duly sworn, says:

- 1. I am the Chief of the Bureau of Election Records of the Division of Elections (Division). In that capacity, I oversee the Division's duties related to the filing of campaign finance reports.
- 2. This affidavit is made upon my personal knowledge, including information obtained from review of the attached records, of which I am the custodian.
- 3. I am of legal age and competent to testify to the matters stated herein.
- 4. Florida Democratic Women's Caucus Political Committee (70281) is a political committee registered with the Division. On January 8, 2018, Tiffany N. Barnes filed the DSDE 5 and DSDE 6 with the Division of Elections indicating that she was the chairperson.
- 5. The 2018 M12 campaign treasurer's report was due on January 10, 2019. On January 11, 2019, the Division mailed Ms. Barnes notification that the 2018 M12 campaign treasurer's report had not been filed.
- 6. On January 23, 2019, the Division mailed Ms. Barnes notification that the 2018 M12 campaign treasurer's report had not been filed.
- 7. On March 1, 2019, the Division mailed Ms. Barnes final notification with delivery confirmation that the 2018 M12 report had not been filed. (See attached letter and delivery confirmation.)
- 8. Ms. Barnes did not notify the Division of Elections prior to or on the prescribed reporting date for the 2018 M12 report that no report was to be filed.

9. As of March 20, 2019, Ms. Barnes has not filed the 2018 M12 report.

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

Signature of Affiant

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me this 20th day of March, 2019.

Signature of Notary Public - State of Florida

Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public

Personally Known



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Laurel M. Lee Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

Final Notice

Delivery Confirmation:

RECEIPT

USPS TRACKING # 9114 9014 9645 1724 1558 93

For Tracking or inquiries go to USPS.ca or call 1-800-222-1811.

March 1, 2019

Tiffany N. Barnes, Chairperson Florida Democratic Women's Caucus Political Committee Post Office Box 1656 Crawfordville, FL 32326-2326

PAC 70281

Dear Ms. Barnes:

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

<u>Year</u>	Report	Cover Period
2018	M12	12/1/18 - 12/31/18

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Kristi Reid Willis, Chief Bureau of Election Records

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FAQs > (https://www.usps.com/faqs/uspstracking-faqs.htm)

Track Another Package +

Tracking Number: 9114901496451724155893

Remove X

Expected Delivery on

SATURDAY

2 MARCH 2019 (1)

by **8:00pm ②**

Oblivered

March 2, 2019 at 6:12 am Delivered, PO Box CRAWFORDVILLE, FL 32327

Get Updates >

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Tracking History

Product Information

See Less ^

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