In Re: Matthew Peters			<b>Case No.: FEC 20-395</b>		
		/			
TO:	Matthew Peters		Division of Elections		
	2571 Lake Worth Road, APT 417		500 S. Bronough Street, Room 316		
	Lake Worth, FL 33461-0902		Tallahassee FL 32399		

#### NOTICE OF HEARING (OTHER MOTIONS (PUBLIC))

A hearing will be held in this case before the Florida Elections Commission on, **November 14, 2023 at 8:30 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.

In Re: Matthew Peters	Case No.:	FEC 20-395
	1	

#### **MOTION TO DISMISS**

**COMES NOW,** Petitioner, FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION ("Commission") by and through the undersigned counsel, and files this Motion to Dismiss and in support thereof states as follows:

- 1. On September 16, 2020, a referral was filed with the Commission alleging that Respondent violated the Florida Election Code.
- 2. On January 19, 2021, the Executive Director found legal sufficiency to investigate a violation of sections 106.07(7), and 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes, with regard to the 2020 M5 reporting period.
- 3. Respondent was a 2020 candidate for State Representative, District 88. (*See* ROI Exhibit 2) Respondent became a candidate on April 6, 2020 and was disqualified in June of 2020. (*See* ROI Exhibits 1 & 6) He was a first-time candidate. (*See* ROI, p.1, ¶1)
- 4. A subpoena was issued to Respondent's designated campaign depository to ascertain whether any financial activity occurred during the relevant reporting period, i.e., May 1, 2020 May 31, 2020. Respondent's bank records show two or more contributions totaling \$69.26. (*See* ROI Exhibit 7) Therefore, Respondent was required to file a 2020 M5 Report disclosing the financial activity but failed to do so. Respondent deliberately failed to include information required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, in his 2020 M5 Report.

- 5. During Commission staff's investigation, Respondent indicated that he lost his home in August of 2020 and had not been receiving mail consistently. (*See* ROI Exhibit 8)
- 6. Following the probable cause hearing in this matter, Respondent submitted additional information for Commission staff's consideration. (Attachment A)
- 7. Respondent stated that he was having issues in his family home that he shared with his parents and brother prior to July of 2020. He stated that there was mold growing on the ceiling and insects in his stepfather's oxygen machine. He indicated that his parents and brother are disabled. (Attachment A, page 1)
- 8. Respondent stated that after a code enforcement complaint was filed, his landlord retaliated, and he became homeless either living in hotels or on the street until his stepfather passed away. (Attachment A, page 1)
- 9. Respondent provided a summary of the code enforcement case. The summary indicates that the case was created on July 7, 2020. The summary shows multiple code violations including the need to repair a dwelling for weather and exterminate for insects. The property address is listed as 1210 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd., West Palm Beach, Florida 33401, and the property owner is listed as Lancaster Apartments LLC. (Attachment A, page 2)
- 10. Respondent also provided a copy of a court document dated September 30, 2020, filed in Palm Beach County Court, Case No.: 50-2020-CC-007748-XXXX-MB. (Attachment A, page 3)
- 11. A review of the county court case shows that a Final Judgment was entered against Matthew Peters and three other individuals, granting possession of the property located at 1210 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd., Apt. D5, West Palm Beach, Florida 33401, to Lancaster Apt Ventures LLC as Successor in Interest to Lancaster Apartments LLC. (Attachment B)

12. In light of Respondent's supplemental information and supporting documents, and his status as a first-time candidate, it does not appear that Respondent willfully failed to perform an act required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.

**WHEREFORE**, based upon the foregoing, the undersigned counsel requests this matter be dismissed.

Respectfully submitted on September 6, 2023.

Stephanie J. Cunningham

General Counsel

In Re: Matthew Peters	Case No	: FEC 20-395
	/	

#### **ORDER CONTINUING CASE**

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

Commission Staff requested that the matter be continued to finalize settlement negotiations.

The Commission considered Staff's request. Staff's request was GRANTED.

THIS MATTER is continued until the next available meeting of the Florida Elections Commission.

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

Tim Vaccaro, J.D., Executive Director For Joni Alexis Poitier, Vice Chair Florida Elections Commission

Copies furnished to: Stephanie J. Cunningham, General Counsel Matthew Peters, Respondent Division of Elections, Complainant

#### **Stephanie Cunningham**

From: Matt Peters <mattpeters85@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 15, 2023 2:59 PM

**To:** Stephanie Cunningham

**Subject:** found documents FEC 20-395 & FEC 20-617 **Attachments:** codeenforcement2(1).pdf; eviction.pdf

I found documents involving. We were having problems before code enforcement getting involved including insects in my step father's oxygen machine and mold coming from the ceiling. (My parents and my brother are disabled)

I have attached the code enforcement detail as well as the eviction that they retaliated with causing the homelessness. I did not retain most of the hotel bills and there was a short time I was on the street until Palm Beach rapid rehousing got involved after my stepfather passed. I might be able to get paperwork from them if needed.

I promise I did not intentionally ignore and forgot about this. I was in such a good position that March when I applied. It all happened so fast.

# CODE ENFORCEMENT DETAIL

Case Number CE20070083 \*Zones\* Case Date 2020-07-07 Priority 9171999991703952509002 Type DISC Status 5-5 Description DISCOVERED BY INSPECTOR Officer E7470 Operator pcartw

# PROPERTY ON CASE

Property ID 74434309070110010 Owner LANCASTER APARTMENTS LLC

Property Address 1210 PALM BEACH LAKES BLVD Owner Address 6400 N ANDREWS AVE # 490

City/State/Zip Phone Phone

# CASE DESCRIPTION

INFESTATION OF ROACHES CLEAN AND SANITARY DRYWALL
DAMGE

# VIOLATION CODE(S)

1: 18-102-2 -- CLEAN & SANITARY/OWNER

2: 18-102-4 -- EXTERMINATE FOR PESTS (INSECTS

3: 18-102-4-C -- RESPONSIBILITIES OF OWNER

4: 18-103-A -- REPAIR DWELLING TO WEATHER

5: 18-106-A -- CLEAN AND SANITARY

# INSPECTIONS/EVENTS DETAIL

DATE	TIME	INSPECTION / EVENT TYPE	INSTRUCTIONS / COMMENTS			
2020-08-05	13:09:03	NOTICE OF HEARING	08/05/2020 HEAR SCHEDULED PCARTW			
2020-08-04	13:09:03	REINSPECTION	PRE-HEARING INSP SCHED PCARTW			
2020-07-10	14:05:52	CERTIFIED MAIL RECEIVED	9171999991703952509002-SIGNED			
2020-07-08	13:39:15	CERTIFIED MAIL SENT	9171999991703952509002			
2020-07-07	13:09:03	NOTICE OF VIOLATION	NOVFINE PRINTED BY PCARTW			
2020-07-07	12:38:14	CREATE INITIAL CASE RECORD	VIOLATION RECORDED PCARTW			

Filing # 114169836 E-Filed 09/30/2020 09:53:17 AM

IN THE COUNTY COURT IN AND FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

Lancaster Apt Ventures LLC as Successor in Interest to Lancaster Apartments LLC

Plaintiff,

VS.

Charles Kermon, Laurie Kermon, Mitchell J. Kermon, and Matthew C. Peters

Case No.: 50-2020-CC-007748-XXXX-MB

Defendants.

Division: RB - SURBER

# **NOTICE OF VOLUNTARY DISMISSAL**

COMES NOW PLAINTIFF, Lancaster Apt Ventures LLC as Successor in Interest to Lancaster Apartments LLC, by and through their undersigned attorney and files this Notice of Voluntary Dismissal without prejudice.

No property having been seized or placed into the custody of the Court, the plaintiff, Lancaster Apt Ventures LLC as Successor in Interest to Lancaster Apartments LLC, hereby dismisses this action.

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished by U.S. Mail on September 30, 2020 to Charles Kermon, Laurie Kermon, Mitchell J. Kermon, and Matthew C. Peters at 1210 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd. Apt D5, West Palm Beach, FL 33401-2426.

/s/ Jerron Kelley

Jerron Kelley, Esq Florida Bar No: 544191 Kelley & Grant, PA 370 Camino Gardens Blvd, Suite 301 Boca Raton, FL 33432 1-877-871-8300

Fax: 1-877-838-2912

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

Lancaster Apt Ventures LLC as Successor in Interest to Lancaster Apartments LLC Plaintiff,
vs. Case No: 50-2020-CC-007748-XXXX-MB

Division: RB - SURBER

Charles Kermon, Laurie Kermon, Mitchell J. Kermon, and Matthew C. Peters Defendants.

#### FINAL JUDGMENT AS TO COUNT I ONLY FOR POSSESSION

THIS CAUSE came before the Court upon Count I of Plaintiff's Complaint for Eviction, this matter relating to a <u>holdover tenancy and not based upon non-payment of rent</u> and it appearing that the defendants have been duly served with process, and Defendants failing to deposit funds in Court registry, and Defendants failing to file a written response to Complaint, and Default having been entered:

The Governor's Moratorium, the Federal CARES Act, and the CDC Order do not apply.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers in Palm Beach County, Florida, on September 30, 2020.

Attachment B, Page 1

Page 1 of 2

50-2020-CC-007748-XXXX-MB 09/30/2020-CIJIT Melanie Surber Judge

50-2020-CC-007748-XXXX-MB 09/30/2020 Melanie Surber Judge

## Copies Furnished To:

Jerron Kelley, Esq, Florida Bar No: 544191, Kelley & Grant, PA, 370 Camino Gardens Blvd, Suite 301

Boca Raton, FL 33432

Charles Kermon, Laurie Kermon, Mitchell J. Kermon, and Matthew C. Peters 1210 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd. Apt D5, West Palm Beach, FL 33401-2426

In Re: Matthew Peters Case No.: FEC 20-395

**TO:** Matthew Peters

2571 Lake Worth Road, Apt. 417 Lake Worth, FL 33461-0902 Division of Elections 500 South Bronough Street, Room 316 Tallahassee, FL 32399

#### **NOTICE OF HEARING (INFORMAL HEARING)**

A hearing will be held in this case before the Florida Elections Commission on, **August 15, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.,** or as soon thereafter as the parties can be heard, at the following location: **Virtual Meeting via GoTo Webinar:** 

WEB PARTICIPATION: <a href="https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4391393799096818270">https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4391393799096818270</a>
AUDIO PARTICIPATION: 1 877 309 2074 ATTENDEE ACCESS CODE: 424-284-031

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 August 1, 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 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,

**Case No.: FEC 20-395** 

Matthew Peters, Respondent.

v.

#### ORDER OF PROBABLE CAUSE

**THIS MATTER** was heard by the Florida Elections Commission (Commission) at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 16, 2023, in Tallahassee, Florida.

On February 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 around June 10, 2020, Matthew Peters violated Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes, when he deliberately failed to include information required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, on the campaign's 2020 M5 Report.

#### THIS SPACE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

The Commission finds that there is **no probable cause** to charge Respondent with violating Section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes.

**DONE AND ORDERED** by the Florida Elections Commission on May 16, 2023.

Tim Vaccaro, J.D., Executive Director *For* Joni Alexis Poitier, Vice Chair Florida Elections Commission

Copies furnished to: Stephanie J. Cunningham, General Counsel Matthew Peters, 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.



Concerning FEC 20-395 Matthew PetersMatt Peters to: stephanie.cunningham, fec 05/16/2023 04:36 PM

From: "Matt Peters" <mattpeters85@gmail.com>

To: stephanie.cunningham@myfloridalegal.com, fec@myfloridalegal.com

Concerning FEC 20-395

My name Is Matthew Peters, last night I received a packet containing multiple failed attempts to contact me as well as a paper stating that there would be a Zoom meeting this morning. I had just attempted to join but Zoom says the meeting never started.

Until very recently I had unstable housing and was homeless for over two years due to a complicated issue that stemmed from a landlord evicting us in retaliation for a code violation we reported. It's only recently we were able resolve this and as a result couldn't find a place to live for a long time, with this and crisis after crisis I had forgotten I had even filed to run. We never raised any money or collected a single signature.

I am not sure how I can resolve this, but I would like to do so as soon as possible.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

In Re: Matthew Peters	Case No.:	FEC 20-617
	1	

## **ORDER CONTINUING CASE**

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

Commission Staff requested that the matter be continued to finalize settlement negotiations.

The Commission considered Staff's request. Staff's request was GRANTED.

THIS MATTER is continued until the next available meeting of the Florida Elections Commission.

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

Tim Vaccaro, J.D., Executive Director For Joni Alexis Poitier, Vice Chair Florida Elections Commission

Copies furnished to: Stephanie J. Cunningham, General Counsel Matthew Peters, Respondent Division of Elections, Complainant

In Re: Matthew Peters			Case No.: FEC 20-395
		/	
TO:	Matthew Peters		Division of Elections
	1210 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd., Apt. D5		500 South Bronough Street, Room 316

West Palm Beach, FL 33401-2426 Tallahassee, FL 32399

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

A hearing will be held in this case before the Florida Elections Commission on, May 16, 2023 at 8:30, or as soon thereafter as the parties can be heard, at the following location: Join Zoom Meeting:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMpdumuqTsqGt1MNuvpQBOl5XPapAI 9zfC

 Audio Participation:
 Meeting ID:
 Passcode:

 Dial: 1 301 715 8592
 874 1067 0009
 772737

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.

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

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See further instructions on the reverse side.

Tim Vaccaro

Executive Director Florida Elections Commission May 2, 2023 Please refer to the information below for further instructions related to your particular hearing:

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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.

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 Re:	<b>Matthew Peters</b>	Case No.:	<b>FEC 20-395</b>
		/	

## 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 106.19(1)(c)**, **Florida Statutes**, and **no probable cause** to charge Respondent with violating **Section 106.07(7)**, **Florida Statutes**. Based upon a thorough review of the Report of Investigation submitted on January 17, 2023, the following facts and law support this staff recommendation:

- 1. On September 16, 2020, the Florida Elections Commission ("Commission") received a referral from the Department of State, Division of Elections ("Division"), alleging that Matthew Peters ("Respondent") violated Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.
- 2. Respondent was a 2020 candidate for State Representative, District 88. Respondent's Statement of Candidate form ("DS-DE 84") was filed on April 6, 2020. (ROI Exhibit 2)<sup>1</sup>
- 3. By letter dated January 19, 2021, the Executive Director notified Respondent that Commission staff would investigate the following statutory provisions:

Section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes: As alleged in the complaint, Respondent, a 2020 candidate for State Representative, District 88, may have failed to notify the filing officer on the prescribed reporting date that no report would be filed on that date because he had not received funds, made contributions, or expended reportable funds during the 2020 M5 reporting period.

Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes: As alleged in the complaint, Respondent, a 2020 candidate for State Representative, District 88, may have falsely reported or deliberately failed to include information in his 2020 M5 report, as required by Chapter 106.

4. By letter dated April 7, 2020, Kristi Reid Willis, Chief, Bureau of Election Records, sent Respondent a letter acknowledging that the Division had received his Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates form and that his name was placed on the 2020 active candidate list. (ROI Exhibit 3, page 1)

Staff Recommendation FEC 20-395

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Report of Investigation is referred to herein as "ROI."

- 5. The acknowledgment letter advised Respondent that all candidates filing reports with the Division are required to use the electronic filing system ("EFS") and provided Respondent with a user identification number and initial password to grant access to the EFS. (ROI Exhibit 3, page 1) The letter further advised Respondent that all of the Division's publications and reporting forms were available on its website and directed Respondent to print out the *Calendar of Reporting Dates* as well as other relevant documents. (ROI Exhibit 3, page 2)
- 6. Respondent's 2020 M5 Report was due to be filed by June 10, 2020; however, Respondent failed to timely file the report or notify the filing officer that no report would be filed. See Compl. By letters dated June 11, 2020, June 22, 2020, and July 9, 2020, the Division notified Respondent that his 2020 M5 Report had not been received. The letters also notified Respondent that he was still required to notify the Division if he had no reportable financial activity. (ROI Exhibits 4 & 5) The July 9, 2020, letter was confirmed delivered. (ROI Exhibit 5, page 2)
- 7. A subpoena was issued to Respondent's designated campaign depository to ascertain whether any financial activity occurred during the relevant reporting period, i.e., May 1, 2020 May 31, 2020. (ROI Exhibit 5, page 1) Respondent's bank records show two or more contributions totaling \$69.26. (ROI Exhibit 7)
- 8. Respondent stated that he lost his home in August of 2020 and has not been receiving mail consistently. (ROI Exhibit 8) Respondent did not provide a response as to why he failed to disclose the financial activity. (ROI Exhibits 8 & 9)
- 9. Respondent deliberately failed to include information in his 2020 M5 Report in violation of Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes. As Respondent had financial activity during the relevant reporting period, Respondent was not required to notify the filing officer that he would not be filing his report.
- 10. "Probable Cause" is defined as reasonable grounds of suspicion supported by circumstances sufficiently strong to warrant a cautious person in the belief that the person has committed the offense charged. *Schmitt v. State*, 590 So. 2d 404, 409 (Fla. 1991). Probable cause exists where the facts and circumstances, of which an [investigator] has reasonably trustworthy information, are sufficient in themselves for a reasonable man to reach the conclusion that an offense has been committed. *Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles v. Favino*, 667 So. 2d 305, 309 (Fla. 1st DCA 1995).
- 11. The facts set forth above show that Respondent was a 2020 candidate for State Representative, District 88. Respondent failed to timely file his 2020 M5 Report or notify the filing officer that no report would be filed. As it appears that Respondent had financial activity during the relevant reporting period, Respondent deliberately failed to include information in his 2020 M5 Report in violation of Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes. Thus, Respondent was not required to notify the filing officer that he would not be filing his report because Respondent had reportable financial activity.

Based upon these facts and circumstances, I recommend that the Commission find no probable cause to charge Respondent with violating Section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes, and

find **probable cause** to charge Respondent with violating the following:

## Count 1:

On or around June 10, 2020, Matthew Peters violated Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes, when he deliberately failed to include information required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, on the campaign's 2020 M5 Report.

Respectfully submitted on February 22, 2023.

Stephanie J. Cunningham

General Counsel

I reviewed this Staff Recommendation this 27 day of February 2023.

Tim Vaccard

**Executive Director** 

#### FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

### Report of Investigation for Sections 106.07(7) and 106.19(1)(c), F.S.

Case Number: FEC 20-395

Sections 106.07(7) and 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes, failure of a candidate or political committee that did not receive any contributions or make any expenditures during a reporting period to notify timely the filing officer, in writing, that no report is being filed or failure to file a campaign report to reflect financial activity.

**Respondent:** Matthew Peters **Respondent's Atty:** N/A

**Division of Elections (Division)** 

Referral Filed: September 16, 2020

Respondent Type: Candidate

# **I. Preliminary Information:**

- 1. Respondent was a 2020 candidate for State Representative, District 88; he failed to qualify. Respondent was a first-time candidate.
- 2. An Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository (DS-DE 9) was filed on April 6, 2020. Laurie Kermon was appointed as campaign treasurer. To review the DS-DE 9, refer to Exhibit 1.
- 3. Respondent filed a Statement of Candidate with the Division on April 6, 2020, in which Respondent certified he had been provided access to read and understand Chapter 106, F.S. To review the Statement of Candidate, refer to Exhibit 2.
- 4. An acknowledgement letter was mailed to the address provided on the DS-DE 9 on April 7, 2020, advising Respondent that all candidates 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 *Candidate and Campaign Treasurer 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 Division sent correspondence to the address provided on the DS-DE 9 notifying Respondent that the following campaign report(s), or the required notification that no reportable activity occurred, had not been filed: 2020 M5. 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.
- 7. On July 9, 2020, the Division sent a letter marked "Final Notice" with delivery confirmation to the address provided on the DS-DE 9 notifying Respondent that the following campaign report(s), or the required notification that no reportable activity occurred, had not been filed: 2020 M5. The letter was confirmed delivered on July 13, 2020. To review the letter marked "Final Notice" and delivery confirmation, refer to Exhibit 5.

#### THIS SPACE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

#### II. Alleged Violation of Sections 106.07(7), and 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes:

8. I investigated whether Respondent violated these sections of the election laws either by not notifying the filing officer, in writing, that no report would be filed due to not receiving any contributions or making expenditures 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 filing history, refer to Exhibit 6.

Report	Report Cover Period	<b>Due Date</b>	Report or Waiver Required	Exhibit 7 <sup>1</sup>
2020 M5	5/1/20 - 5/31/20	6/10/20	Report	7

9. Respondent did respond to the referral. Although he did not provide an explanation for the failure to file the 2020 M5, Respondent stated that he lost his home located at the address specified on the DS-DE 9 in August 2020 and had not received mail consistently from forwarding. To review the response, refer to Exhibit 8.

10. 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, neither my telephone calls nor email have been returned. Therefore, I am unable to ascertain whether he has read Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, and/or the *Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook*. To review the phone log and email, refer to Exhibit 9.

SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR:	Nexab.		
SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR:		<b>Date:</b> January 17, 2023	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> I subpoenaed campaign account records from the designated campaign depository.

# FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

# REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

**Matthew Peters -- FEC 20-395** 

	LIST OF EXHIBITS						
Exhibits #s	Description of Exhibits						
Exhibit 1	DS-DE 9 Form						
Exhibit 2	Statement of Candidate						
Exhibit 3	Acknowledgement Letter						
Exhibit 4	1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Failure to File Letters						
Exhibit 5	Final Notice with Delivery Confirmation Receipt						
Exhibit 6	Filing History						
Exhibit 7	Depository Information re Relevant Period						
Exhibit 8	Respondent Response						
Exhibit 9	Phone Log with Email to Respondent						

# APPOINTMENT OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER AND DESIGNATION OF CAMPAIGN DEPOSITORY FOR CANDIDATES

(Section 106.021(1), F.S.)

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

NOTE: This form must be on file with the qualifying officer before opening the campaign account.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

2020 APR -6 AM 9: 50

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

TO I AND ASSEE, FI

**OFFICE USE ONLY** 

Cities, policy opening are campaign account.					_	<b>4.1.14.</b>		UITE
1. CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX(ES):  Initial Filing of Form Re-filing to Change:	☑ Treas	surer/Dej	puty [X	Deposito	ory 😿	Office	×	Party
2. Name of Candidate (in this order: First, Middle, Last						street, city,	_=	•
Matthew Charles Peters		code)	sas (IIICIUC	ie post onic	e box or s	sueet, city,	State, .	۲ıh
					blvd Ap	t D5, We	st Pai	m
4. Telephone 5. E-mail address	ļE	Beach,	Florida	33401				
(561 ) 628-1414 matthew@gpfl.org								
6. Office sought (include district, circuit, group number	r)	7.			<u>nonpart</u>	<u>isan</u> office	, chec	k if
State House District 88			applicat		is to run a	s a Write-I	n candi	idate.
8. If a candidate for a <u>partisan</u> office, check block a	nd fill in r	name of	party as	applicable	: My int	ent is to rur	n as a	
☐ Write-In ☐ No Party Affiliation ☒ ☐	Breen Pa	arty of F	lorida		Pa	irty cand	lidate.	
9. I have appointed the following person to act as m	ny 🔯	Campa	aign Treas	surer 🔲	Deput	ty Treasure	r	
10. Name of Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer								
Laurie Kermon								
11. Mailing Address					12. Tele	phone		
1210 Palm Beach Lakes blvd Apt D5, West Pa	ılm Beac	ch, Flor	ida 3340	)1	( 561	332-067	75	
13. City 14. County 1	15. State	16. Zi	ip Code	17. E-mai	address			
West Palm Beach   Palm Beach   Fi	lorida	33401 GloriaLaurie1918@gmail.com						
18. I have designated the following bank as my		Primary	Depositor	у 🗆	Seconda	ry Deposito	ory	
19. Name of Bank		. Address						ì
SeaCoast Bank	205	55 Palm	n Beach	Lakes Bl	<u>vd</u>			
21. City 22. County		2	23. State			24. Zip Co	ode	
West Palm Beach Palm Beach		F	lorida			33409		
UNDER PENALTIES OF PERJURY, I DECLARE THAT I HAVE REDESIGNATION OF CAMPAIGN DEPOS							ASURE	R AND
25. Date	26.	. Signatu	re of Can	didate				
4-2-2020	X	Moth	her	Potan	_			
27. Treasurer's Acceptance of Appoint	tment (fill	in the bl	lanks and	check the	appropriat	e block)		
I, LOUNE HERMOTZ , do hereby accept the appointment (Please Print or Type Name)								
designated above as:								
4-2-2020 X Laurie Kermon								
Date Signature of (Tangalaigh Feasture De Papetre)								

# STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE

(Section 106.023, F.S.)
(Please print or type)

# **OFFICE USE ONLY**

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

2020 APR -6 AM 9: 50

DIVISION OF SLECTIONS

I,Matthew	Peter	<u> </u>		<b>5</b>
candidate for the office of	State	Hause	District	<u>44</u> ;
have been provided access to	read and ι	ınderstand	the requireme	nts of
Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.				
X Mottle Par		• · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	4-2-0	2020
Signature of Candid	date		Date	)

Each candidate must file a statement with the qualifying officer within 10 days after the Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository is filed. Willful failure to file this form is a first degree misdemeanor and a civil violation of the Campaign Financing Act which may result in a fine of up to \$1,000, (ss. 106.19(1)(c), 106.265(1), Florida Statutes).



**RON DESANTIS** 

Governor

LAUREL M. LEE Secretary of State

April 7, 2020

Matthew Peters 1210 Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard, Apartment D5 West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

Dear Mr. Peters:

This will acknowledge receipt of the Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for the office of State Representative, which was placed on file in our office on April 6, 2020. Your name has been placed on the 2020 active candidate list.

## Campaign Treasurer's Reports

Your first campaign treasurer's report will be due on **May 11, 2020**. The report will cover the period of April 1-30, 2020 (2020 M4). All candidates who 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 your user identification number. Enclosed are your confidential, filing credentials.

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

Identification Number: 75404

#### **Timely Filing**

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

Matthew Peters April 7, 2020 Page Two

Any candidate 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% of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater, for the period covered by the late report. However, for 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 candidate 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: Chapters 104 and 106, Florida Statutes, Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook, Calendar of Reporting Dates, and Rule 1S-2.017, Florida Administrative Code.

Please let me know if you need additional information.

Hua Willis

Sincerely,

Kristi Reid Willis, Chief

Bureau of Election Records

KRW/njt

Enclosures

pc: Laurie Kermon, Treasurer



# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

#### Laurel M. Lee Secretary of State

#### DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

June 11, 2020

CAN 75404 Matthew Peters

Candidate for State Representative, District 88 1210 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd Apt D5 West Palm Beach, FL 33401-3401

Dear Mr. Peters:

Our records indicate that you have not filed either your campaign treasurer's report or notification that no reportable activity occurred, whichever is applicable. The filing date was June 10, 2020.

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

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

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

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

However, in all cases, failure to file and/or untimely filing of a report of reportable activity, or if applicable, a notice that no reportable activity occurred, may constitute an apparent violation of chapter 106, Fla. Stat. If we refer such matter to the Florida Elections Commission, the Commission may subsequently impose a civil penalty for each violation under chapter 106.265(1), Fla. Stat.

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

DOS.MyFlorida.com/Elections

Sincerely,

Kristi Reid Willis, Chief Bureau of Election Records

(850) 245-6260 (fax)

cc: Laurie Kermon, Treasurer



# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

#### Laurel M. Lee Secretary of State

# DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

#### Second Notice

June 22, 2020

Matthew Peters
Candidate for State Representative, District 88
1210 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd
Apt D5
West Palm Beach, FL 33401-3401

CAN 75404

Dear Mr. Peters:

Our records indicate that you have not filed either your campaign treasurer's report or notification that no reportable activity occurred, whichever is applicable. The filing date was June 10, 2020.

We mailed, via regular mail, the first notice of the failure to file the above-mentioned report or notification to the address on file with our office on June 11, 2020.

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

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

Sincerely.

Kristi Reid Willis, Chief Bureau of Election Records

cc: Laurie Kermon, Treasurer



# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

#### Laurel M. Lee Secretary of State

#### DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

Final Notice

Delivery Confirmation:

USPS TRACKING # RECEIPT

9114 9023 0722 4343 8054 70 For Tracking or inquiries go to USPS.com or cal 1-800-222-1911

July 9, 2020

Matthew Peters Candidate for State Representative, District 88 1210 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd Apt D5 West Palm Beach, FL 33401-3401

CAN 75404

Dear Mr. Peters:

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

<u>Year</u>	Report	Cover Period		
2020	M5	5/1/20 - 5/31/20		

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

As we stated in the prior notices, even if you now file the report or notification, the untimely filing of a report of reportable activity, or if applicable, a notice that no reportable activity occurred, may constitute an apparent violation of chapter 106, Fla. Stat. If we refer such matter to the Florida Elections Commission, the Commission may subsequently impose a civil penalty for each violation under chapter 106,265(1), Fla. Stat.

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

Sincerely.

Kristi Reid Willis, Chief Bureau of Election Records

cc: Laurie Kermon, Treasurer

# **USPS Tracking®**

FAQs >

# Track Another Package +

# **Tracking Number:** 9114902307224343805470

Remove X

Your item was delivered in or at the mailbox at 1:34 pm on July 13, 2020 in WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33401.

<b>⊘</b> Delivered	ico Co Q
July 13, 2020 at 1:34 pm Delivered, In/At Mailbox WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33401	\$
Get Updates ✓	
Text & Email Updates	<b>~</b>
Tracking History	~
Product Information	<u> </u>
	<del></del>

See Less ^



search | directory | contact us | 411 | subscribe | tour | help

# Florida Department of State - Division of Elections

# Florida Election System Reports

Ca	andidate/Committe	e Lookup	Candidate N	lame: Matthew P	eters			
Name:			<b>Account:</b> <u>75404</u>					
Election:			Date Due Type	Date Filed Status	Days Late	Fine Appealed	Amount Fined	
			9/10/2020 TR	FEC	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Acct:	75404		6/19/2020 P1 7	7/16/2020				
Туре:	Candidate	~	6/10/2020 M5	FEC	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	Search Res	set	5/11/2020 M4 5	5/27/2020 CLO	16	\$0.00	\$0.00	

1/1

Amount Paid

\$0.00

\$0.00

\$0.00



2020 General Election Matthew Peters (GRE) State Representative

## **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.

		Contributions					
	Filing Period	Monetary	Loans	InKind	Expend	Other	Transfers
W	04/06/2020 - 04/30/2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	06/01/2020 - 06/12/2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	All Dates (Totals)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Note: (E) indicates that report was filed electronically X Indicates that detail has not been released

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

Select Detail TypeSelect Sort OrderSelect Output TypeContributions✓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]

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Mayh	CURREINCY COIN CHECLS	USE OF IFFE TIME FOR ADDITION IN LATING DE CURE EXCHITCH IS PROPERLY CHOOK-ED.
SeacoastBank SEACOAST NATIONAL BANK WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA 33409		
05/01/2020	\$60.00	Rev 10:08
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OFFICE USE C	330-0676051551-0040005-51481	FOR DEP
		11.7°S
HARLAND CLARKE M23  CAS  PALM BEAC  TELLER NUM	H IN	
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05/01/2020	\$60.00	
-0-5-0-1-2-0-0-0-0	<u>4 0 0 0 0 1 5 2 1 3 3 1 → 0 5 7 0 0 5 1 5 8 &lt; 0 0 4 0 0 0 0 5 SNB</u>	
		į

Exhibit 7 Page 1 of 2



MATTHEW PETERS CAMPAIGN MATTHEW CHARLES PETERS 1210 PALM BEACH LAKES BLVD APT D5 WEST PALM BEACH FL 33401

#### **Statement of Account**

Last statement: May 01, 2020 This statement: May 31, 2020 Total days in statement period: 31

Page 1 of 1

Direct inquiries to: Customer Service Center 800-706-9991

Seacoast National Bank 2055 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd. West Palm Beach, FL 33409

0

**Summary of Account Balance** 

Account	Number	Ending Balance
Free Business Checking		\$69.26

### Free Business Checking

Account number

Date	Description	Additions	Subtractions	Balance
05-01	Beginning balance			\$0.00
05-01	#Deposit	60.00		60.00
05-20	#Preauthorized Credit	9.26		69.26
	RAISE THE MONEY TRANSFE	R 200520		
	ST-Z0H8K4J2U0S2			
05-31	Ending totals	69.26	.00	\$69.26



Re: Matthew Peter's FEC 20-395

Florida Elections Commission to: Matthew Peters

Sent by: Donna Malphurs

12/28/2020 01:18 PM

Thank you for your response. The Florida Elections Commission is not authorized to provide you with legal advice, or to give you guidance on how to resolve your failure to file reports issue. Please contact your filing officer for instructions.

Sincerely,

Donna Ann Malphurs Agency Clerk/Public Information Officer

"Matthew Peters" Responding to FEC 20-295 I just received a noti... 12/23/2020 12:59:44 PM

"Matthew Peters" < matthew@gpfl.org> From:

To: fec@myfloridalegal.com Date: 12/23/2020 12:59 PM Subject: Matthew Peter's FEC 20-395

#### Responding to FEC 20-295

I just received a notice dated the 9th of December stating that a complaint was filed against me and I had not filed an M5.

I lost lost my home at 1210 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd in August and have not been able to receive mail consistently from forwarding that doesn't always happen or having it gotten second hand. This is the first I have seen this. What do I need to do to resolve this?

## FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION PHONE LOG

**Case No.: FEC 20-395** 

**Respondent:** Matthew Peters

Complainant: DOE

1. **Date and time:** August 5, 2022 @ 11:40 am

**Name:** Respondent **Phone** #: (561) 628-1414

Summary: I attempted telephone contact to complete final interview. I was unable to leave

a message on the answering service.

**Entered by:** CKO

2. **Date and time:** August 9, 2022 @ 2:45 pm

**Name:** Respondent **Phone** #: (561) 628-1414

**Summary:** I attempted telephone contact to complete final interview. A guy answered the phone and initially thought I asked for Matthew Beaver. I confirmed that I was looking for Matthew Peters and he stated that there is no one by that name at this number and for me not

to call back again. **Entered by:** CKO

3. **Date and time:** 

Name: Phone #: Summary: Entered by:

4. **Date and time:** 

Name: Phone #: Summary: Entered by:

5. **Date and time:** 

Name: Phone #: Summary: Entered by:

6. **Date and time:** 

Name: Phone #: Summary: Entered by:

- 7. **Date and time:** 
  - Name:
  - Phone #:
  - **Summary:**
  - **Entered by:**
- 8. **Date and time:** 
  - Name:
  - Phone #:
  - **Summary:**
  - **Entered by:**
- 9. **Date and time:** 
  - Name:
  - Phone #:
  - **Summary:**
  - **Entered by:**

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

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

- Why has the 2020 M5 Report not been filed?
- Did you have any financial activity during that reporting period?
- Have you ever run for public office? If so, please name each office you ran for and state what year each election occurred.
- Have you ever been appointed to act as a campaign treasurer for a candidate? If so, please name each such candidate, the office each ran for, and state what year each election occurred.
- Have you ever held the office of chairperson, treasurer, or other similar position for a political committee or electioneering communications organization? If so, please name each committee, state the office you held for each, and state when you held each office.
- Have you ever prepared or signed a campaign treasurer's report? If so, please state the name of the candidate or committee whose report you prepared or signed.
- What action have you taken to determine your responsibilities under Florida's election laws?
- Do you possess a copy of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes? If so, when did you first obtain it? Have you read it?
- Do you possess a copy of the *Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook*? If so, when did you first obtain it? Have you read it?
- If a section of Chapter 104 is listed in the LS letter, ask: Do you possess a copy of Chapter 104, Florida Statutes? If so, when did you first obtain it? Have you read it?
- Did you receive any other materials from your filing officer? If so, please describe them.
- Do you have anything else to add for the Commission's consideration regarding the charges specified in the letter of legal sufficiency in this case?

### **Cedric Oliver**

From: Cedric Oliver

Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 2:54 PM

**To:** matthew@gpfl.org

Good afternoon Mr. Peters. I have been attempting to contact you regarding two cases here at our office (FEC 20-395 and FEC 20-617). Please contact me upon receiving this email. Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Cedric Oliver Investigator Specialist 107 W. Gaines Street Collins Building, Suite 224 Tallahassee, FI 32399 (850) 922-4539

#### **Cedric Oliver**

From: Mail Delivery Subsystem <MAILER-DAEMON@m0184567.ppops.net>

**To:** matthew@gpfl.org

Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 2:54 PM

**Subject:** Undeliverable:

The original message was received at Tue, 9 Aug 2022 14:54:02 -0400 from m0184567.ppops.net [127.0.0.1]

----- The following addresses had permanent fatal errors ----- <matthew@gpfl.org> (reason: 550-5.1.1 The email account that you tried to reach does not exist. Please try)

----- Transcript of session follows ----- ... while talking to aspmx.l.google.com.:

>>> DATA

<<<550-5.1.1 The email account that you tried to reach does not exist. Please try <<<550-5.1.1 double-checking the recipient's email address for typos or <<<550-5.1.1 unnecessary spaces. Learn more at

<<< 550 5.1.1

https://urldefense.com/v3/\_\_https://support.google.com/mail/?p=NoSuchUser\_\_\_;!!KX7BVY8\_YTnAgrFq92k!jpNMm8mv7Q1gd3ApzwODlGjbWLQERVZSsuX-5tJG4rYeN9P4kLSAeyqUlqWoSscUNuAP6EybpNhluG9sim5B\_SfTev6R\$ e204-

20020a25e7d5000000b00669aee44f1esi8816741ybh.571 - gsmtp

550 5.1.1 <matthew@gpfl.org>... User unknown <<< 503 5.5.1 RCPT first. e204-

20020a25e7d5000000b00669aee44f1esi8816741ybh.571 - gsmtp

## FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION PHONE LOG

Case No.: FEC 20-395

**Respondent:** Matthew Peters

Complainant: DOE

1. **Date and time:** August 5, 2022 @ 11:40 am

**Name:** Respondent **Phone** #: (561) 628-1414

**Summary:** I attempted telephone contact to complete final interview. I was unable to leave

a message on the answering service.

**Entered by:** CKO

2. **Date and time:** August 9, 2022 @ 2:45 pm

**Name:** Respondent **Phone** #: (561) 628-1414

**Summary:** I attempted telephone contact to complete final interview. A guy answered the phone and initially thought I asked for Matthew Beaver. I confirmed that I was looking for Matthew Peters and he stated that there is no one by that name at this number and for me not

to call back again. **Entered by:** CKO

3. **Date and time:** 

Name: Phone #: Summary: Entered by:

4. **Date and time:** 

Name: Phone #: Summary: Entered by:

5. **Date and time:** 

Name: Phone #: Summary: Entered by:

6. **Date and time:** 

Name: Phone #: Summary: Entered by: 7. **Date and time:** 

Name:

Phone #:

**Summary:** 

**Entered by:** 

8. **Date and time:** 

Name:

Phone #:

**Summary:** 

**Entered by:** 

9. **Date and time:** 

Name:

Phone #:

**Summary:** 

**Entered by:** 

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

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

- Why has the 2020 M5 Report not been filed?
- Did you have any financial activity during that reporting period?
- Have you ever run for public office? If so, please name each office you ran for and state what year each election occurred.
- Have you ever been appointed to act as a campaign treasurer for a candidate? If so, please name each such candidate, the office each ran for, and state what year each election occurred.
- Have you ever held the office of chairperson, treasurer, or other similar position for a
  political committee or electioneering communications organization? If so, please name
  each committee, state the office you held for each, and state when you held each office.
- Have you ever prepared or signed a campaign treasurer's report? If so, please state the name of the candidate or committee whose report you prepared or signed.
- What action have you taken to determine your responsibilities under Florida's election laws?
- Do you possess a copy of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes? If so, when did you first obtain it? Have you read it?
- Do you possess a copy of the *Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook*? If so, when did you first obtain it? Have you read it?
- If a section of Chapter 104 is listed in the LS letter, ask: Do you possess a copy of Chapter 104, Florida Statutes? If so, when did you first obtain it? Have you read it?
- Did you receive any other materials from your filing officer? If so, please describe them.
- Do you have anything else to add for the Commission's consideration regarding the charges specified in the letter of legal sufficiency in this case?

INV001 (12/01) 2



## 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



January 19, 2021

Matthew Peters 1210 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd, Apt D5 West Palm Beach, FL 33401-3401

RE: Case No.: FEC 20-395; Respondent: Matthew Peters

Dear Mr. Peters:

On September 16, 2020, 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 106.07(7), Florida Statutes: As alleged in the complaint, Respondent, a 2020 candidate for State Representative, District 88, may have failed to notify the filing officer on the prescribed reporting date that no report would be filed on that date because he had not received funds, made contributions, or expended reportable funds during the 2020 M5 reporting period.

Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes: As alleged in the complaint, Respondent, a 2020 candidate for State Representative, District 88, may have falsely reported or deliberately failed to include information in his 2020 M5 report, as required by Chapter 106.

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.

Matthew Peters January 19, 2021 Page 2 FEC 20-395

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 <u>Cedric Oliver@myfloridalegal.com</u>.

Sincerely.

Tim Vaccaro
Executive Director

TV/med

12/30/2020 05:33 PM

When responding it is important that you reference the correct case number. Your correct case number is FEC 20-395. I can see that you are confused so to help you sort it all out, please review the following explanation:

#### FEC 20-395

This case was referred to us by your filing officer back on September 16, 2020 regarding your 2020 M5 report. We mailed you a copy of this referral on three separate occasions: 09/18/20; 10/19/20; and 12/09/20. Our records show you received our correspondence on December 23, 2020 and you submitted an email response on that same day. Please note that you responded then with the incorrect case number as well. I responded to your email on December 28, 2020 at 1:18 pm and corrected the case number reference to FEC 20-395.

#### FEC 20-617

This case was referred to us by your filing officer on December 9, 2020 regarding your **Termination** Report. We mailed you a copy of this referral on December 14, 2020. As of today, we have not received delivery confirmation from the post office.

Let me know if you would like to receive a copy of each referral via email. I hope this helps you sort out the two referrals and give you an understanding of the issues before the Commission. As I stated in my previous email, the Florida Elections Commission is not authorized to provide you with legal advice, or to give you guidance pertaining to an alleged failure to file reports, or waiver notices. You will need to contact your filing officer (Division of Elections) at 850-245-6200 for assistance.

Sincerely,

Donna Ann Malphurs Agency Clerk/Public Information Officer

I sent this Email 6 days ago and never heard ba... 12/29/2020 02:54:32 PM "Matthew Peters"

"Matthew Peters" < matthew@gpfl.org> From:

fec@myfloridalegal.com To: Date: 12/29/2020 02:54 PM

FEC 20-295 Matthew Peter's.b Subject:

I sent this Email 6 days ago and never heard back from you.

Responding to FEC 20-295

I just received a notice dated the 9th of December stating that a complaint was filed against me and I had not filed an M5.

I lost lost my home at 1210 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd in August and have not been able to receive mail consistently from forwarding that doesn't always happen or having it gotten second hand. This is the first I have seen this. What do I need to do to resolve this?



Re: Matthew Peter's FEC 20-395

12/28/2020 01:18 PM

Florida Elections Commission to: Matthew Peters

Sent by: Donna Malphurs

Thank you for your response. The Florida Elections Commission is not authorized to provide you with legal advice, or to give you guidance on how to resolve your failure to file reports issue. Please contact your filing officer for instructions.

Sincerely,

Donna Ann Malphurs Agency Clerk/Public Information Officer

"Matthew Peters" Responding to FEC 20-295 I just received a noti... 12/23/2020 12:59:44 PM

"Matthew Peters" < matthew@gpfl.org> From:

fec@myfloridalegal.com To: Date: 12/23/2020 12:59 PM Subject: Matthew Peter's FEC 20-395

### Responding to FEC 20-295

I just received a notice dated the 9th of December stating that a complaint was filed against me and I had not filed an M5.

I lost lost my home at 1210 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd in August and have not been able to receive mail consistently from forwarding that doesn't always happen or having it gotten second hand. This is the first I have seen this. What do I need to do to resolve this?

# DIVISION OF ELECTIONS FEC NOTICE FORM

To FEC from Division of Elections

Candidate: Matthew Peters

**Account Number:** 75404

Treasurer: Laurie Kermon

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, Florida Statutes. An apparent violation of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, has occurred based upon the candidate's alleged failure to file a report after notice or failure to file a notification to the filing officer in writing that no report was being filed on the prescribed reporting date as required by section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes.

The following report is outstanding after notification:

2020 M5

- Matthew Peters (75404) was a 2020 candidate for the office of State Representative.
- On April 6, 2020, Mr. Peters filed the Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository with the Division.
- The 2020 M5 campaign treasurer's report was due on June 10, 2020. On June 11, 2020, the Division mailed Mr. Peters notification that the 2020 M5 campaign treasurer's report had not been filed.
- On June 22, 2020, the Division mailed Mr. Peters notification that the 2020 M5 campaign treasurer's report had not been filed.
- On July 9, 2020, the Division mailed Mr. Peters final notification with delivery confirmation that the 2020 M5 report had not been filed. (See attached letter and delivery confirmation.)

## Matthew Peters (75404) Page Two

• Mr. Peters did not notify the Division of Elections prior to or on the prescribed reporting date for the 2020 M5 report that no report was to be filed.

• As of September 11, 2020, Mr. Peters has not filed the 2020 M5 report.

Sent By: Kristi Reid Willis

September 11, 2020 Y2V Date:

ejr



## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

#### Laurel M. Lee Secretary of State

#### **DIVISION OF ELECTIONS**

**Final Notice Delivery Confirmation:** 

LISPS TRACKING # RECEIPT

9114 9023 0722 4343 8054 70 For Tracking or inquiries go to USPS.com or call 1-800-222-1811

July 9, 2020

Matthew Peters Candidate for State Representative, District 88 1210 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd Apt D5 West Palm Beach, FL 33401-3401

CAN 75404

Dear Mr. Peters:

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

<u>Year</u>	Report	<u>Cover Period</u>
2020	M5	5/1/20 - 5/31/20

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

As we stated in the prior notices, even if you now file the report or notification, the untimely filing of a report of reportable activity, or if applicable, a notice that no reportable activity occurred, may constitute an apparent violation of chapter 106, Fla. Stat. If we refer such matter to the Florida Elections Commission, the Commission may subsequently impose a civil penalty for each violation under chapter 106,265(1), Fla. Stat.

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

feed Willio

Kristi Reid Willis, Chief Bureau of Election Records

cc: Laurie Kermon, Treasurer

## **USPS Tracking**<sup>®</sup>

FAQs >

## Track Another Package +

**Tracking Number:** 9114902307224343805470

Remove X

Your item was delivered in or at the mailbox at 1:34 pm on July 13, 2020 in WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33401.

<b>⊘</b> Delivered	ë G Da C R
July 13, 2020 at 1:34 pm Delivered, In/At Mailbox WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33401	Ş
Get Updates ✓	
Text & Email Updates	<b>~</b>
Tracking History	~
Product Information	<u> </u>

See Less ^