EEC 33 030

in Re: Jeffrey Garcia		/ Case No.: FEC 23	5-038
ГO:	Jeffrey Garcia 4710 Southwest 67th Avenue, #H7 Miami, FL 33155	Division of Electio 500 S. Bronough S RA Gray Building,	treet Room 316
		Tallahassee, FL 32	399

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.

in Ke:	Jenrey Garcia	/	
то:	Jeffrey Garcia 4710 Southwest 67th Avenue, #H7 Miami, FL 33155	Division of Elections 500 S. Bronough Street, Roon Tallahassee, FL 32399	n 316

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

In Re: Jeffrey Garcia		/	Case No.: FEC 23-038
то:	Jeffrey Garcia		Division of Elections
	4710 Southwest 67th Avenue, #H7 Miami, FL 33155		500 S. Bronough Street, Room 316

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.

Florida Elections Commission, Petitioner,

v.		Case No.: FEC 23-038
Jeffrey Garcia, 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 April 22, 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 or about September 16, 2022, Jeffrey Garcia violated Section 106.0703(6), Florida Statutes, when he failed to file a written report with the filing officer by the prescribed reporting date that no reportable contributions or expenditures were made by Better Tomorrow during the 2022 G2 reporting period.

Count 2:

On or about September 23, 2022, Jeffrey Garcia violated Section 106.0703(6), Florida Statutes, when he failed to file a written report with the filing officer by the prescribed reporting date that no reportable contributions or expenditures were made by Better Tomorrow during the 2022 G2A reporting period.

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 August 14, 2024.

Tim Vaccaro, J.D., Executive Director

For Chad Mizelle, Chairman Florida Elections Commission

Copies furnished to: Stephanie J. Cunningham, General Counsel Jeffrey Garcia, 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.

In Re: Jeffrey Garcia		/	Case No.: FEC 23-038
то:	Jeffrey Garcia 4710 Southwest 67th Avenue, #H7		Division of Elections 500 S. Bronough Street, Room 316
	Miami, FL 33155		Tallahassee FI 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 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 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.

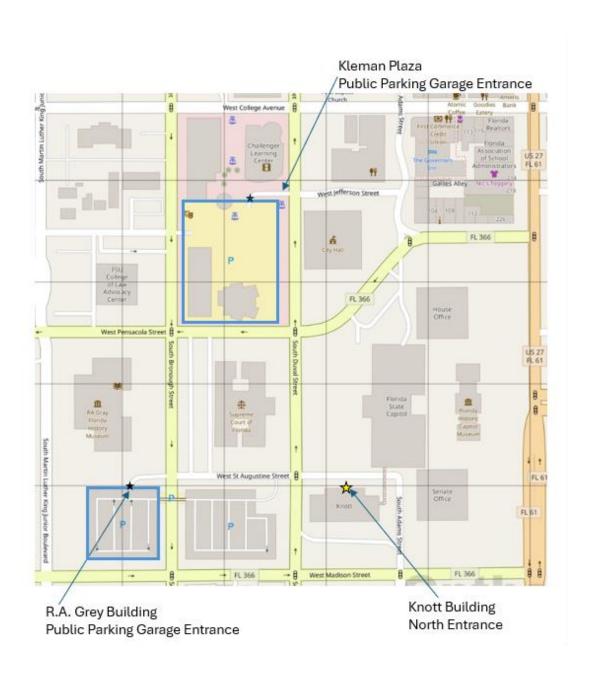
If this is a **probable cause hearing**, the Commission will decide if there is probable cause to believe that the Respondent committed a violation of Florida's election laws. Respondent should be prepared to explain how the staff in its recommendation incorrectly applied the law to the facts of the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



In Re: Jeffrey Garcia Case No.: FEC 23-038

TO: Jeffrey Garcia

4710 Southwest 67th Avenue, #H7

Miami, FL 33155

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

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		/	Case No.: FEC 23-036
TO:	Jeffrey Garcia 4710 Southwest 67th Avenue, #H7		Division of Elections 500 S. Bronough Street, Room 316
	Miami, FL 33155		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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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.

In Day Inffrage Canala

Tim Vaccaro

Executive Director Florida Elections Commission April 26, 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.

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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.

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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.

In Re: Je	effrey Garcia	Case No.:	FEC 23-038
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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 106.0703(6)**, **Florida Statutes**, and **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 January 17, 2024, the following facts and law support this staff recommendation:

- 1. On February 2, 2023, the Florida Elections Commission ("Commission") received a referral from the Department of State, Division of Elections ("Division" or "Complainant"), alleging that Jeffrey Garcia ("Respondent") violated Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.
- 2. Respondent was the treasurer for Better Tomorrow, an electioneering communications organization formerly registered with the Division. (ROI Exhibit 2)¹ On December 22, 2022, the organization's registration was canceled. (ROI Exhibit 1, page 3)
- 3. By letter dated April 5, 2023, the Executive Director notified Respondent that Commission staff would investigate the following statutory provisions:

Section 106.0703(6), Florida Statutes: As alleged in the complaint, Respondent, treasurer for Better Tomorrow, an electioneering communications organization registered with the Division of Elections, failed to file a written report with the filing officer by the prescribed reporting date that no reportable contributions or expenditures were made during the 2022 G2 and 2022 G2A reporting periods.

Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes: As alleged in the complaint, Respondent, treasurer for Better Tomorrow, an electioneering communications organization registered with the Division of Elections, may have falsely reported or deliberately failed to include information required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, during the 2022 G2 and 2022 G2A reporting periods.

4. On July 22, 2021, Better Tomorrow filed its Statement of Organization form ("DS-DE 103") identifying Respondent as its treasurer. (ROI Exhibit 1)

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 $^{^{\}rm l}$ The Report of Investigation is referred to herein as "ROI."

- 5. By letter dated July 30, 2021, Donna S. Brown, Chief, Bureau of Election Records, sent Respondent a letter acknowledging that the Division had received the organization's DS-DE 103. (ROI Exhibit 3, page 1)
- 6. The acknowledgment letter advised Respondent that all organizations 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. 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)
- 7. Complainant alleged that Respondent violated Florida's election laws by failing to file a written report with the filing officer by the prescribed reporting date that no reportable contributions or expenditures were made or by falsely reporting or deliberately failing to include information required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, during the 2022 G2 and 2022 G2A reporting periods.
- 8. The organization's 2022 G2 and 2022 G2A reports were due to be filed by September 16, 2022, and September 23, 2022, respectively; however, Respondent failed to timely file the reports. (ROI Exhibit 7, page 1) The Division sent three letters notifying Respondent that the organization's reports had not been received. (ROI Exhibits 4-6) The letters sent by certified mail were confirmed delivered. (ROI Exhibit 5, page 2; ROI Exhibit 6, page 2)
- 9. A subpoena was issued to the organization's designated campaign depository to ascertain whether any financial activity occurred during the relevant reporting periods, i.e., September 3, 2022 September 9, 2022; and September 10, 2022 September 16, 2022. The financial institution was unable to locate a campaign account in the organization's name. (ROI Exhibit 8)
- 10. As it appears that the organization had no financial activity, Respondent was required to file a written report with the filing officer by the prescribed reporting date that no reportable contributions or expenditures were made for the relevant reporting periods but failed to do so. Therefore, it does not appear that Respondent falsely reported or deliberately failed to include information required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, with regard to the relevant reporting periods.
- 11. Respondent was given multiple opportunities to respond to Commission staff's investigation but failed to do so. (ROI Exhibit 9; ROI, p. 2, ¶ 8)
- 12. "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).

13. The facts set forth above show that Respondent was the treasurer for Better Tomorrow, an electioneering communications organization formerly registered with the Division. Respondent failed to file a written report with the filing officer by the prescribed reporting date that no reportable contributions or expenditures were made or falsely reported or deliberately failed to include information required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, during the 2022 G2 and 2022 G2A reporting periods. It appears that the organization had no financial activity during the relevant reporting periods, and therefore, was required to file a written report with the filing officer by the prescribed reporting date that no reportable contributions or expenditures were made for the relevant reporting periods but failed to do so. Therefore, it does not appear that Respondent falsely reported or deliberately failed to include information required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, with regard to the relevant reporting periods.

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 September 16, 2022, Jeffrey Garcia violated Section 106.0703(6), Florida Statutes, when he failed to file a written report with the filing officer by the prescribed reporting date that no reportable contributions or expenditures were made by Better Tomorrow during the 2022 G2 reporting period.

Count 2:

On or about September 23, 2022, Jeffrey Garcia violated Section 106.0703(6), Florida Statutes, when he failed to file a written report with the filing officer by the prescribed reporting date that no reportable contributions or expenditures were made by Better Tomorrow during the 2022 G2A reporting period.

Respectfully submitted on April 22, 2024.

Stephanie J. Cunningham

General Counsel

I reviewed this Staff Recommendation this <u>22</u> day of April 2024.

Tim Vaccaro

Executive Director

FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

Report of Investigation for Sections 106.0703(6) and 106.19(1)(c), F.S.

Case Number: FEC 23-038

Sections 106.0703(6) and 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes, failure of the treasurer of an electioneering communications organization that did not receive any contributions or make any expenditures during a reporting period to file a written report with the filing officer by the reporting date that no reportable contributions or expenditures were made or failure to file a campaign report to reflect financial activity.

Respondent: Jeffrey Garcia

Division of Elections (Division) Referral Filed: February 2, 2023

Respondent Type: ECO's Treasurer

I. Preliminary Information:

- 1. Respondent was the Treasurer for Better Tomorrow, an electioneering communications organization (ECO) formerly registered with the Division. To review the Final Order of Revocation, refer to Exhibit 1.
- 2. A Statement of Organization (DS-DE 103) for the ECO was filed with the Division on July 22, 2021. Jeffrey Garcia was identified as the ECO's treasurer. To review the DS-DE 103, refer to Exhibit 2.
- 3. On July 30, 2021, the Division sent Respondent a letter acknowledging Respondent's appointment as the campaign treasurer for Better Tomorrow and providing Respondent with credentials allowing access to the electronic filing system (EFS). The letter advised Respondent that all of the Division's publications and reporting forms are available on their website, including Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, the *Electioneering Communications Organization 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.
- 4. The Division sent correspondence to the address provided on the DS-DE 103 notifying Respondent that the following campaign report(s) had not been filed: 2022 G2. The letter(s) included reference to the filing date(s) for the report(s). To review the failure to file correspondence, refer to Exhibit 4.
- 5. On October 24, 2022, the Division sent Respondent a letter marked "Final Notice" with delivery confirmation to the address provided on the DS-DE 103 notifying Respondent that the following campaign report(s) had not been filed: 2022 G2. The letter was confirmed delivered on October 28, 2022. To review the letter marked "Final Notice" and delivery confirmation, refer to Exhibit 5.
- 6. On October 24, 2022, the Division sent Respondent a letter marked "Final Notice" with delivery confirmation to the address provided on the DS-DE 103 notifying Respondent that the following campaign report(s) had not been filed: 2022 G2A. The letter was confirmed delivered on October 28, 2022. To review the letter marked "Final Notice" and delivery confirmation, refer to Exhibit 6.

II. Alleged Violation of Sections 106.0703(6), and 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes:

7. I investigated whether Respondent violated these sections of the election laws either by not filing a written report with the filing officer by the reporting date that no reportable contributions or expenditures were made during the following reporting period(s) or by not filing campaign report(s) to reflect financial activity for the reporting period(s). To review the ECO's filing history, refer to Exhibit 7.

Report	Report Cover Period	Due Date	Report Type Required	Exhibit 8 ¹
2022 G2	9/3/22 – 9/9/22	9/16/22	Written Report of No Reportable Contributions or Expenditures	8
2022 G2A	9/10/22 – 9/16/22	9/23/22	Written Report of No Reportable Contributions or Expenditures	8

8. Respondent did not respond to the referral.

9. I attempted to contact Respondent on three occasions for the purpose of providing an opportunity to discuss the allegations made in the referral. As of the date of this report, my telephone calls have not been returned. Therefore, I am unable to ascertain whether Respondent has read Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, and/or the *Electioneering Communications Organization Handbook*. To review the phone log, refer to Exhibit 9.

SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR:

Date: January 17, 2024

¹ I subpoenaed campaign account records from the designated campaign depository. The campaign depository provided notification declaring that it had no record of a campaign account and/or no records from the account during the relevant timeframe.

FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Jeffrey Garcia -- FEC 23-038

LIST OF EXHIBITS			
Exhibits #s	Description of Exhibits		
Exhibit 1	Final Order of Revocation		
Exhibit 2	DS-DE 103 Form		
Exhibit 3	Acknowledgement Letter		
Exhibit 4	Failure to File Correspondence		
Exhibit 5	Final Notice with Delivery Confirmation Receipt for 2022 G2		
Exhibit 6	Final Notice with Delivery Confirmation Receipt for 2022 G2A		
Exhibit 7	ECO's Filing History		
Exhibit 8	Declaration Letter from Depository		
Exhibit 9	Phone Log		

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Stephenn B

FEB 1 4 2023

AGENCY CLERK
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, DIVISION OF ELECTIONS,

Petitioner,

ν.

BETTER TOMORROW (79607),

Respondent.

Final Order No. DOS 22

FINAL ORDER

The Florida Department of State, Division of Elections (the "Division"), pursuant to Section 106.03(7), Florida Statutes, and Rule 1S-2.021, Florida Administrative Code, promulgated thereunder, hereby enters its Final Order canceling the registration of Better Tomorrow ("Respondent") as an electioneering communications organization in the State of Florida. The Division, being fully advised as to the premises, finds and orders as follows:

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Rule 1S-2.021, Florida Administrative Code, establishes procedures for the Division to cancel the registration of an electioneering communications organization for, among other reasons, when "the committee or organization failed to file 2 or more consecutive reports."

FINDINGS OF FACT

- Respondent is a registered electioneering communications organization with the Division of Elections. Respondent's registration number is 79607.
- 2. On August 11, 2022, the Division mailed an Initial Notice of Intent to Cancel Registration (attached and incorporated by reference) to the most recent address on file for Respondent's chairperson and registered agent. The notice stated that Respondent had failed to file 2 or more consecutive reports. The Initial Notice of Intent to Cancel Registration informed Respondent of the opportunity to provide documentation to the Division to show why the Respondent's registration should not be canceled.
- 3. The Initial Notice of Intent was not returned as being undeliverable and Respondent did not respond to the Initial Notice of Intent to Cancel Registration.
- 4. On October 17, 2022, the Division mailed Respondent's registered agent a Final Notice of Intent to Cancel Registration (attached and incorporated by reference). The notice informed Respondent of the right to a hearing and that if a request for a hearing was not made within 30 days of the date of the notice, the right to a hearing would be waived and final action taken by the Division.
- 5. Respondent did not respond to the Final Notice of Intent to Cancel Registration or otherwise timely request a hearing.

CONCLUSION

Based upon the foregoing and a complete review of the record, it is ORDERED that Respondent's registration as an electioneering communications organization with the Florida Department of State, Division of Elections, is hereby CANCELED.

DONE AND ORDERED at Tallahassee, Florida, this 20 day of December, 2022.

Maria I. Matthews, Director Division of Elections

NOTICE OF RIGHTS

This Order constitutes final agency action. Judicial review may be sought pursuant to Section 120.68, Florida Statutes, by filing a notice of appeal in the First District Court of Appeal, and a copy with the clerk of the Department of State. Such notice must be filed within 30 calendar days of the date indicated in the Certificate of Service.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the original of the foregoing Final Order was hand-delivered to the Agency Clerk, Department of State, R.A. Gray Building, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250 and that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Final Order was mailed on this Yellow day of ________, 2022, by certified U.S. mail to Jeffrey Garcia, Registered Agent, Better Tomorrow, 4710 Southwest 67th Avenue, #H7, Miami, Florida 33155.

Ashley E. Davis

Deputy General Counsel Florida Department of State Florida Bar No. 48032

Florida Bar No. 48032

500 S. Bronough Street Tallahassee, Florida 32399



RON DESANTIS

Governor

CORD BYRD Secretary of State

October 17, 2022

Jerry Garcia, Registered Agent Better Tomorrow (79607) 4710 Southwest 67th Avenue #H7 Miami, Florida 33155

RE: FINAL NOTICE OF INTENT TO CANCEL REGISTRATION

Dear Mr. Garcia:

On August 11, 2022, the Division sent you an Initial Notice of Intent to Cancel Registration (Initial Notice) for the following reason based on Section 106.03(7), Florida Statutes, and Rule 1S-2.021, Florida Administrative Code:

The organization has failed to file 2 or more consecutive campaign reports.

You did not provide a response within the 15 days of the Initial Notice to show why the registration should not be canceled or to voluntarily terminate registration.

This letter constitutes Final Notice of Intent to Cancel Registration (Final Notice). If you object to the cancellation, you have 15 days from the date of the Final Notice to request a hearing.

The request for hearing must be filed with the Division of Elections, Bureau of Election Records (use the address listed below.) The request for a hearing will be forwarded to the Florida Elections Commission (FEC). The FEC will conduct a hearing based on your request and any supporting documentation. If you want to appear personally in the hearing, you must ask to appear in the request for the hearing. If you fail to request a hearing, you waive your right to a hearing and a final order will be issued canceling the organization's registration.

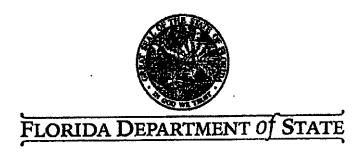
You may still opt to terminate your organization's registration within 15 days if the Final Notice. You are still obligated for any fines or fees imposed automatically by law or by the FEC.

If you have any questions, please call (850) 245-6280.

Sincerely,

Donna S. Brown, Chief Bureau of Election Records

DSB/tds Enclosure



RON DESANTIS
Governor

CORD BYRD
Secretary of State

August 11, 2022

Jeffrey Garcia, Chairperson and Registered Agent Better Tomorrow (79607) 4710 Southwest 67 Ave #H7 Miami, FL 33155

RE: INITIAL NOTICE OF INTENT TO CANCEL REGISTRATION

Dear Mr. Garcia:

This Initial Notice of Intent to Cancel Registration of your electioneering communications organization is based on the following pursuant to Section 106.03(7), Florida Statutes, and Rule 1S-2.021, Florida Administrative Code:

• The organization has failed to file 2 or more consecutive campaign reports.

If you object to this cancellation, you have 15 days from the date of this notice to provide documentation showing why the organization's registration should not be canceled. Alternatively, you may choose to voluntarily terminate your organization's registration before the end of the 15 days.

All further notices regarding cancellation of this organization's registration will be sent only to the registered agent's most recent address on file.

If you have any questions, please call (850) 245-6280.

Sincerely,

Donna S. Brown, Chief Bureau of Election Records

DSB/tds

Enclosure

ELECTIONEERING COMMUNICATIONS ORGANIZATION

STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATION

(PLEASE TYPE)



			OFFICE USE ONLY
1. Full Name of Organization	Better Tomorrow		Telephone 305-495-0012
Mailing Address (include city, s	• '	SW 67 Ave #H7.	Miami, FL 33155
Street Address (include city, state		V 67 Ave #H	7, Miami, FL 33155
2. Affiliated or Connected Org	ganizations		
Name of Affiliated or Connected Organization	Mailing	Address	Relationship
N/A 3. Area, Scope and Jurisdiction Statewide, Legislative and			
4. Identify by Name, Address	& Position, the Custodian	of Books & Account	s for the Organization
Full Name	Mailing Address	Street Address	Title or Position
Jeffrey Garcia	4710 SW 67 Ave #H7, Miami, FL 33155	4710 SW 67 Ave #H7, Miami, FL 33155	Chairman/Treasurer
September, and December.)			s end the last day of March, June,
	ization during the current sting prior to the current c	•	
		Exhib	it 2 Page 1 of 2
Form DS-DE 103 (Rev. 06/11) - R	ule 1S-2.017		(continued on reverse)

Full Name	Include the top-ranking office Mailing Address		eet Address	Title or Position
Jeffrey Garcia	4710 SW 67 Ave #H7, FL 33155	ļ	4710 SW 67 Ave #H7, Miami, FL 33155	Treasurer
	ution, What Disposition will be rned to the contributors.	Made of	the Residual Funds?	
8. List All Banks, Safety Communications	Deposit Boxes, or Other Depo	sitories U	Ised by this Organizatio	n for Electioneering
Name of B	ank or Depository	Mailing Address		
City National Bank		2855 N Le Jeune Rd STE 100, Coral Gables, FL 33134		
9. List All Reports Requi	ired to be Filed by this Organiz Officials, If Any	ation wit	h Federal Officials, & th	e Names, Addresses,
Report Title	Dates Required to be Filed	Name	& Position of Official	Mailing Address
n/A				
STATE OF Florida			Miami Dade	COUNTY
, Jeffrey Garcia			certify that the information	
Organization is complete,	true, and correct.			
x CHA	<i>1</i> .		7/16/21	
Signature of Top-ran	king Principal Officer of Organiza	ation	D	ate



RON DESANTIS
Governor

LAUREL M. LEE Secretary of State

July 30, 2021

Jeffrey Garcia, Chairperson Better Tomorrow 4710 Southwest 67 Avenue, #H7 Miami, Florida 33155

Dear Mr. Garcia:

This will acknowledge receipt of the Statement of Organization for **Better Tomorrow**, which was placed on file in our office on July 29, 2021. This information appears to comply with the requirements of Sections 106.011 and 106.03, Florida Statutes. The name of this organization has been placed on our active list as an electioneering communications organization.

Campaign Reports

Your first campaign report will be due on **August 10, 2021**. The report will cover the period of July 1-31, 2021 (2021 M7). All electioneering communications organizations 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 organization's user identification number. Enclosed are the organization's confidential, filing credentials.

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

Identification Number: 79607

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 106.0703(7), Florida Statutes. In the event that the EFS is inoperable on

Jeffrey Garcia, Chairperson July 30, 2021 Page Two

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 electioneering communications organization 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 report filed by means of the EFS is considered to be under oath by the treasurer and such persons are subject to the provisions of Section 106.0703(4), 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: Chapters 104 and 106, Florida Statutes, Electioneering Communications Organization 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/dlh

Enclosures



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE Cord Byrd

Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

September 19, 2022

Jeffrey Garcia, Treasurer Better Tomorrow 4710 Southwest 67 Avenue #H7 Miami, FL 33155-3155

Dear Mr. Garcia:

Our records indicate that you have not filed your campaign treasurer's report that was due on September 16, 2022. Electioneering communication organizations (ECOs) are required to file a report even when the ECO has not received funds, made any contributions, or expended any reportable funds.

The law (s. 106.0703(7)(a), 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 you have not filed a report, statutory fines are automatically assessed as follows until you file your report:

\$50 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.

However, in all cases, failure to file and/or untimely filing of a report 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., apart from the automatic fines set forth above.

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

Sincerely,

Donna S. Brown, Chief Bureau of Election Records ECO 79607



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Cord Byrd Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

Final Notice **Delivery Confirmation:**

& CUSTOMER RECEIPT

USPS TRACKING # 9114 9022 0085 2074 0800 19 For Tracking or inquirles go to USPS.com or call 1-800-222-1811

October 24, 2022

Jeffrey Garcia, Treasurer Better Tomorrow 4710 Southwest 67 Avenue Miami, FL 33155-3155

ECO 79607

Dear Mr. Garcia:

A recent review of the Division's records show that the organization referenced above has not yet filed the required report during the following cover period.

<u>Year</u>	Report	Cover Period
2022	G2	9/3/22 - 9/9/22

The Division has previously notified the organization of the unfiled report. Please file your report. If the report is not filed within 7 day 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. 106.0703(7)(a), Fla. Stat.

As we stated in the prior notices, even if the organization now files the report, the untimely filing of a report 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,

Donna S. Brown, Chief Bureau of Election Records

USPS Tracking[®]

FAQs >

Remove X **Tracking Number:** 9114902200852074080019 Add to Informed Delivery (https://informeddelivery.usps.com/) Copy **Latest Update** Your item was delivered in or at the mailbox at 5:38 pm on October 28, 2022 in MIAMI, FL 33155. **Get More Out of USPS Tracking:** USPS Tracking Plus® **Delivered** Delivered, In/At Mailbox MIAMI, FL 33155 October 28, 2022, 5:38 pm See All Tracking History **Text & Email Updates USPS Tracking Plus® Product Information** See Less ^ Track Another Package Enter tracking or barcode numbers



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Cord Byrd Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

Final Notice **Delivery Confirmation:**

& CUSTOMER RECEIPT

usps tracking # 9114 9022 0085 2074 0801 63 For Tracking or inquiries go to USPS.com or call 1-800-222-1811

October 24, 2022

Jeffrey Garcia, Treasurer Better Tomorrow 4710 Southwest 67 Avenue Miami, FL 33155-3155

ECO 79607

Dear Mr. Garcia:

A recent review of the Division's records show that the organization referenced above has not yet filed the required report during the following cover period.

<u>Year</u>	Report	Cover Period	
2022	G2A	9/10/22 - 9/16/22	

The Division has previously notified the organization of the unfiled report. Please file your report. If the report is not filed within 7 day 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. 106.0703(7)(a), Fla. Stat.

As we stated in the prior notices, even if the organization now files the report, the untimely filing of a report 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.

Donna S. Brown, Chief Bureau of Election Records

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FAQs >

Remove X **Tracking Number:** 9114902200852074080163 Add to Informed Delivery (https://informeddelivery.usps.com/) Copy **Latest Update** Your item was delivered in or at the mailbox at 5:38 pm on October 28, 2022 in MIAMI, FL 33155. Get More Out of USPS Tracking: USPS Tracking Plus® **Delivered** Delivered, In/At Mailbox MIAMI, FL 33155 October 28, 2022, 5:38 pm See All Tracking History **Text & Email Updates USPS** Tracking Plus® **Product Information** See Less ^ Track Another Package

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Florida Department of State - Division of Elections

Florida Election System Reports

Candidate/Committee Lookup						
Name:						
Election:						
		~				
Acct:	79607					
Туре:	Electioneering Comm ✓					
	Search	Reset				

Electioneering Comm Name:Better Tomorrow **Account: 79607**

Account: 79607							
Date Due Type Da	te Filed Status	Days Late	Fine Appealed Assessed	Amount Fined	Amount Paid		
2/10/2023 M1	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
1/10/2023 M12	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
12/12/2022 M11	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
11/6/2022 D9	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
11/5/2022 D8	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
11/4/2022 D7	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
11/4/2022 G6	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
11/3/2022 D6	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
11/2/2022 D5	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
11/1/2022 D4	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
10/31/2022 D3	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
10/30/2022 D2	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
10/29/2022 D1	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
10/28/2022 G5	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
10/21/2022 G4A	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
10/14/2022 G4	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
10/7/2022 G3	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
10/7/2022 G3A	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
9/23/2022 G2A	FEC	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
9/16/2022 G2	FEC	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
9/9/2022 G1A	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
9/2/2022 G1	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
8/26/2022 P7A	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
8/19/2022 P7	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
8/12/2022 P6	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
8/5/2022 P5	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
7/29/2022 P4	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
7/22/2022 P3	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
7/15/2022 P2A	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
7/8/2022 P2	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
7/1/2022 P1A	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
6/24/2022 P1	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
6/10/2022 M5	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
5/10/2022 M4	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
4/11/2022 M3	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
3/10/2022 M2	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
2/10/2022 M1	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
1/10/2022 M12	CLO	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
12/10/2021 M11 12/							
11/10/2021 M10 12/		30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
	8/2021 CLO	27	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
9/10/2021 M8 9/2		10	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
8/10/2021 M7 8/1	1/2021 CLO	1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		



Better Tomorrow

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	07/29/2021 - 07/31/2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	08/01/2021 - 08/31/2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	09/01/2021 - 09/30/2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	10/01/2021 - 10/31/2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0	11/01/2021 - 11/30/2021	16,500.00	0.00	0.00	14,800.00	0.00	0.00
	All Dates (Totals)	16,500.00	0.00	0.00	14,800.00	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 **L** Indicates that a loan report was filed

Select Detail Type Select Sort Order Select Output Type

Contributions ✓ Date(Ascending) ✓ Display On Screen ✓

Submit Query Now

Query the Campaign Finance Data Base

[Department of State] [Division of Elections] [Candidates and Races] [Campaign Finance Information]

Cedric Oliver

From: Schildbach, Ruth <ruth.schildbach@citynational.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 4:17 PM

To: Cedric Oliver

Subject: Subpoena No. 23-038-44 Better Tomorrow/J. Garcia

I searched our database and City National Bank of Florida does not have any accounts to Better Tomorrow or Jeffrey Garcia.

If you need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Ruth Schildbach

Banking Officer, Paralegal General Counsel/Legal

100 S.E . 2nd Street, Miami, Florida, 33131

Phone: 305-577-7218 Fax: (305) 533-0170

citynational.com / Member FDIC Equal Housing Lender

FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION PHONE LOG

Case No.: FEC 23-038

Respondent: Jeffrey Garcia

Complainant: DOE

1. **Date and time:** May 4, 2023 @ 9:40 am

Name: Respondent **Phone** #: (305) 495-0012

Summary: I attempted telephone contact to make initial contact with Respondent. I left a

message to return my call.

Entered by: CKO

2. **Date and time:** May 4, 2023 @ 9:50 am

Name: Oleydis—Bank Rep **Phone** #: (305) 448-6500

Summary: I had telephone contact to inquire about the best method to send subpoena. I was instructed to send it via mail to: City National Bank, Attention: Legal, 100 SE 2ND Street,

13th Floor, Miami, Fl 33131.

Entered by: CKO

3. **Date and time:** May 10, 2023 @ 1:05 pm

Name: Ruth—Bank Representative

Phone #: (305) 577-7218

Summary: I attempted telephone contact to return her call stating that she was unable to

locate any information on Respondent. I left a message to return my call.

Entered by: CKO

4. **Date and time:** May 10, 2023 @ 2:10 pm

Name: Ruth—Bank Representative

Phone #: (305) 577-7218

Summary: I had telephone contact from Ruth in response to my message left for her behalf. Ruth advised me that City National Bank doesn't have any information on Respondent or the Better Tomorrow Electioneering Communications Organization. I requested that she send me something in writing detailing this information. She requested my email address and stated that I should have something by COB today. I thanked her for her assistance with this request.

Entered by: CKO

5. **Date and time:** May 10, 2023 @ 2:30 pm

Name: Respondent **Phone** #: (305) 495-0012

Summary: I attempted telephone contact to complete final interview. I left a message to

return my call. **Entered by:** CKO

6. **Date and time:** May 11, 2023 @ 9:25 am

Name: Respondent **Phone** #: (305) 495-0012

Summary: I attempted telephone contact to complete final interview. I left a message to

return my call. **Entered by:** CKO

7. **Date and time:**

Name: Phone #: Summary: Entered by:

8. **Date and time:**

Name: Phone #: Summary: Entered by:

FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION PHONE LOG

Case No.: FEC 23-038

Respondent: Jeffrey Garcia

Complainant: DOE

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8. **Date and time:**

Name: Phone #: Summary: Entered by:



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



April 5, 2023

Jeffrey Garcia 4710 Southwest 67 Avenue; #H7 Miami, FL 33155

RE: Case No.: FEC 23-038; Respondent: Jeffrey Garcia

Dear Mr. Garcia:

On February 2, 2023, the Florida Elections Commission received a complaint alleging that you violated Florida's election laws. I have reviewed the complaint and find that it contains one or more **legally sufficient allegations**. The Commission staff will investigate the following alleged violations:

Section 106.0703(6), Florida Statutes: As alleged in the complaint, Respondent, treasurer for Better Tomorrow, an electioneering communications organization registered with the Division of Elections, failed to file a written report with the filing officer by the prescribed reporting date that no reportable contributions or expenditures were made during the 2022 G2 and 2022 G2A reporting periods.

Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes: As alleged in the complaint, Respondent, treasurer for Better Tomorrow, an electioneering communications organization registered with the Division of Elections, may have falsely reported or deliberately failed to include information required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, during the 2022 G2 and 2022 G2A reporting periods.

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 prepare and present a written Staff Recommendation (SR) to the Commission as to whether there is probable cause to charge you, the 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 of the fine to be imposed upon you. Notice will be mailed to you and the Complainant at least 14 days before any hearing at which your case is to be considered.

Pursuant to Section 106.25(4)(i)3., Florida Statutes, the Commission may enter into a consent agreement with a Respondent to settle a complaint prior to a finding of probable cause. If you are interested in entering negotiations directed towards reaching a consent agreement to resolve this matter, please contact the Commission and request to speak with the attorney assigned to this case.

Jeffrey Garcia April 5, 2023 Page 2 FEC 23-038

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

Pursuant to Section 106.25, Florida Statutes, complaints, 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, unless the Respondent files a written waiver of confidentiality with the Commission. The confidentiality provision does not apply to the Complainant or the Respondent.

Should you retain counsel, your attorney must file a notice of appearance with the Commission before any member of the commission staff can discuss this case with him or her.

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

If you have additional questions, please contact Cedric Oliver, the investigator assigned to this case, by phone at (850) 922-4539 or by email at Cedric.Oliver@myfloridalegal.com.

Vaccaro

Sincerely

Tim Vaccaro

Executive Director

TV/jd

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS FEC NOTICE FORM

To FEC from Division of Elections

Name:

Better Tomorrow

Account Number:

79607

Chairperson:

Jeffrey Garcia

Treasurer:

Jeffrey Garcia

Registered Agent:

Jeffrey Garcia

The Division of Elections hereby provides this notice to the Florida Elections Commission pursuant to sections 106.0703(7)(d), 106.22(7), and 106.25(2), Florida Statutes. An apparent violation of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, has occurred based upon the failure to file a report after notice.

The following reports are outstanding after notification:

2022 G2

2022 G2A

- Better Tomorrow (79607) is an electioneering communications organization registered with the Division of Elections. On July 29, 2021, the organization filed the DSDE 103 and DSDE 41 with the Division indicating that Jeffrey Garcia was the chairperson.
- The 2022 G2 campaign treasurer's report was due on September 16, 2022. On September 19, 2022, the Division mailed Better Tomorrow notification that the 2022 G2 campaign treasurer's report had not been filed.
- On October 24, 2022, the Division mailed Better Tomorrow final notification with delivery confirmation that the 2022 G2 report had not been filed. (See attached letter and delivery confirmation.)
- The 2022 G2A campaign treasurer's report was due on September 23, 2022.
 On October 24, 2022, the Division mailed Better Tomorrow final notification that the 2022 G2A campaign treasurer's report had not been filed. (see attached letter and delivery confirmation).

Better Tomorrow (79607) Page Two

- The organization did not notify the Division of Elections prior to or on the prescribed reporting dates for the 2022 G2 and 2022 G2A reports that no reports were to be filed.
- As of January 30, 2023, Better Tomorrow has not filed the 2022 G2 and 2022 G2A reports.

Sent By:

Donna S. Brown

Date:

January 30, 2023

dlh



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Cord Byrd Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

Final Notice Delivery Confirmation: & CUSTOMER RECEIPT

USPS TRACKING # 9114 9022 0085 2074 0800 19 For Tracking or inquirles go to USPS.com or call 1-800-222-1811

October 24, 2022

Jeffrey Garcia, Treasurer Better Tomorrow 4710 Southwest 67 Avenue Miami, FL 33155-3155

ECO 79607

Dear Mr. Garcia:

A recent review of the Division's records show that the organization referenced above has not yet filed the required report during the following cover period.

<u>Year</u>	Report	Cover Period
2022	G?	9/3/22 - 9/9/22

The Division has previously notified the organization of the unfiled report. Please file your report. If the report is not filed within 7 day 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. 106.0703(7)(a), Fla. Stat.

As we stated in the prior notices, even if the organization now files the report, the untimely filing of a report 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,

Donna S. Brown, Chief Bureau of Election Records

USPS Tracking®

FAQs >

Remove X **Tracking Number:** 9114902200852074080019 Add to Informed Delivery (https://informeddelivery.usps.com/) Copy **Latest Update** Your item was delivered in or at the mailbox at 5:38 pm on October 28, 2022 in MIAMI, FL 33155. **Get More Out of USPS Tracking:** USPS Tracking Plus® **Delivered** Delivered, In/At Mailbox MIAMI, FL 33155 October 28, 2022, 5:38 pm See All Tracking History **Text & Email Updates USPS Tracking Plus® Product Information** See Less ^ Track Another Package Enter tracking or barcode numbers



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Cord Byrd Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

Final Notice Delivery Confirmation:

& CUSTOMER RECEIPT

usps tracking # 9114 9022 0085 2074 0801 63 For Tracking or inquiries go to USPS.com or call 1-800-222-1811

October 24, 2022

Jeffrey Garcia, Treasurer Better Tomorrow 4710 Southwest 67 Avenue Miami, FL 33155-3155

ECO 79607

Dear Mr. Garcia:

A recent review of the Division's records show that the organization referenced above has not yet filed the required report during the following cover period.

Year	Report	Cover Period
2022	G2A	9/10/22 - 9/16/22

The Division has previously notified the organization of the unfiled report. Please file your report. If the report is not filed within 7 day 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. 106.0703(7)(a), Fla. Stat.

As we stated in the prior notices, even if the organization now files the report, the untimely filing of a report 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,

Donna S. Brown, Chief Bureau of Election Records

USPS Tracking[®]

FAQs >

Remove X **Tracking Number:** 9114902200852074080163 Add to Informed Delivery (https://informeddelivery.usps.com/) Copy **Latest Update** Your item was delivered in or at the mailbox at 5:38 pm on October 28, 2022 in MIAMI, FL 33155. Get More Out of USPS Tracking: USPS Tracking Plus® **Delivered** Delivered, In/At Mailbox MIAMI, FL 33155 October 28, 2022, 5:38 pm See All Tracking History **Text & Email Updates USPS Tracking Plus® Product Information** See Less ∧ Track Another Package

Enter tracking or barcode numbers