

**STATE OF FLORIDA  
FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

**In Re: Strong Families For A Better Future**

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**Case No.: FEC 22-288**

**TO:** Rolinda McCarthy, Chair  
2402 NW 178th Terrace  
Miami Gardens, FL 33056

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

**NOTICE OF HEARING (INFORMAL HEARING (IH))**

A hearing will be held in this case before the Florida Elections Commission on **February 7, 2024 at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the parties can be heard**, at the following location: **402 South Monroe Street, 12 HOB, 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  
January 19, 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 to 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,

Case No.: FEC 22-288

v.

Strong Families for a Better Future,  
Respondent.

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**ORDER OF PROBABLE CAUSE**

**THIS MATTER** was heard by the Florida Elections Commission (Commission) at its regularly scheduled meeting on November 15, 2023, in Tallahassee, Florida.

On June 22, 2023, 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 February 10, 2022, Strong Families for a Better Future 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 or about July 1, 2022, Strong Families for a Better Future 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 P1A Report.

**Count 3:**

On or about July 15, 2022, Strong Families for a Better Future 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 P2A Report.

**Count 4:**

On or about July 22, 2022, Strong Families for a Better Future 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 P3 Report.

**DONE AND ORDERED** by the Florida Elections Commission on November 15, 2023.



Tim Vaccaro, J.D., Executive Director  
For Chad Mizelle, Chairman  
Florida Elections Commission

Copies furnished to:  
Stephanie J. Cunningham, General Counsel  
Strong Families for a Better Future, 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 consent order 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 informal hearing held before the Commission, if you do not 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 formal hearing 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: Strong Families For A Better Future**

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**Case No.: FEC 22-288**

**TO:** Rolinda McCarthy, Chair  
2402 NW 178th Terrace  
Miami Gardens, FL 33056

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, **November 15, 2023 at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the parties can be heard**, at the following location: **402 South Monroe Street, 12 HOB, 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  
October 31, 2023

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 to Sections 120.569 and 120.57(2), Florida Statutes; Chapter 28 and Commission Rule 2B-1.004, Florida Administrative Code. At the hearing, the Commission will decide whether the Respondent committed the violation(s) charged in the Order of Probable Cause. The Respondent will be permitted to testify. However, the Respondent may not call witnesses to testify.

Respondent may argue why the established facts in the Staff Recommendation do not support the violations charged in the Order of Probable Cause. At Respondent's request, the Commission may determine whether Respondent's actions in the case were willful. The Respondent may also address the appropriateness of the recommended fine. If Respondent claims that his limited resources make him unable to pay the statutory fine, *he must provide the Commission with written proof of his financial resources* at the hearing. A financial affidavit form is available from the Commission Clerk.



# Florida Elections Commission

107 West Gaines Street, Suite 224 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1050

Telephone: (850) 922-4539 · Facsimile: (850) 921-0783

[FEC@myfloridalegal.com](mailto:FEC@myfloridalegal.com) · [www.fec.state.fl.us](http://www.fec.state.fl.us)



September 6, 2023

Strong Families for a Better Future  
Rolinda McCarthy, Chair  
2402 NW 178th Terrace  
Miami Gardens, FL 33056

**RE: Case No.: FEC 22-288; Respondent: Strong Families for a Better Future**

Dear Ms. McCarthy:

The Florida Elections Commission at its August 15, 2023, virtual meeting was unable to hear this case. Therefore, this case has been rescheduled for its next meeting, which is scheduled for November 14-15, 2023, in Tallahassee. A notice of hearing indicating the exact date and time will be mailed approximately 14 days before the hearing.

If you have any questions, please contact us at the number listed above or at [fec@myfloridalegal.com](mailto:fec@myfloridalegal.com).

Sincerely,

*Tim Vaccaro*

Executive Director

TV/dm

cc: Division of Elections, Complainant



**STATE OF FLORIDA  
FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

**In Re: Strong Families for a Better Future**

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**Case No.: FEC 22-288**

**TO:** Rolinda McCarthy, Chair  
2402 NW 178th Terrace  
Miami Gardens, FL 33056

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

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

A hearing will be held in this case before the Florida Elections Commission on, **August 15, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as the parties can be heard, at the following location: **Virtual Meeting.**

Register in advance for this meeting via Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYudumrjgoGNJ2UhnWkz6Q8JF6AOXxKwdP>

**After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.**

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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**See further instructions on the reverse side.**

**Tim Vaccaro**

Executive Director  
Florida Elections Commission  
August 1, 2023

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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 **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.

**STATE OF FLORIDA  
FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

**In Re: Strong Families for a Better  
Future**

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**Case No.: FEC 22-288**

**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 March 9, 2023, 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” or “Complainant”), alleging that Strong Families for a Better Future (“Respondent”) violated Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.
2. Respondent is a political committee registered with the Division. (ROI Exhibit 2)<sup>1</sup>
3. By letter dated October 10, 2022, 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 the following reporting periods:

- 2022 M1
- 2022 P1
- 2022 P1A
- 2022 P2A
- 2022 P3

4. By letter dated November 8, 2021, Donna S. Brown, Chief, Bureau of Election Records, sent Respondent’s chairperson and treasurer a letter acknowledging that the Division had received its Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Political Committees form. (ROI Exhibit 3)

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<sup>1</sup> The Report of Investigation is referred to herein as “ROI.”

5. The acknowledgment letter advised Respondent that all of the Division’s publications and reporting forms were available on its website and directed Respondent to print out the *Calendar of Reporting Dates* as well as other relevant documents. (ROI Exhibit 3, page 2)

6. 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 dates that no reports would be filed for the following reporting periods, as set forth in the table below. (ROI Exhibit 6, page 1)

<b>Report</b>	<b>Report Cover Period</b>	<b>Date Notification Due</b>	<b>Date Notification Filed</b>	<b>No. of Days Late</b>
2022 M1	1/1/22– 1/31/22	2/10/22	2/11/22	1
2022 P1A	6/18/22– 6/24/22	7/1/22	7/8/22	7
2022 P2A	7/2/22– 7/8/22	7/15/22	7/25/22	10
2022 P3	7/9/22– 7/15/22	7/22/22	7/29/22	7

9. With regard to the Division’s allegation that Respondent failed to notify the filing officer on the prescribed reporting date that no report would be filed for 2022 P1 reporting period, the Division’s records show that Respondent filed a report disclosing financial activity in lieu of a notice of no activity. (ROI Exhibit 6, page 4) The report was filed untimely, and the Division imposed a fine pursuant Section 106.07(8)(b), Florida Statutes, against Respondent. (ROI Exhibit 6, page 1) Therefore, Respondent did not fail to timely notify the filing officer that no report would be filed for 2022 P1 reporting period.

10. Rolinda McCarthy, chairperson for Respondent, stated that the notices were untimely because it was her, as well as the treasurer’s, first time acting as an officer for a political committee. Ms. McCarthy also stated that she had difficulty assigning the correct reporting periods to the committee’s filings. (ROI Exhibit 7)

11. “Probable Cause” is defined as reasonable grounds of suspicion supported by circumstances sufficiently strong to warrant a cautious person in the belief that the person has

committed the offense charged. *Schmitt v. State*, 590 So. 2d 404, 409 (Fla. 1991). Probable cause exists where the facts and circumstances, of which an [investigator] has reasonably trustworthy information, are sufficient in themselves for a reasonable man to reach the conclusion that an offense has been committed. *Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles v. Favino*, 667 So. 2d 305, 309 (Fla. 1st DCA 1995).

12. The facts set forth above show that Respondent is a political committee registered with the Division. Respondent failed to notify the filing officer on the prescribed reporting dates that no reports would be filed for the following reporting periods: 2022 M1, 2022 P1A, 2022 P2A, and 2022 P3.

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

**Count 1:**

On or about February 10, 2022, Strong Families for a Better Future 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 or about July 1, 2022, Strong Families for a Better Future 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 P1A Report.

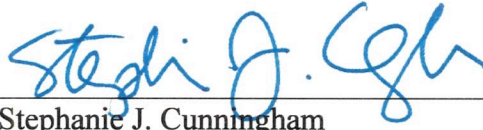
**Count 3:**

On or about July 15, 2022, Strong Families for a Better Future 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 P2A Report.

**Count 4:**

On or about July 22, 2022, Strong Families for a Better Future 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 P3 Report.

Respectfully submitted on June 22, 2023.



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Stephanie J. Cunningham  
General Counsel

I reviewed this Staff Recommendation this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of June 2023.



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Tim Vaccaro  
Executive Director

# FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

## Report of Investigation for Failure to Notify Filing Officer

**Case Number: FEC 22-288**

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:** Strong Families for a Better Future

**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 November 2, 2021. Marise Fils-Aime was appointed as campaign treasurer. To review the DS-DE 6, refer to Exhibit 1.
3. A Statement of Organization (DS-DE 5) for the political committee was filed on November 2, 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 5 on November 8, 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 *Handbook* 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 notifications summarized below, refer to Exhibit 6.

**THIS SPACE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK**

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	2/11/22	1
2022 P1	6/1/22– 6/17/22	6/24/22	7/8/22	14 <sup>1</sup>
2022 P1A	6/18/22– 6/24/22	7/1/22	7/8/22	7
2022 P2A	7/2/22– 7/8/22	7/15/22	7/25/22	10
2022 P3	7/9/22– 7/15/22	7/22/22	7/29/22	7

9. Respondent did not respond to the referral.

10. On March 9, 2023, I called Respondent’s Chairperson, Rolinda McCarthy, for the purpose of providing an opportunity to discuss the allegations made in the referral. Ms. McCarthy stated that this was the first time that she and Ms. Fils-Aime had worked on a political committee. She acknowledged that the committee had difficulties filing the reports due to them not being familiar with the EFS. Ms. McCarthy stated that they, “screwed up big time when we were trying to file those reports. I wasn’t changing the number in the drop-down box to the right report number when I tried to file the reports.” She acknowledged that she was informed about Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, and the *Political Committee Handbook*. To review the phone log, refer to Exhibit 7.

**SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR:**



**Date:** March 9, 2023

---

<sup>1</sup> Division records show that an expenditure and five contributions were disclosed on the 2022 P1 report when it was filed on July 8, 2022, so it was not a notice of no activity. The box for “waiver” is not checked on this record. An automatic fine in the amount of \$5,595.58 was imposed for the late-filed report. To review the Division records, refer to Exhibit 6, pages 1-2 and 4.



**FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**  
**REPORT OF INVESTIGATION**  
**Strong Families For A Better Future -- FEC 22-288**

<b>LIST OF EXHIBITS</b>	
<b>Exhibits #s</b>	<b>Description of Exhibits</b>
Exhibit 1	DS-DE 6 Form
Exhibit 2	Statement of Organization
Exhibit 3	Acknowledgement Letter
Exhibit 4	Relevant pages from the Political Committee Handbook
Exhibit 5	Relevant pages from the Political Committee EFS User's Guide
Exhibit 6	Filing History
Exhibit 7	Phone Log

HAND DELIVERED

RECEIVED

2021 NOV -2 PM 3:43

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS  
TALLAHASSEE, FL

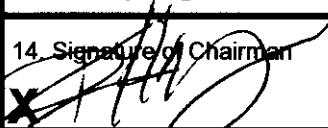
**APPOINTMENT OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER  
AND DESIGNATION OF CAMPAIGN  
DEPOSITORY FOR  
POLITICAL COMMITTEES**  
(Sections 106.011(2) and 106.021(1), F.S.)

CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX:

Initial Filing for:  Primary Treasurer  Deputy Treasurer

Re-filing to Change:  Primary Treasurer  Deputy Treasurer  Primary/Secondary Depository

OFFICE USE ONLY

1. Committee Strong Families for a Better Future		2. Telephone (954 ) 594-7897	
3. Name of Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer Marise Fils-Aime		4. Email (optional)	
5. Telephone (optional) ( )			
6. Mailing Address 2153 North Bay Road, Miami Beach, Florida 33140			
7. Street Address 2153 North Bay Road, Miami Beach, Florida 33140			
8. The following bank has been designated as the <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Primary Depository <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary Depository			
9. Name of Bank Wells Fargo		10. Street Address 3201 North University Drive	
11. City Coral Springs		12. State Florida	13. Zip Code 33065
14. Signature of Chairman 		15. Name of Chairman (Print or Type) Rolinda McCarthy	

**Campaign Treasurer's Acceptance of Appointment**

I, Marise Fils-Aime, do hereby accept the appointment as  
(Please Print or Type)  
treasurer or deputy treasurer for Strong Families for a Better Future  
(Committee)

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.

09/07/2021  
Date

Marise Fils-Aime  
Signature of Campaign Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer

HAND DELIVERED

**STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATION  
OF POLITICAL COMMITTEE**

(PLEASE TYPE)

OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIVED

2021 NOV -2 PM 3:43

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS  
TALLAHASSEE, FL

**1. Full Name of Committee**

Strong Families for a Better Future

Telephone

(954) 594-7897

Mailing Address (include city, state and zip code)

201 West Sunrise Boulevard, Suite 2B  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33311

Street Address (include city, state and zip code)

201 West Sunrise Boulevard, Suite 2B  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33311

**2. Affiliated or Connected Organizations (includes other committees of continuous existence and political committees)**

Name of Affiliated or Connected Organization	Mailing Address	Relationship
N/A		

**3. Area, Scope and Jurisdiction of the Committee**

Candidate and ballot issues, statewide, legislative, multi-district, countywide and municipal elections

**4. Nature of Organization or Organization's Special Interest (e.g., medical, legal, education, etc.)**

Government

**5. Identify by Name, Address and Position, the Custodian of Books and Accounts (include treasurer's name)**

Full Name	Mailing Address	Committee Title or Position
Marise Fils-Aime	2153 North Bay Road Miami Beach, Florida 33140	Treasurer

**6. List by Name, Address and Position, Other Principal Officers, Including Officers and Members of the Finance Committee, If Any (include chairman's name)**

Full Name	Mailing Address	Committee Title or Position
Rolinda McCarthy	8180 Northwest 40th Street Coral Springs, Florida 33065	Chairperson

**7. List by Name, Address, Office Sought and Party Affiliation Each Candidate or Other Individual that this Committee is Supporting (if none, please indicate)**

Full Name	Mailing Address	Office Sought	Party
Marleine Bastien	Post Office Box 640703 Miami, Florida 33164-0703	Miami-Dade County Commissioner	Nonpartisan
Others to Be Determined			

**8. List Any Issues this Committee is Supporting:** To Be Determined  
**List Any Issues this Committee is Opposing:** To Be Determined

**9. If this Committee is Supporting the Entire Ticket of a Party, Give Name of Party**  
 N/A

**10. In the Event of Dissolution, What Disposition will be Made of Residual Funds?**  
 Return to contributors or donate to an IRC Section 527 or 501(c) organization

**11. List all Banks, Safety Deposit Boxes, or Other Depositories Used for Committee Funds**

Name of Bank or Depository & Account Number	Mailing Address
Wells Fargo	3201 North University Drive Coral Springs, Florida 33065

**12. List all Reports Required to be Filed by this Committee with Federal Officials and the Names, Addresses and Positions of Such Officials, If Any**

Report Title	Dates Required to be Filed	Name & Position of Official	Mailing Address
Form 8871	within 24 hours	IRS	Ogden, UT
Form 1120 POL	Annual	IRS	Ogden, UT

STATE OF FLORIDA BROWARD COUNTY

I, Rolinda McCarthy, certify that the information in this Statement of

Organization is complete, true and correct.

**X**  \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Chairman of Political Committee

\_\_\_\_\_ 9/9/2021 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date



## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT of STATE

**RON DESANTIS**  
Governor

**LAUREL M. LEE**  
Secretary of State

November 8, 2021

Rolinda McCarthy, Chairperson  
Strong Families for a Better Future  
8180 Northwest 40th Street  
Coral Springs, Florida 33065

Dear Ms. McCarthy:

This will acknowledge receipt of the Statement of Organization and Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for **Strong Families for a Better Future**, which were placed on file in our office on November 5, 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 **December 10, 2021**. The report will cover the period of November 1-30, 2021 (2021 M11). 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:** 79797

### 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

Rolinda McCarthy, Chairperson  
November 8, 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/kaf

Enclosures

pc: Marise Fils-Aime, Treasurer

# 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. 9/27/2019)

Any political committee required to file reports with a filing officer other than the Division must file reports on the 60<sup>th</sup> day immediately preceding the primary election and bi-weekly on each Friday thereafter through and including the 4<sup>th</sup> day immediately preceding the general election, with additional reports due on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> days before the primary election and the general election.

Unless the electronic filing requirements of Section [106.0705](#), 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 [Electronic Filing System \(EFS\)](#) are due no later than midnight, Eastern Time, of the due date.

*(Sections [106.07](#), [106.0705](#), and [106.141](#), Fla. Stat.;  
[Chapter 11: Electronic Filing of Campaign Reports](#))*

### 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 [106.07\(8\)](#), 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 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.

*(Sections [106.07\(7\)](#) and [106.0705](#), 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 Election  
Report Type: F2 2010  
Coverage Period: 7/17/2010 7/30/2010 Due Date: 08/06/2010  
 Special Election Report  Waiver

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

Report: 2010 - G4 - 27 2010 General Election Covers: 10/16/2010-10/28/2010 Due: 10/29/2010  
 Amendment  Waiver Complete Status: Incomplete Detail Records  
File Date: Review Status: Not Reviewed  
Status: Data Entry Last Review:  
# of Transactions: 0      

Contributions	Total Amount	Expenditures	Total Amount
Cash and Checks:	0.00	Monetary:	0.00
Loans:	0.00	Transfers to Off Acct:	0.00
Total Monetary:	0.00	Total Monetary:	0.00
In-Kind:	0.00	Other Distributions:	0.00

Review Messages

Created: 10/26/2010 11:41:25 AM By: 50552 Revised: 10/26/2010 11:41:25 AM By: 50552



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## Florida Department of State - Division of Elections

### Florida Election System Reports

Candidate/Committee Lookup

**Committee Name:** Strong Families for a Better Future

Name:

**Account:** 79797

Election:

Acct:

Type:

Date Due	Type	Date Filed	Status	Days Late	Fine Assessed	Appealed	Amount Fined	Amount Paid
2/10/2023	M1	2/8/2023						
1/10/2023	M12	1/6/2023						
12/12/2022	M11	12/13/2022	SNT	1	\$50.00		\$50.00	\$0.00
11/4/2022	G6	11/4/2022						
11/3/2022	D6	12/13/2022	CLO	40	\$3.00		\$3.00	\$0.00
11/2/2022	D5	12/13/2022	SNT	41	\$125.00		\$125.00	\$0.00
11/1/2022	D4	12/13/2022	SNT	42	\$12,282.50		\$12,282.50	\$0.00
10/31/2022	D3	12/13/2022	PEN	43	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
10/30/2022	D2	12/13/2022	PEN	44	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
10/29/2022	D1		SNT	0	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
10/28/2022	G5	10/28/2022						
10/21/2022	G4A	10/21/2022						
10/14/2022	G4	10/14/2022	SNT	0	\$7,150.00		\$7,150.00	\$0.00
10/7/2022	G3A	10/7/2022	SNT	0	\$10,627.50		\$10,627.50	\$0.00
10/7/2022	G3	12/13/2022	SNT	67	\$8,000.00		\$8,000.00	\$0.00
9/23/2022	G2A	9/23/2022	SNT	0	\$5,125.00		\$5,125.00	\$0.00
9/16/2022	G2	9/9/2022	SNT	0	\$8,750.00		\$8,750.00	\$0.00
9/9/2022	G1A	12/13/2022	SNT	95	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00	\$0.00
9/2/2022	G1	11/2/2022	CLO	61	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
8/26/2022	P7A	12/13/2022	PEN	109	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
8/19/2022	P7	8/19/2022						
8/12/2022	P6	8/12/2022						
8/5/2022	P5	8/5/2022						
7/29/2022	P4	7/25/2022						
7/22/2022	P3	7/29/2022	CLO	7	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
7/15/2022	P2A	7/25/2022	CLO	10	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
7/8/2022	P2	7/8/2022						
7/1/2022	P1A	7/8/2022	CLO	7	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
6/24/2022	P1	7/8/2022	SNT	14	\$5,595.58		\$5,595.58	\$0.00
6/10/2022	M5	6/10/2022						
5/10/2022	M4	5/10/2022						
4/11/2022	M3	4/11/2022						
4/11/2022	SG3	1/6/2023						
3/10/2022	M2	3/10/2022						
3/4/2022	SG2	1/6/2023	PEN	308	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
2/10/2022	SG1	1/6/2023	PEN	330	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
2/10/2022	M1	2/11/2022	CLO	1	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
1/10/2022	M12	1/10/2022						
1/7/2022	SP2	1/6/2023	PEN	364	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
12/10/2021	M11	12/10/2021						
12/10/2021	SP1	1/10/2022	CLO	31	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00



**Florida Department of State  
Division of Elections**

**Strong Families for a Better Future**

**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.

	Filing Period	Contributions			Expend	Other	Transfers
		Monetary	Loans	InKind			
○	11/01/2021 - 11/30/2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	11/05/2021 - 11/30/2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	12/01/2021 - 12/31/2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	12/01/2021 - 01/06/2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	01/07/2022 - 01/31/2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	01/01/2022 - 01/31/2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	02/01/2022 - 02/28/2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	02/01/2022 - 03/03/2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
○	03/04/2022 - 03/31/2022	13,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	03/01/2022 - 03/31/2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	04/01/2022 - 04/30/2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	05/01/2022 - 05/31/2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
○	06/01/2022 - 06/17/2022	-8,000.00	0.00	0.00	4,271.00	0.00	0.00
W	06/18/2022 - 06/24/2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	06/25/2022 - 07/01/2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
○	07/02/2022 - 07/08/2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
○	07/09/2022 - 07/15/2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	116.90	0.00	0.00
○	07/16/2022 - 07/22/2022	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	170.00	0.00	0.00
W	07/23/2022 - 07/29/2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
○	07/30/2022 - 08/05/2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	0.00	0.00
W	08/06/2022 - 08/18/2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	08/19/2022 - 08/19/2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	08/20/2022 - 08/26/2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
○	08/27/2022 - 09/02/2022	40,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
○	09/03/2022 - 09/09/2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,030.00	0.00	0.00

<input type="radio"/>	09/10/2022 - 09/16/2022	20,500.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00
<input type="radio"/>	09/17/2022 - 09/23/2022	32,000.00	0.00	0.00	17,367.00	0.00	0.00
<input type="radio"/>	09/24/2022 - 09/30/2022	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	30,688.00	0.00	0.00
<input type="radio"/>	10/01/2022 - 10/07/2022	64,500.00	0.00	0.00	20,915.00	0.00	0.00
<b>W</b>	10/08/2022 - 10/14/2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<input type="radio"/>	10/15/2022 - 10/21/2022	14,000.00	0.00	0.00	21,067.00	0.00	0.00
<b>W</b>	10/29/2022 - 10/29/2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>W</b>	10/30/2022 - 10/30/2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<input type="radio"/>	10/31/2022 - 10/31/2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	49,130.00	0.00	0.00
<input type="radio"/>	11/01/2022 - 11/01/2022	500.00	0.00	0.00	15.00	0.00	0.00
<input type="radio"/>	11/02/2022 - 11/02/2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.00	0.00	0.00
<b>W</b>	10/22/2022 - 11/03/2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<input type="radio"/>	11/04/2022 - 11/30/2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	36,090.00	0.00	0.00
<input type="radio"/>	12/01/2022 - 12/31/2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	19,869.44	0.00	0.00
<input type="radio"/>	01/01/2023 - 01/31/2023	0.00	0.00	0.00	138.00	0.00	0.00
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<b>All Dates (Totals)</b>	<b>187,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>211,029.34</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

Note: <sup>(E)</sup> 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

Contributions ▼

Select Sort Order

Date(Ascending) ▼

Select Output Type

Display On Screen ▼

Submit Query Now

[Query the Campaign Finance Data Base](#)

[\[Department of State\]](#) [\[Division of Elections\]](#) [\[Candidates and Races\]](#) [\[Campaign Finance Information\]](#)

**Treasurer Report Status**

ID: **79797**      Name: **Strong Families for a Better Future**

Report: 2022 - P1 - 9

Print Date: **8/18/2022 9:09:22 AM**

Election: 2022 General Election

Covers: 6/1/2022-6/17/2022

Amended     Waiver

Due: 6/24/2022

Filed: **7/8/2022 8:52:28 PM**

File Status: **Filed Report**

Reviewed: **8/17/2022**

Review Status: **Reviewed**

Detail Complete: **Incomplete Detail Records**

File Method: Web Filed

**Number of Detail Records**

Entry Method: Web Data Entry

Contributions: 5

Expenditures: 1

Pending Queued Items: **0**

Fund Transfers: 0

Distributions: 0

To Print Report: Right Click Mouse and Select 'Print'

**FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION  
PHONE LOG  
Case No.: FEC 22-288**

**Respondent: Strong Families For A Better Future**

**Complainant: DOE**

1. **Date and time:** March 9, 2023 @ 8:45 am  
**Name:** Rolinda McCarthy—Chairperson  
**Phone #:** (954) 594-7897  
**Summary:** I had telephone contact to inquire about the complaint allegations. Ms. McCarthy advised FEC staff that this was the first time that she or Ms. Fils-Aime had worked on a political committee. She stated that the committee “screwed up big time when we were trying to file those reports. I wasn’t changing the number in the drop-down box to the right report number when I tried to file the reports”. She stated that she had not received any correspondence from our office regarding this matter. I obtained updated contact information: 2402 NW 178<sup>th</sup> Terrace, Miami Gardens, FL 33056. Email: [rolindamccarthy@gmail.com](mailto:rolindamccarthy@gmail.com). She stated that this was a good number to reach her. I advised her that I would email her a copy of the letter of legal sufficiency to add to her records. She confirmed that she received the email. I went over the investigative process with her. She stated that she wanted to attempt to resolve this matter via negotiations. I inquired if she had been advised of the *Political Committee Handbook*, *Calendar of Reporting Dates*, and *Florida Statutes, Chapter 106 and 104*. She stated that she could not recall but acknowledged that she had to have received this information.  
**Entered by:** CKO
2. **Date and time:**  
**Name:**  
**Phone #:**  
**Summary:**  
**Entered by:**
3. **Date and time:**  
**Name:**  
**Phone #:**  
**Summary:**  
**Entered by:**
4. **Date and time:**  
**Name:**  
**Phone #:**  
**Summary:**  
**Entered by:**

**FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION  
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4. **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](mailto:FEC@myfloridalegal.com) · [www.fec.state.fl.us](http://www.fec.state.fl.us)



October 10, 2022

Rolinda McCarthy  
Strong Families for a Better Future  
2153 North Bay Road  
Miami Beach, FL 33140

**RE: Case No.: FEC 22-288; Respondent: Strong Families for a Better Future**

Dear Ms. McCarthy:

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 the following reporting periods:

- 2022 M1
- 2022 P1
- 2022 P1A
- 2022 P2A
- 2022 P3

However, prior to an investigation, you have the option to **resolve your case now by** signing a minor violation consent order and **paying a fine of \$250**, per Rule 2B-1.003, Florida Administrative Code, **rather than the potential \$1,000 per violation** 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 the Commission. You and the Complainant will receive notice at least 14 days before any hearing at which your case is to be considered.

Rolinda McCarthy  
October 10, 2022  
Page 2  
FEC 22-288

**Please contact Todd Smith-Schoenwalder by phone at (850) 922-4539, by email at Todd.Smith-Schoenwalder@myfloridalegal.com**, 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Vaccaro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tim" and last name "Vaccaro" clearly legible.

Tim Vaccaro  
Executive Director

TV/jd

## DIVISION OF ELECTIONS FEC NOTICE FORM

To FEC from Division of Elections

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**Name:** Strong Families for a Better Future  
**Account Number:** 79797  
**Chairperson:** Rolinda McCarthy  
**Treasurer:** Marise Fils-Aime  
**Registered Agent:** Rolinda McCarthy

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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 P1
2022 P1A	2022 P2A
2022 P3	

- Strong Families for a Better Future (79797) is a political committee registered with the Division of Elections. On November 5, 2021, the committee filed the DSDE 5 and DSDE 6 with the Division appointing Rolinda McCarthy as the chairperson and Marise Fils-Aime as treasurer for the committee.
- The 2022 M1 campaign treasurer's report was due on February 10, 2022. Strong Families for a Better Future failed to notify the Division that no report was being filed on the prescribed reporting date. On February 11, 2022, the committee filed a notification of no activity. (See attached file receipt and letter.)
- The 2022 P1 campaign treasurer's report was due on June 24, 2022. Strong Families for a Better Future failed to notify the Division that

no report was being filed on the prescribed reporting date. On July 8, 2022, the committee filed a notification of no activity. (See attached file receipt.)

- The 2022 P1A campaign treasurer's report was due on July 1, 2022. Strong Families for a Better Future failed to notify the Division that no report was being filed on the prescribed reporting date. On July 8, 2022, the committee filed a notification of no activity. (See attached file receipt.)
- The 2022 P2A campaign treasurer's report was due on July 15, 2022. Strong Families for a Better Future failed to notify the Division that no report was being filed on the prescribed reporting date. On July 25, 2022, the committee filed a notification of no activity. (See attached file receipt.)
- The 2022 P3 campaign treasurer's report was due on July 22, 2022. Strong Families for a Better Future failed to notify the Division that no report was being filed on the prescribed reporting date. On July 29, 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**

ID: **79797**      Name: **Strong Families for a Better Future**

Report: 2022 - M1 - 4

Print Date: **8/18/2022 9:08:51 AM**

Election: 2022 General Election

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

Amended     Waiver

Due: 2/10/2022

Filed: **2/11/2022 11:04:06 AM**

File Status: **Filed Report**

Reviewed: **2/11/2022**

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

To Print Report: Right Click Mouse and Select 'Print'



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

**Laurel M. Lee**  
Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

March 1, 2022

Marise Fils-Aime, Treasurer  
Strong Families for a Better Future  
2153 North Bay Road  
Miami Beach, FL 33140-3140

PAC 79797

Dear Ms. Fils-Aime:

The notification that you had no reportable activity for the report deadline of February 10, 2022, was not filed until February 11, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna S. Brown".

Donna S. Brown, Chief  
Bureau of Election Records

cc: Rolinda McCarthy, Chairperson

**Treasurer Report Status**

ID: **79797**      Name: **Strong Families for a Better Future**

Report: 2022 - P1 - 9

Print Date: **8/18/2022 9:09:22 AM**

Election: 2022 General Election

Covers: 6/1/2022-6/17/2022

Amended     Waiver

Due: 6/24/2022

Filed: **7/8/2022 8:52:28 PM**

File Status: **Filed Report**

Reviewed: **8/17/2022**

Review Status: **Reviewed**

Detail Complete: **Incomplete Detail Records**

File Method: Web Filed

**Number of Detail Records**

Entry Method: Web Data Entry

Contributions: 5

Expenditures: 1

Pending Queued Items: **0**

Fund Transfers: 0

Distributions: 0

To Print Report: Right Click Mouse and Select 'Print'



Treasurer Report Status

ID: **79797**      Name: **Strong Families for a Better Future**

Report: 2022 - P1A - 10

Print Date: **8/18/2022 9:09:03 AM**

Election: 2022 General Election

Covers: 6/18/2022-6/24/2022

Amended     Waiver

Due: 7/1/2022

Filed: **7/8/2022 8:53:50 PM**

File Status: **Filed Report**

Reviewed: **7/8/2022**

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

To Print Report: Right Click Mouse and Select 'Print'



 **Treasurer Report Status**

ID: **79797**      Name: **Strong Families for a Better Future**

Report: 2022 - P2A - 12

Print Date: **8/18/2022 9:08:25 AM**

Election: 2022 General Election

Covers: 7/2/2022-7/8/2022

Amended     Waiver

Due: 7/15/2022

Filed: **7/25/2022 6:41:06 PM**

File Status: **Filed Report**

Reviewed: **7/25/2022**

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

To Print Report: Right Click Mouse and Select 'Print'

 Treasurer Report StatusID: **79797** Name: **Strong Families for a Better Future**

Report: 2022 - P3 - 14

Print Date: **8/18/2022 9:08:36 AM**

Election: 2022 General Election

Covers: 7/9/2022-7/15/2022

 Amended  Waiver

Due: 7/22/2022

Filed: **7/29/2022 6:09:48 PM**File Status: **Filed Report**Reviewed: **7/29/2022**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

To Print Report: Right Click Mouse and Select 'Print'