STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

In Re:	Tea Time Political Association	Case No	o.: FEC 22-290
		/	

TO: Karin Dennis, Chair PO Box 470068

Lake Monroe, FL 32747-0068

Division of Elections 500 S. Bronough Street RA Gray Building, Room 316 Tallahassee, FL 32399

NOTICE OF HEARING (INFORMAL HEARINGS (IH))

A hearing will be held in this case before the Florida Elections Commission on, **August 19, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.**, or as soon thereafter as the parties can be heard, at the following location: **Virtual Meeting via Webinar link:** https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3863768971242962781 and Webinar ID 748-293-987.

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 July 28, 2025 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.

STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

In Re:	Tea Time Political Association		Case No.: FEC 22-290
-		/	
TO:	Karin Dennis, Chair PO Box 470068 Lake Monroe, FL 32747-0068		Division of Elections 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 February 26 and 27, 2025, is cancelled. It is anticipated that your case will be heard at the next regularly scheduled meeting, on a date to be determined. A Notice of Hearing will be mailed approximately 14 days prior to the new hearing date.

Tim Vaccaro

Executive Director Florida Elections Commission February 24, 2025

STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

In Re: Tea Time Political Association		Case No.: FEC 22-290 /	
TO:	Karin Dennis, Chair PO Box 470068	Division of Elections 500 S. Bronough Street	Poom 316
	Lake Monroe, FL 32747-0068	Tallahassee, FL 32399	, Kooiii 310

NOTICE OF HEARING (INFORMAL HEARING)

A hearing will be held in this case before the Florida Elections Commission on, **February 26, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.**, *or as soon thereafter as the parties can be heard*, at the following location: **412 Knott Building, Pat Thomas Committee Room, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399.** 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 February 5, 2025 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.

STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

Florida Elections Commission, Petitioner,

v.		Case No.: FEC 22-290
Tea Time Political Association, Respondent.		
	/	

ORDER OF PROBABLE CAUSE

THIS MATTER was heard by the Florida Elections Commission (Commission) at its regularly scheduled meeting on August 14, 2024, in Tallahassee, Florida.

On March 6, 2024, 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 February 10, 2022, Tea Time Political Association 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 2022 M1 Report.

Count 2:

On March 10, 2022, Tea Time Political Association 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 2022 M2 Report.

Count 3:

On April 11, 2022, Tea Time Political Association 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 2022 M3 Report.

Count 4:

On May 10, 2022, Tea Time Political Association 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 2022 M4 Report.

Count 5:

On June 10, 2022, Tea Time Political Association 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 2022 M5 Report.

DONE AND ORDERED by the Florida Elections Commission on August 14, 2024.

Tim Vaccaro, J.D., Executive Director

For Chad Mizelle, Chairman Florida Elections Commission

Copies furnished to: Mattie T. Clay, Assistant General Counsel Tea Time Political Association, 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: Tea Time Political Association		Case No	Case No.: FEC 22-290		
		1			

TO: Tea Time Political Association Karin Dennis, Chair PO Box 470068 Lake Monroe, FL 32747-0068

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

NOTICE OF HEARING (PROBABLE CAUSE DETERMINATION (PCD))

A hearing will be held in this case before the Florida Elections Commission on, **August 14, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.**, *or as soon thereafter as the parties can be heard*, at the following location: **412 Knott Building, Pat Thomas Committee Room, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399.** 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.

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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.

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.

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See further instructions on the reverse side.

Tim Vaccaro

Executive Director Florida Elections Commission July 23, 2024 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.

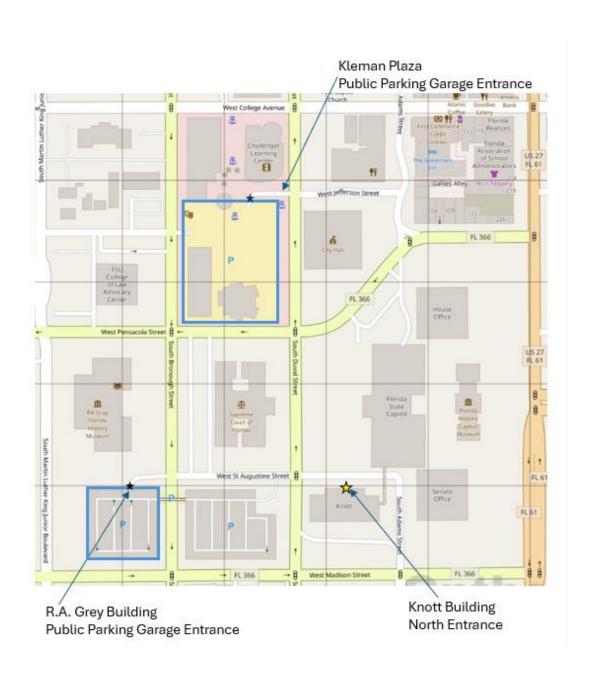
If this is a **probable cause hearing**, the Commission will decide if there is probable cause to believe that the Respondent committed a violation of Florida's election laws. Respondent should be prepared to explain how the staff in its recommendation incorrectly applied the law to the facts of the 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.

Florida Elections Commission Meeting - Augut 13-14, 2024, 412 Knott Building

- Please enter the Knott Building at the North entrance as indicated below.
- Public parking is available at Kleman Plaza (entrance at West Jefferson Sreet/South Duval Street) and the R.A. Grey Building Garage (entrance at West St. Augustine Street/South Bronough Street).



STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

In Re: Tea Time Political Association Case No.: FEC 22-290

TO: Tea Time Political Association

Karin Dennis, Chair PO Box 470068 Lake Monroe, FL 32747-0068 Division of Elections 500 S. Bronough Street, Room 316 Tallahassee, FL 32399

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF HEARING (PROBABLE CAUSE DETERMINATION (PCD))

You are hereby notified that **the previously scheduled hearing for May 14, 2024, is CANCELLED**. It is anticipated that your case will be scheduled for a new hearing date to be determined as soon as possible.

A Notice of Hearing will be mailed to you approximately 14 days prior to the new hearing date. You may also wish to monitor our website at https://www.fec.state.fl.us/ for meeting announcements.

Tim Vaccaro

Executive Director Florida Elections Commission May 13, 2024

STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

In Re: Tea Time Political Association		Case No.:	Case No.: FEC 22-290		
		1			

TO: Tea Time Political Association Karin Dennis, Chair PO Box 470068 Lake Monroe, FL 32747-0068

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

NOTICE OF HEARING (PROBABLE CAUSE DETERMINATION (PCD))

A hearing will be held in this case before the Florida Elections Commission on, May 14, 2024 at 11:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the parties can be heard, at the following location: 412 Knott Building, Pat Thomas Committee Room, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399.

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

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

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See further instructions on the reverse side.

<u> Tim Vaccaro</u>

Executive Director Florida Elections Commission April 26, 2024 Please refer to the information below for further instructions related to your particular hearing:

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STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

In Re:	Tea Time Political Association	Case No.:	FEC 22-290
		/	

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 January 11, 2024, the following facts and law support this staff recommendation:

- 1. On September 7, 2022, the Florida Elections Commission ("Commission") received a referral from the Department of State, Division of Elections, ("Division") alleging that Tea Time Political Association ("Respondent") violated Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.
- 2. Respondent is a political committee registered with the Division. (ROI Exhibit 2, pages 1-2; Attachment A, page 1)¹ Karin Dennis was appointed to serve as the committee's chairperson and treasurer. (ROI Exhibit 1, page 1; ROI Exhibit 2, pages 1-2)
- 3. By letter dated May 24, 2023, 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, 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 following reporting periods:

• 2022 M1

2022 M4

• 2022 M2

2022 M5

- 2022 M3
- 4. By letter dated June 21, 2021, Donna S. Brown, Chief, Bureau of Election Records, sent Respondent a letter acknowledging that the Division had received its Statement of 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 committees filing reports with the Division are required to use the electronic filing system ("EFS") and provided Respondent

Staff Recommendation FEC 22-290

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

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 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. Pursuant to Section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes, in any reporting period during which a political committee has not received funds, made any contributions, or expended any reportable funds, the filing of the required report for that period is waived. However, the political committee is required to notify the filing officer in writing on the prescribed reporting date that no report is being filed on that date.
- 7. The *Political Committee Handbook* references the statutory requirement regarding written notification and directs political committees to notify the Division by way of the Division's electronic filing system. (ROI Exhibit 4, page 2) The *Political Committee EFS User's Guide* shows the process through which to notify the Division. The user's guide instructs political committees to select the relevant reporting period and place a checkmark in a box titled "Waiver" to indicate the lack of reportable financial activity. (ROI Exhibit 5, page 2)
- 8. Respondent failed to notify the filing officer on the prescribed reporting date that no report would be filed for the following reporting periods, as set forth in the table below. (ROI Exhibit 6, page 1)

Report	Report Cover Period	Date Notification Due	Date Notification Filed	No. of Days Late
2022 M1	1/1/22 - 1/31/22	2/10/22	3/20/22	38
2022 M2	2/1/22 - 2/28/22	3/10/22	3/20/22	10
2022 M3	3/1/22 - 3/31/22	4/11/22	6/19/22	69
2022 M4	4/1/22 - 4/30/22	5/10/22	5/23/22	13
2022 M5	5/1/22 - 5/31/22	6/10/22	8/9/22	60

- 9. Respondent did not reply to the investigation. (ROI Exhibit 7, page 1)
- 10. "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).
- 11. The facts set forth above show that Respondent is a political committee registered with the Division. Respondent failed to notify the filing officer on the prescribed reporting date

that no report would be filed for the 2022 M1, 2022 M2, 2022 M3, 2022 M4, and 2022 M5 reporting periods.

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

Count 1:

On February 10, 2022, Tea Time Political Association 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 2022 M1 Report.

Count 2:

On March 10, 2022, Tea Time Political Association 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 2022 M2 Report.

Count 3:

On April 11, 2022, Tea Time Political Association 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 2022 M3 Report.

Count 4:

On May 10, 2022, Tea Time Political Association 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 2022 M4 Report.

Count 5:

On June 10, 2022, Tea Time Political Association 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 2022 M5 Report.

Respectfully submitted on March 6, 2024.

Mattie T. Clay

Assistant General Counsel

I reviewed this Staff Recommendation this 6th day of March 2024.

Stephanie J. Cunningham

General Counsel

Committee Tracking System

Tea Time Political Association

Type:Political Committee

Status:Active

Address:Post Office Box 471116

Lake Monroe, FL 32747

Phone:(407)391-9378

Chairperson:Karin Dennis

221 Arbor Lakes Circle

Sanford, FL 32771

Treasurer: Karin Dennis

Post Office Box 470282

Lake Monroe, FL 32747

Registered Agent:Karin Dennis

221 Arbor Lakes Circle

Sanford, FL 32771

Purpose:

Affiliates:

Campaign Finance Activity

Campaign Documents

FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

Report of Investigation for Failure to Notify Filing Officer

Case Number: FEC 22-290

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

Respondent: Tea Time Political Association

Respondent's Atty: N/A

Division of Elections (Division)

Referral Filed: September 7, 2022

Respondent Type: Political Committee

I. Preliminary Information:

1. Respondent is a political committee registered with the Division.

- 2. An Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository (DS-DE 6) was filed on June 7, 2021. Karin Dennis was appointed as campaign treasurer. To review the DS-DE 6s, refer to Exhibit 1.1
- 3. A Statement of Organization (DS-DE 5) for the political committee was filed with the Division on June 17, 2021. To review the Statement of Organization, refer to Exhibit 2.
- 4. An acknowledgement letter was mailed to the address provided on the DS-DE 6 on June 21, 2021, advising Respondent that all political committees filing reports with the Division are required to file by means of the Division's electronic filing system (EFS). Respondent was provided with a user identification number and initial password allowing access to the EFS.
- 5. The acknowledgement letter also advised Respondent 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 that it was Respondent's responsibility to read, understand, and follow the requirements of Florida's election laws. To review the acknowledgement letter, refer to Exhibit 3.
- 6. The *Political Committee Handbook* discusses filing a waiver when there is no activity to disclose. To review the relevant page of the *Handbook*, refer to Exhibit 4.
- 7. The *Political Committee EFS User's Guide* discusses how to notify the Division on the prescribed reporting date that no report will be filed using the EFS. Specifically, the *Guide* instructs the user to click the box next to "waiver" if there is no activity to disclose. To review the relevant pages from the *EFS User's Guide*, refer to Exhibit 5.

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

8. I investigated whether Respondent violated this section of the election laws by not timely notifying the filing officer, in writing, that no report(s) would be filed due to not receiving any contributions or making expenditures during the following reporting period(s). To review Respondent's filing history reflecting the untimely filed notification(s) summarized below, refer to Exhibit 6.

¹ Subsequent DS-DE 6 forms were filed by Respondent, most recently on May 25, 2022, but Ms. Dennis was appointed campaign treasurer in all of them.

Report	Report Cover Period	Date Notification Due	Date Notification Filed	No. of Days Late
2022 M1	1/1 – 1/31/2022	2/10/2022	3/20/2022	38
2022 M2	2/1 - 2/28/2022	3/10/2022	3/20/2022	10
2022 M3	3/1 – 3/31/2022	4/11/2022	6/19/2022	69
2022 M4	4/1 - 4/30/2022	5/10/2022	5/23/2022	13
2022 M5	5/1 - 5/31/2022	6/10/2022	8/9/2022	60

9. Respondent did not respond to the referral.

10. I attempted without success to contact Respondent's Chairperson/Treasurer, Karin Dennis. However, as of the date of this report, my telephone calls have not been returned. Therefore, I am unable to ascertain whether she has read the *Political Committee Handbook* and/or Chapter 106, Florida Statutes. To review the phone log, refer to Exhibit 7.

Date: January 11, 2024

SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR:

FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Tea Time Political Association – FEC 22-290

LIST OF EXHIBITS		
Exhibits #s	Description of Exhibits	
Exhibit 1	Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Political Committees (DS-DE 6)	
Exhibit 2	Statement of Organization (DS-DE 5)	
Exhibit 3	Acknowledgement Letter	
Exhibit 4	Political Committee Handbook – Filing a Waiver	
Exhibit 5	Electronic Filing System User Guide – How to File a Waiver	
Exhibit 6	Filing History	
Exhibit 7	Phone Log	

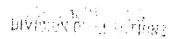
APPOINTMENT OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER AND DESIGNATION OF CAMPAIGN DEPOSITORY FOR

POLITICAL COMMITTEES

(Sections 106.011(2) and 106.021(1), F.S.)



2021 JUN -7 AM 9: 50



CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX:			
Initial Filing for: Primary Treasurer Deputy Treasurer			OFFICE USE ONLY
Re-filing to Change: Primary Treasurer Deputy Treasurer	Primary/Second	ary Depository	
1. Committee Tea Time Political Association		2. Telephone (407) 391-9	9378
3. Name of Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer 4. Email (optional) Karin Dennis)	5. Telephone (o	iptional)
6. Mailing Address P O Box 471116 Lake Monroe, FL 32747			
7. Street Address 221 Arbor Lakes Circle Sanford, FL 32771			
8. The following bank has been designated as the Prin	nary Depository	☐ Seconda	ry Depository
9. Name of Bank Bank of America	10. Street Address 5230 W State		
11. City Sanford	12. Sta FL	ite	13. Zip Code 32771
14. Signature of Chairman	15. Name of Chai Karin Dennis	rman (Print or Typ	e)
Campaign Treasurer's Ac	ceptance of A	ppointment	
I, AGIO DENO (Please Print of Type)		, do hereb	by accept the appointment as
treasurer or deputy treasurer for $\frac{-\int \mathcal{C} \mathcal{C}_{\parallel} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathcal{C}_{\parallel} \mathcal{C}_{\parallel}$	Po 1. 1, Committee	<u>s / /- /- /- 5 5.</u> ee)	ucicling
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.			
$\frac{\mathcal{L}}{\mathcal{L}} \frac{\mathcal{L}}{\mathcal{L}} $	Signature of Camp	aion Treasurer or	Deputy Treasurer

DS-DE 6 (Rev. 4/19)

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

POLITICAL COMMITTEES (Sections 106.011(2) and 106.021(1), F.S.)

RECEIVED DEPARTMENT OF STATE

2022 MAY 25 PM 3: 04

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS TALLAHASSEE, FL

CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX:	TALLAHASSEE. FL	
Initial Filing for: Primary Treasurer Deputy Treasurer	Hend Delivered	
•	OFFICE USE ONLY	
Re-filing to Change: Primary Treasurer Deputy Treasurer	Primary/Secondary Depository	
1. Committee	2. Telephone	
Tea Time Pulitical As	Suciation (407)796 1996	
3. Name of Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer 4. Email (optional	5. Telephone (optional)	
Karin N W Dennis	()	
6. Mailing Address		
PO BUS 470282	Lake Munrue Fr 32797	
7. Street Address	•	
201 Arbor Lakes CIRCL	e Sanford FL 32791	
8. The following bank has been designated as the Prin	nary Depository Secondary Depository	
9. Name of Bank	10. Street Address	
Truist	35 EZ Thomasville Rd	
11. City	12. State 13. Zip Code	
Tallahassee	FL 32309	
14. Signature of Chairman	15. Name of Chairman (Print or Type)	
XKen WIX Donne	Karin N W Dennis	
Campaign Treasurer's Ac	ceptance of Appointment	
I, Marin (Please Print or Type)	, do hereby accept the appointment as	
treasurer or deputy treasurer for 729 Time	Pulitical Assuciation	
UNDER PENALTIES OF PERJURY, I DECLARE THAT I HA ACCEPTANCE OF APPOINTMENT AND	VE READ THE FOREGOING CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S THAT THE FACTS STATED ARE TRUE.	
5 /25/2020 X c	Signature of Campaign Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer	
DS-DE 6 (Pay 4/10)	Signature of Campaign freasurer of Deputy freasurer	

STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATION OF POLITICAL COMMITTEE

(PLEASE TYPE)

OFF	EUS	E ON	Eti Eti
2021 J	in sid Un et	₹ . 7 . au	9: 14
			5: [4

		- PARK			
1. Full Name of Committee Tea Time Political Associa	ition		Telephone 407-391-9378		
Mailing Address (include city P O Box 471116 Lake Monroe,FL 32747	, state and zip code)				
Street Address (include city, 221 Arbor Lakes Circle Sanford, FL 32771	state and zip code)				
Affiliated or Connected Or committees)	ganizations (includes other committees o	of continuous ex	istence and political		
Name of Affiliated or Connected Organization	Mailing Address		Relationship		
N/A					
3. Area, Scope and Jurisdicti Political committees suppoissues	on of the Committee orting or opposing statewide, legislation	ive, multicount	y candidates and/or		
4. Nature of Organization or og government	Organization's Special Interest (e.g., med	lical, legal, educ	ation, etc.)		
5. Identify by Name, Address	and Position, the Custodian of Books ar	nd Accounts (inc	clude treasurer's name)		
Full Name	Mailing Address	Com	mittee Title or Position		
Karin Dennis	P O Box 471116 Lake Monore, FL 32747	Treasure			

Full Name	Any (include chairman's name Mailing Add				
Karin Dennis	221 Arbor Lakes Circle Sanford, FL 32771		Chairperson		
	s, Office Sought and Party Affili	ation Each Candidate or O	ther Individual that this		
Full Name	Mailing Address	Office Sought	Party		
TBD					
8. List Any Issues this C	ommittee is Supporting: TBD				
List Any Issues this C	committee is Opposing: TBD				
9. If this Committee is S TBD	upporting the Entire Ticket of a	Party, Give Name of Party			
	olution, What Disposition will be acceeds to a 501c3 non profit	Made of Residual Funds?			
11. List all Banks, Safety	Deposit Boxes, or Other Depo	sitories Used for Committe	e Funds		
Name of Bank or De	pository & Account Number	Mailin	Address		
Wells Fargo		100 Lake Mary Blvd Lake Mary, FL 32746			
12. List all Reports Requand Positions of Suc	uired to be Filed by this Commit th Officials, If Any	tee with Federal Officials a	nd the Names, Addresse		
Report Title	Dates Required to be Filed	Name & Position of Officia	Mailing Address		
8871 1120-POL 990	Upon Creation Annual Annual	IRS IRS IRS	Ogden, UT Ogden, UT Ogden, UT		
STATE OF Florida	3	Seminole COUNTY			
, Karin N W D		, certify that the informati	on in this Statement of		
Organization is complete,	true and correct.				
X Kan U)	24 Xa	6/15/2021			
Signature of	f Chairman of Political Committee		Date		



RON DESANTIS
Governor

LAUREL M. LEE
Secretary of State

June 21, 2021

Karin Dennis, Chairperson Tea Time Political Association 221 Arbor Lakes Circle Sanford, Florida 32771

Dear Ms. Dennis:

This will acknowledge receipt of the Statement of Organization and Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for **Tea Time Political Association**, which were placed on file in our office on June 17, 2021. 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 **July 12, 2021**. The report will cover the period of June 1-30, 2021 (2021 M6). 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. Enclosed are the committee's confidential, filing credentials.

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

Identification Number: 79519

Timely Filing

All reports must be completed and filed through the EFS no later than midnight, Eastern Standard Time, of the due date. Reports not filed by midnight of the due date are late filed and subject to the penalties in Section 106.07(8), Florida Statutes. In the event that the EFS is inoperable on the

Karin Dennis, Chairperson June 21, 2021 Page Two

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 three days late and, thereafter, \$500 per day for each late day, not to exceed 25% of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater, for the period covered by the late report. However, for the reports immediately preceding each primary and general election, the fine shall be \$500 per day for each late day, not to exceed 25% of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater, for the period covered by the late report.

Electronic Receipts

The person submitting the report on the EFS will be issued an electronic receipt indicating and verifying the report was filed. Each campaign treasurer's report filed by means of the EFS is considered to be under oath by the 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 https://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 1S-2.017, Florida Administrative Code.

Please let me know if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Donna S. Brown, Chief Bureau of Election Records

DSB/zis

Enclosures

Political Committee Handbook

Florida Department of State Division of Elections R. A. Gray Building, Room 316 500 South Bronough Street Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 850.245.6280



(Rev. 11/16/2021)

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

Unless the electronic filing requirements of Section <u>106.0705</u>, Florida Statutes, apply, reports shall be filed no later than 5 p.m. of the day designated. A report postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service no later than midnight of the day designated is deemed timely filed. A report received by the filing officer within five 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 <u>Electronic Filing System</u> (<u>EFS</u>) are due no later than midnight, Eastern Time, of the due date.

(Sections <u>106.07</u>, <u>106.0705</u>, and <u>106.141</u>, Fla. Stat.; <u>Chapter 11: Electronic Filing of Campaign Reports</u>)

Penalty for Late Filing

Any political committee 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 due immediately prior to the primary and general elections, 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.

(Section <u>106.07(8)</u>, Fla. Stat.)

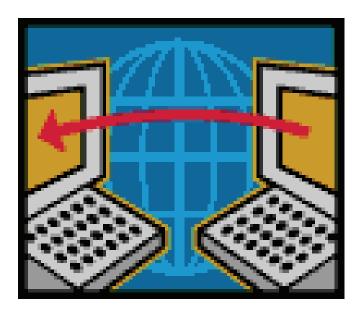
Notice of No Activity

When there has been no reportable activity in the campaign account during a reporting period (no funds expended or received) the filing of the report is waived. However, the political committee must still notify the filing officer in writing on or before the prescribed reporting date that no report is being filed on that date. (A notice of no activity filed with the Division must be filed electronically using the EFS.) The next report filed must specify that the report covers the entire period between the last submitted report and the report being filed. Note: Any activity added to the waived report after the due date is subject to a late filing fine.

(Sections <u>106.07(7)</u> and <u>106.0705</u>, Fla. Stat.)

Department of State Division of Elections

Political Committee 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

Rule 1S-2.017, F.A.C.

DS-DE 110B (eff. 01/11)

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

If this report is for a special election, click the box next to **Special Election Report**. (If no special elections are scheduled this option will not be available.)

*****NOTE****

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

Election Cycle:	2010 General E	~			
Report Type:	F2 2010	~			
Coverage Period:	7/17/2010	7/30/2010		Due Date:	08/06/2010
☐ Speci	al Election Report		Waive	-	

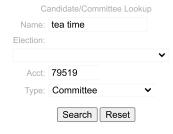
Click Open Report at the bottom of the screen. A **Report Detail** screen (view only) will appear. This screen will not indicate any activity until individual detail data is entered, saved and a review is performed.

Repo	rt: 2010 - G4 - 27 201	0 General Election		Covers:	10/16/2010-10/28/2010	Due: 10/29/2010
	Amendment Waiv	er Comp	lete Status: Inc	omplete Detail Rec	ords	
File	Date:	Re	view Status: Not	Reviewed		
Sta	otus: Data Entry	ı	ast Review:			
# of	Transactions: 0	Review	Recalculate	Go To File Report	Append File	Delete Report Save
	Contributions	Total Amount		Expenditures	Total Amount	
	Cash and Checks:	0.00		Mone	tary:	0.00
	Loans:	0.00		Transfers to Off	Acct:	0.00
	Total Monetary:	0.00		Total Mone	tary:	0.00
	In-Kind:	0.00		Other Distribut	tions:	0.00
M	Review lessages					
	Created: 10/	26/2010 11:41:25 AM	By: 50552	Revi	sed: 10/26/2010 11:4:	1:25 AM By: 50552



Florida Department of State - Division of Elections

Florida Election System Reports



Committee Name: Tea Time Political Association **Account:** 79519

	ACCC	unt. 795 is	,				
Date Due	Туре	Date Filed	Status	Days Late	Fine Appealed Assessed	Amount Fined	Amount Paid
5/10/2023	M4		SNT	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4/10/2023	МЗ		SNT	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3/10/2023	M2		SNT	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2/10/2023	M1	2/22/2023	CLO	12	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1/27/2023	SP1	2/22/2023	PEN	26	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1/10/2023	M12	2/22/2023	CLO	43	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
12/12/2022	M11	2/22/2023	CLO	72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
11/4/2022	G6	2/22/2023	CLO	110	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
11/3/2022	D6	2/22/2023	PEN	111	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
11/2/2022	D5	2/22/2023	PEN	112	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
11/1/2022	D4	2/22/2023	PEN	113	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
10/31/2022	D3	2/22/2023	PEN	114	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
10/30/2022	D2	2/22/2023	PEN	115	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
10/29/2022	D1	2/22/2023	PEN	116	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
10/28/2022	G5	2/22/2023	CLO	117	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
10/21/2022	G4A	2/22/2023	CLO	124	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
10/14/2022	G4	2/22/2023	CLO	131	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
10/7/2022	G3A	2/22/2023	CLO	138	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
10/7/2022	G3	9/28/2022					
9/23/2022	G2A	9/28/2022	CLO	5	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
9/16/2022	G2	9/28/2022	CLO	12	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
9/9/2022	G1A	9/28/2022	CLO	19	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
9/2/2022	G1	9/28/2022	CLO	26	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
8/26/2022	P7A	9/27/2022	PEN	32	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
8/19/2022	P7	9/27/2022	PEN	39	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
8/12/2022	P6	9/27/2022	PEN	46	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
8/5/2022	P5	9/27/2022	PEN	53	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
7/29/2022	P4	9/27/2022	PEN	60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
7/22/2022	P3	9/27/2022	PEN	67	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
7/15/2022	P2A	9/27/2022	PEN	74	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
7/8/2022	P2	9/27/2022	PEN	81	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
7/1/2022	P1A	9/27/2022	PEN	88	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
6/24/2022	P1	6/19/2022					
6/10/2022	M5	8/9/2022	CLO	60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
5/10/2022	M4	5/23/2022	CLO	13	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4/11/2022	SG3	2/22/2023					
4/11/2022	МЗ	6/19/2022	CLO	69	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3/10/2022	M2	3/20/2022	CLO	10	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3/4/2022	SG2	5/23/2022	PEN	80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2/10/2022	SG1	3/20/2022	PEN	38	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2/10/2022	M1	3/20/2022	CLO	38	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1/10/2022	M12	3/20/2022	CLO	69	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1/7/2022	SP2	3/20/2022	PEN	72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
12/10/2021	M11	3/20/2022	CLO	100	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
12/10/2021	SP1	2/22/2023	PEN	439	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
11/10/2021	M10	3/20/2022	CLO	130	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
10/12/2021	М9	3/20/2022	CLO	159	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
9/10/2021	M8	10/2/2021	CLO	22	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
8/10/2021	M7	10/2/2021	CLO	53	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
7/12/2021	M6	10/2/2021	CLO	82	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION PHONE LOG

Case No.: FEC 22-290

Respondent: Tea Time Political Association

Complainant: Division of Elections

1. **Date and time:** June 12, 2023 @ 4:02 pm

Name: Karin Dennis – Respondent's Chair/Treasurer

Phone #: 786-469-0707

Summary: I called R based on previous number from past investigations. I left a voicemail

for R to call me back.

Entered by: Brian Ayres

2. **Date and time:** June 13, 2023 @ 8:59 am

Name: Karin Dennis – Respondent's Chair/Treasurrer

Phone #: 786-469-0707

Summary: I called R. The call was unsuccessful and left a voicemail for R to call me back.

Entered by: Brian Ayres

3. **Date and time:**

Name: Phone #: Summary: Entered by:

RESPONDENT INTERVIEW MEMO – Call details at #[LOG NUMBER]

Type and ask your case specific question(s) first, then ask the remaining questions.

- Please explain why you were late in filing the M1- M5? January through May 2022?
- Has Tea Time since opened a bank account? If so which financial institution is it housed under?
- Have you ever been appointed to act as a campaign treasurer for a candidate? If so, please name each such candidate, the office each ran for, and state what year each election occurred.
- Have you ever held the office of chairperson, treasurer, or other similar position for a political committee or electioneering communications organization? If so, please name each committee, state the office you held for each, and state when you held each office.



Florida Elections Commission

107 West Gaines Street, Suite 224 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-6596 Telephone: (850) 922-4539 · Facsimile: (850) 921-0783 FEC@myfloridalegal.com · www.fec.state.fl.us



May 24, 2023

Karin Dennis, Chair Tea Time Political Association 221 Arbor Lakes Circle Sanford, FL 32771

RE: Case No.: FEC 22-290; Respondent: Tea Time Political Association

Dear Ms. Dennis:

On September 7, 2022, the Florida Elections Commission received a complaint alleging 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 violation(s):

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 following reporting periods:

- 2022 M1
- 2022 M2
- 2022 M3
- 2022 M4
- 2022 M5

However, prior to an investigation, you have the option to <u>resolve your case now by</u> signing a minor violation consent order and <u>paying a fine of \$250</u>, per Rule 2B-1.003, Florida Administrative Code, <u>rather than the potential \$1,000 per violation</u> provided for in Section 106.265, Florida Statutes.

If you sign the consent order, you would not be required to admit or deny the allegation(s) in the complaint, but you would be required to immediately correct the violation, if feasible.

The signed consent order would then be considered by the Commission at its next available meeting and would constitute final action by the Commission once it is accepted and approved by

Karin Dennis May 24, 2023 Page 2 FEC 22-290

the Commission. You and the Complainant will receive notice at least 14 days before any hearing at which your case is to be considered.

<u>Please contact Mattie Clay by phone at (850) 922-4539, by email at Mattie.Clay@myfloridalegal.com</u>, or at the address listed above, to accept this minor violation consent order.

If you choose not to resolve this case by consent order, an investigation will be conducted, the Commission will hold one or more hearings to determine whether the alleged violation(s) occurred and, if so, the amount of fine to be imposed upon your committee.

Please note that all documents related to this matter will be mailed to the above address unless you notify us of a new address.

For additional information, please refer to the "Frequently Asked Questions" section on the Commission's website.

Sincerely

Tim Vaccaro
Executive Director

TV/jd

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS FEC NOTICE FORM

To FEC from Division of Elections

Name: Tea Time Political Association

Account Number: 79519

Chairperson: Karin Dennis

Treasurer: Karin Dennis

Registered Agent: Karin Dennis

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. An apparent violation of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, has occurred based upon repeated late filings or failure to notify the filing officer in writing that no report was being filed on the prescribed reporting date as required by section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes, for the following reports:

2022 M1 2022 M2

2022 M3 2022 M4

2022 M5

- Tea Time Political Association (79519) is a political committee registered with the Division of Elections. On June 17, 2021, the committee filed the DSDE 5 and DSDE 6 with the Division appointing Karin Dennis as the chairperson and treasurer for the committee.
- The 2022 M1 campaign treasurer's report was due on February 10, 2022.
 Tea Time Political Association failed to notify the Division that no report was being filed on the prescribed reporting date. On March 20, 2022, the committee filed a notification of no activity. (See attached file receipt and letter.)
- The 2022 M2 campaign treasurer's report was due on March 10, 2022.
 Tea Time Political Association failed to notify the Division that

REC'D: FL ELECTIONS COM

no report was being filed on the prescribed reporting date. On March 20, 2022, the committee filed a notification of no activity. (See attached file receipt and letter.)

- The 2022 M3 campaign treasurer's report was due on April 11, 2022. Tea Time Political Association failed to notify the Division that no report was being filed on the prescribed reporting date. On June 19, 2022, the committee filed a notification of no activity. (See attached file receipt.)
- The 2022 M4 campaign treasurer's report was due on May 10, 2022. Tea Time Political Association failed to notify the Division that no report was being filed on the prescribed reporting date. On May 23, 2022, the committee filed a notification of no activity. (See attached file receipt.)
- The 2022 M5 campaign treasurer's report was due on June 10, 2022.
 Tea Time Political Association failed to notify the Division that no report was being filed on the prescribed reporting date. On August 9, 2022, the committee filed a notification of no activity. (See attached file receipt.)

Sent By: Donna S. Brown

Date: September 2, 2022

jmn

Treasurer Report Status

Name: Tea Time Political Association ID: **79519**

Report: 2022 - M1 - 4

Election: 2022 General Election

Covers: 1/1/2022-1/31/2022

Due: 2/10/2022

Print Date: 8/18/2022 9:11:19 AM

☐ Amended ☑ Waiver

File Status: Filed Report Filed: 3/20/2022 9:09:06 PM

Reviewed: 3/20/2022 Review Status: Reviewed

Detail Complete: No Detail Records Found

Number of Detail Records File Method: Web Filed

Contributions: Entry Method: Web Data Entry

Expenditures: Fund Transfers:

Pending Queued Items: 0 Distributions: 0



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Laurel M. Lee Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

PAC 79519

March 25, 2022

Karin Dennis, Treasurer Tea Time Political Association Post Office Box 471116 Lake Monroe, FL 32747-2747

Dear Ms. Dennis:

The notification that you had no reportable activity for the report deadline of February 10, 2022, was not filed until March 20, 2022. Although the notification is late, no automatic fine is assessed because you had no receipts or expenditures during this reporting period.

However, to avoid potential issues in the future, please note that state law (s. 106.07(7), Fla. Stat.) requires you to file by the dates set out also in law, either a campaign finance report or if applicable, a notification that no reportable activity occurred for the reporting period. Failure to do may constitute a violation of sections 106.07(1) and 106.19(1)(c), Fla. Stat. The Division is required to notify the Florida Elections Commission of any apparent violation of chapter 106, Fla. Stat., or any failure to file a report or information required by chapter 106, Fla. Stat. If a matter is referred to the Florida Elections Commission, the Commission may assess a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 per violation.

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

Sincerely,

Donna S. Brown, Chief Bureau of Election Records



Treasurer Report Status

ID: 79519 Name: Tea Time Political Association

Report: 2022 - M2 - 5

Election: 2022 General Election

Covers: 2/1/2022-2/28/2022

Due: 3/10/2022

Print Date: 8/18/2022 9:11:37 AM

Amended Waiver

Filed: 3/20/2022 9:10:02 PM File Status: Filed Report

Reviewed: 3/20/2022 Review Status: Reviewed

Detail Complete: No Detail Records Found

File Method: Web Filed Number of Detail Records

Entry Method: Web Data Entry Contributions: 0

Expenditures: 0
Fund Transfers: 0

Pending Queued Items: 0

Distributions: 0



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Laurel M. Lee Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

March 25, 2022

Karin Dennis, Treasurer Tea Time Political Association Post Office Box 471116 Lake Monroe, FL 32747-2747

PAC 79519

Dear Ms. Dennis:

The notification that you had no reportable activity for the report deadline of March 10, 2022, was not filed until March 20, 2022. Although the notification is late, no automatic fine is assessed because you had no receipts or expenditures during this reporting period.

However, to avoid potential issues in the future, please note that state law (s. 106.07(7), Fla. Stat.) requires you to file by the dates set out also in law, either a campaign finance report or if applicable, a notification that no reportable activity occurred for the reporting period. Failure to do may constitute a violation of sections 106.07(1) and 106.19(1)(c), Fla. Stat. The Division is required to notify the Florida Elections Commission of any apparent violation of chapter 106, Fla. Stat., or any failure to file a report or information required by chapter 106, Fla. Stat. If a matter is referred to the Florida Elections Commission, the Commission may assess a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 per violation.

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

Sincerely,

Donna S. Brown, Chief Bureau of Election Records

E

Treasurer Report Status

ID: 79519 Name: Tea Time Political Association

Report: 2022 - M3 - 6

Election: 2022 General Election

Covers: 3/1/2022-3/31/2022

Due: 4/11/2022

Print Date: 8/18/2022 9:11:05 AM

Amended Waiver

Filed: 6/19/2022 10:12:16 AM File Status: Filed Report

Reviewed: 6/19/2022 Review Status: Reviewed

Detail Complete: No Detail Records Found

File Method: Web Filed Number of Detail Records

Entry Method: Web Data Entry Contributions: 0

Expenditures: 0
Fund Transfers: 0

Pending Queued Items: 0

Distributions: 0



Treasurer Report Status

Due: 5/10/2022

ID: 79519 Name: Tea Time Political Association

Report: 2022 - M4 - 14 Print Date: **8/18/2022 9:11:52 AM**

Election: 2022 General Election

Covers: 4/1/2022-4/30/2022 ☐ Amended ☑ Waiver

Filed: 5/23/2022 8:57:57 PM File Status: Filed Report

Reviewed: 5/23/2022 Review Status: Reviewed

Detail Complete: No Detail Records Found

File Method: Web Filed Number of Detail Records

Entry Method: Web Data Entry Contributions: 0

Expenditures: 0

Pending Queued Items: **0** Fund Transfers: 0

Distributions: 0

E

Treasurer Report Status

ID: 79519 Name: Tea Time Political Association

Report: 2022 - M5 - 15 Print Date: **8/18/2022 9:10:48 AM**

Election: 2022 General Election

Covers: 5/1/2022-5/31/2022 ☐ Amended ✓ Waiver

Due: 6/10/2022

Filed: 8/9/2022 11:10:43 PM File Status: Filed Report

Reviewed: **8/9/2022** Review Status: **Reviewed**

Detail Complete: No Detail Records Found

File Method: Web Filed Number of Detail Records

Entry Method: Web Data Entry Contributions: 0

Expenditures: 0

Pending Queued Items: **0** Fund Transfers: 0

Distributions: 0