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STATE OF FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

Florida Elections Commission, Petitioner,

Agency Case No.: FEC 13-333 F.O. No.: FOFEC 15-050W

Jesus Salas,

v.

Respondent.

FINAL ORDER

THIS MATTER was heard at an informal hearing held before the Florida Elections Commission (Commission) on February 25, 2015.

APPEARANCES

For Commission

Stephanie J Cunningham Assistant General Counsel 107 West Gaines Street Collins Building, Suite 224 Tallahassee, FL 32399

For Respondent

No Appearance

STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE

Whether Respondent violated Section 106 07(1), Florida Statutes, as alleged in the Order of Probable Cause.

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

On December 20, 2013, the Commission received a referral from the Division of

Elections alleging a violation of Florida's election laws. Staff of the Commission conducted an investigation to determine whether the facts alleged in the referral constituted probable cause to believe that Respondent violated the Florida Election Code.

On June 10, 2014, staff recommended to the Commission that there was probable cause to believe that the Florida Election Code was violated On October 28, 2014, the Commission entered an Order of Probable Cause finding that there was probable cause to charge Respondent with the following violation:

Count 1:

On or about October 10, 2013, Jesus Salas violated Section 106.07(1), Florida Statutes, when he failed to timely file with the filing officer, Florida's Families First's 2013 Q3 Report, listing all contributions received and all expenditures made, by or on behalf of the committee

Respondent did not timely elect to have a formal administrative hearing before an administrative law judge from the Division of Administrative Hearings and, therefore, the matter was set for an informal hearing before the Commission. At the informal hearing, the Commission adopted the undisputed facts set forth in the Staff's Recommendation as its findings of fact

The Respondent did not appear at the hearing.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1 Respondent was the chairman and treasurer for Florida's Families First, a political committee registered with the State of Florida.
 - 2 Florida's Families First's 2013 Q3 Report was due October 10, 2013
- 3. By letters dated October 14, 2013, October 21, 2013, November 8, 2013, December 5, 2013, and January 6, 2014, the Division of Elections notified Respondent that Florida's Families First's 2013 Q3 Report had not been received.

4. On October 27, 2014, Respondent filed a waiver of report for the 2013 Q3

reporting cycle with the Division of Elections.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

5. The Commission has jurisdiction over the parties to and subject matter of this

cause, pursuant to Section 106 26, Florida Statutes

6 Respondent's conduct was willful Respondent committed the acts while

knowing that, or showing reckless disregard for whether, the acts were prohibited, or failed to

commit an act while knowing that, or showing reckless disregard for whether, the acts were

required.

7. Respondent committed 1 count of violating Section 106.07(1), Florida Statutes,

when he failed to timely file Florida's Families First's 2013 Q3 Report with the Division of

Elections

8 In determining the amount of the civil penalty, the Commission considered the

mitigating and aggravating circumstances set forth in Section 106.265, Florida Statutes.

ORDER

The Commission finds that Respondent has violated Section 106.07(1), Florida Statutes, on 1 occasion, and imposes no fine

DONE AND ORDERED by the Florida Elections Commission on February 25, 2015

Xim Holladay, Chairman

Florida Elections Commissión

Copies furnished to:

Stephanie J Cunningham, Assistant General Counsel

Jesus Salas, Respondent

Division of Elections, Complainant

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

This order is final agency action. Any party who is adversely affected by this order has the right to seek judicial review pursuant to Section 120.68, Florida Statutes, by filing a notice of administrative appeal pursuant to Rule 9.110, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure, with the Clerk of the Florida Elections Commission at 107 West Gaines Street, Suite 224, Collins Building, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1050 and by filing a copy of the notice of appeal with the appropriate district court of appeal. The party must attach to the notice of appeal a copy of this order and include with the notice of appeal filed with the district court of appeal the applicable filing fees. The notice of administrative appeal must be filed within 30 days of the date this order is filed with the Commission. The date this order was filed appears in the upper right-hand corner of the first page of the order.