In Re: Jamaad Cesar Batts

Case No.: FEC 20-488

TO: Jamaad Cesar Batts 829 Randolph St. Crescent City, FL 32112 Tracy Eckhardt 109 N Prospect St. Crescent City, FL 32112

NOTICE OF HEARING (INFORMAL HEARING (IH))

A hearing will be held in this case before the Florida Elections Commission on, August 13, 2024 at 1:00 p.m., *or as soon thereafter as the parties can be heard*, at the following location: 412 Knott Building, Pat Thomas Committee Room, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399. Due to heightened security access requirements, please bring only essential items into the building and plan to arrive early to allow for delays coming through security.

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

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

If you are the Respondent, you may attend the hearing, and you or your attorney will have 5 minutes to present your case to the Commission. However, some cases (including those in which consent orders or recommendations for no probable cause are being considered) may be decided by an *en masse* vote and, unless you request to be heard or the Commission requests that your case be considered separately on the day of the hearing, your case will *not* be individually heard.

If you are the Complainant, you may attend the hearing, but you will *not* be permitted to address the Commission. In addition, some cases (including those in which consent orders or recommendations for no probable cause are being considered) may be decided by an *en masse* vote and, unless the Respondent requests to be heard or the Commission requests that the case be considered separately on the day of the hearing, the case will *not* be individually heard.

If you are an Appellant, and you have requested a hearing, you may attend the hearing, and you or your attorney will have 5 *minutes* to present your case to the Commission.

Please be advised that both confidential and public cases are scheduled to be heard by the Florida Elections Commission on this date. As an Appellant, Respondent or Complainant in one case, you will *not* be permitted to attend the hearings on other confidential cases.

The Commission will electronically record the meeting. Although the Commission's recording is considered the official record of the hearing, the Respondent may provide, at his own expense, a certified court reporter to also record the hearing.

If you require an accommodation due to a disability, contact Donna Ann Malphurs at (850) 922-4539 or by mail at 107 West Gaines Street, The Collins Building, Suite 224, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, at least 5 days before the hearing.

See further instructions on the reverse side.

Tim Vaccaro

Executive Director Florida Elections Commission July 23, 2024 Please refer to the information below for further instructions related to your particular hearing:

If this is a hearing to consider **an appeal from an automatic fine**, the Filing Officer has imposed a fine on you for your failure to file a campaign treasurer's report on the designated due date and, by filing an appeal, you have asked the Commission to consider either (1) that the report was in fact timely filed; or (2) that there were unusual circumstances that excused the failure to file the report timely. You are required to prove your case. If the Commission finds that the report was filed timely or that there were unusual circumstances that excused the failure, it may waive the fine, in whole or in part. The Commission may reduce a fine after considering the factors in Section 106.265, Florida Statutes. If the Commission finds that the report was not timely filed and there were no unusual circumstances, the fine will be upheld.

If this is a hearing to consider a **consent order before a determination of probable cause has been made**, the Commission will decide whether to accept or reject the consent order. If the Commission accepts the consent order, the case will be closed and become public. If the Commission rejects the consent order or does not make a decision to accept or deny the consent order, the case will remain confidential, unless confidentiality has been waived.

If this is a hearing to consider a **consent order after a determination of probable cause has been made**, the Commission will decide whether to accept or reject the consent order. If the Commission accepts the consent order, the case will be closed. If the Commission rejects the consent order or does not make a decision to accept or deny the consent order, the Respondent will be entitled to another hearing to determine if the Respondent committed the violation(s) alleged.

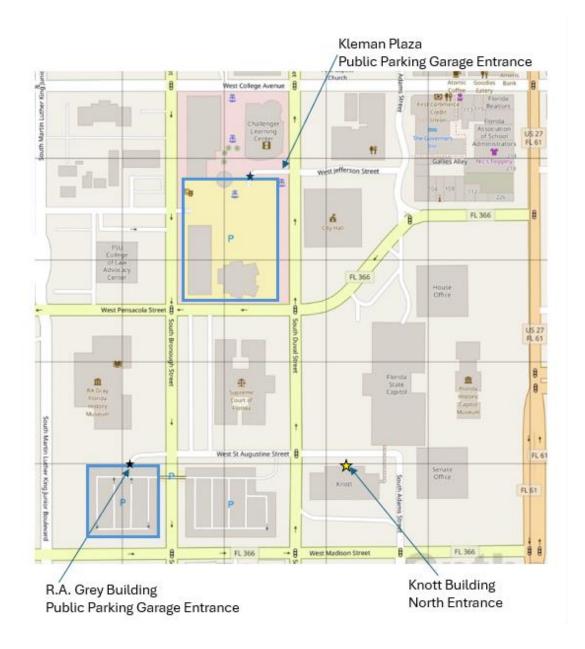
If this is a **probable cause hearing**, the Commission will decide if there is probable cause to believe that the Respondent committed a violation of Florida's election laws. Respondent should be prepared to explain how the staff in its recommendation incorrectly applied the law to the facts of the case. *Respondent may not testify, call others to testify, or introduce any documentary or other evidence at the probable cause hearing*. The Commission will only decide whether Respondent should be *charged* with a violation and, before the Commission determines whether a violation has occurred or a fine should be imposed, Respondent will have an opportunity for another hearing at which evidence may be introduced.

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

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

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

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



Florida Elections Commission, Petitioner,

> Agency Case No.: FEC 20-488 F.O. No.: FOFEC

Jamaad M. Cesar-Batts, Respondent.

v.

CONSENT FINAL ORDER

Jamaad M. Cesar-Batts ("Respondent") and the Florida Elections Commission ("Commission") agree that this Consent Order resolves all issues between the parties in this case. The parties jointly stipulate to the following facts, conclusions of law, and order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On October 22, 2020, the Commission received two sworn complaints alleging that Respondent violated Florida's election laws.

2. On February 23, 2024, the Commission entered an Order of Probable Cause finding there was probable cause to charge Respondent with two counts of violating Section 106.07(5), Florida Statutes, and one count of violating Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes.

The Commission dismissed the first count of Section 106.07(5) regarding the 2020
 M1 Report after probable cause was found pursuant to Section 106.25(4)(j), Florida Statutes.

4. Respondent has expressed a desire to enter into negotiations directed toward reaching a consent agreement.

5. Respondent and the staff stipulate to the following facts:

a. Respondent was a candidate for Crescent City Commission, Group 3, in the
 2020 election. Respondent was defeated.

b. Respondent certified that the campaign's 2020 M2 Report was true, correct, and complete when it was not.

c. Respondent did not report an in-kind contribution for a newspaper advertisement and two bank fees in the campaign's 2020 M2 Report. Respondent also incorrectly reported one contributor's name and two contributors' addresses.

d. Respondent paid for and displayed political advertisements, in the form of yard signs, that contained express advocacy but did not include proper disclaimers.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

6. The Commission has jurisdiction over the parties to and subject matter of this cause, pursuant to Section 106.26, Florida Statutes.

7. The Commission staff and Respondent stipulate that staff could prove all the facts in paragraph four above by clear and convincing evidence and to the Commission's ability to impose a civil penalty in the case.

ORDER

8. Respondent and the staff of the Commission have entered into this Consent Order freely and voluntarily.

9. Respondent shall bear his own attorney's fees and costs that are in any way associated with this case.

The Commission will consider this Consent Order at its next available meeting.

Post PC CO FEC Case # 20-488

10.

11. Respondent voluntarily waives confidentiality upon approval of the Consent Order by the Commission, the right to any further proceedings under Chapters 104, 106, and 120, Florida Statutes, and the right to appeal this Consent Order.

12. This Consent Order is enforceable under Sections 106.265 and 120.69, Florida Statutes. Respondent expressly waives any venue privileges and agrees that, if enforcement of this Consent Order is necessary, venue shall be in Leon County, Florida, and Respondent shall pay all fees and costs associated with enforcement.

13. Payment of the civil penalty by cashier's check, money order good for at least 120 days, or attorney trust account check, is a condition precedent to the Commission's consideration of this Consent Order.

PENALTY

WHEREFORE, based upon the foregoing facts and conclusions of law, the Commission finds that Respondent violated Sections 106.07(5) and 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes, and imposes a civil penalty in the amount of \$500.

Therefore, it is

ORDERED that Respondent shall remit to the Commission a civil penalty in the amount of **\$500**, inclusive of fees and costs. The civil penalty shall be paid by cashier's check, money order good for at least 120 days, or attorney trust account check. The civil penalty should be made payable to the Florida Elections Commission and sent to 107 West Gaines Street, Collins Building, Suite 224, Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-6596.

Post PC CO FEC Case # 20-488 Respondent hereby agrees and consents to the terms of this Consent Order on this

day of June , 2024.

Jamaad M. Cesar-Batts 829 Randolph Street Crescent City, Florida 32112

Commission staff hereby agrees and consents to the terms of this Consent Order on this

day of , 2024.

Mattie T. Clay

Mattie T. Clay Assistant General Counsel Florida Elections Commission 107 West Gaines Street The Collins Building, Suite 224 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-6596

Approved by the Florida Elections Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting held on

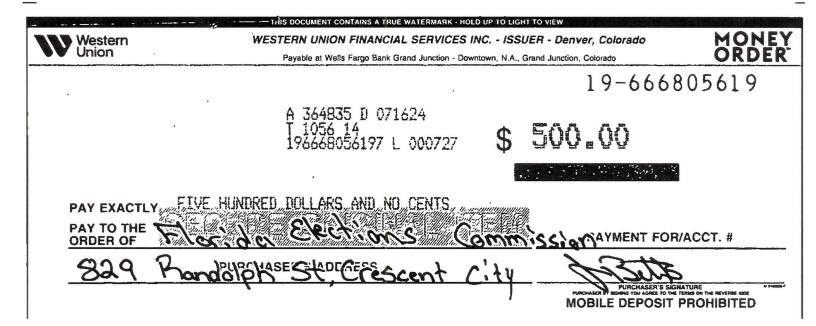
in Tallahassee, Florida.

Tim Vaccaro, J.D., Executive Director For Chad Mizer Shairman Florida Elections Commission

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Copies furnished to: Mattie T. Clay, Assistant General Counsel Jamaad M. Cesar-Batts, Respondent Tracy Eckhardt, Complainant

Post PC CO FEC Case # 20-488



In Re: Jamaad Cesar Batts

Case No.: FEC 20-488

TO: Jamaad Cesar Batts 829 Randolph St. Crescent City, FL 32112

Tracy Eckhardt 109 N Prospect St. Crescent City, FL 32112

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF HEARING (INFORMAL HEARING)

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

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

<u>Tim Vaccaro</u>

Executive Director Florida Elections Commission May 13, 2024

In Re: Jamaad Cesar Batts

Case No.: FEC 20-488

TO: Jamaad Cesar Batts 829 Randolph St. Crescent City, FL 32112 Tracy Eckhardt 109 N Prospect St. Crescent City, FL 32112

NOTICE OF HEARING (INFORMAL HEARING)

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

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 April 26, 2024 Please refer to the information below for further instructions related to your particular hearing:

If this is a hearing to consider **an appeal from an automatic fine**, the Filing Officer has imposed a fine on you for your failure to file a campaign treasurer's report on the designated due date and, by filing an appeal, you have asked the Commission to consider either (1) that the report was in fact timely filed; or (2) that there were unusual circumstances that excused the failure to file the report timely. You are required to prove your case. If the Commission finds that the report was filed timely or that there were unusual circumstances that excused the failure, it may waive the fine, in whole or in part. The Commission may reduce a fine after considering the factors in Section 106.265, Florida Statutes. If the Commission finds that the report was not timely filed and there were no unusual circumstances, the fine will be upheld.

If this is a hearing to consider a **consent order before a determination of probable cause has been made**, the Commission will decide whether to accept or reject the consent order. If the Commission accepts the consent order, the case will be closed and become public. If the Commission rejects the consent order or does not make a decision to accept or deny the consent order, the case will remain confidential, unless confidentiality has been waived.

If this is a hearing to consider a **consent order after a determination of probable cause has been made**, the Commission will decide whether to accept or reject the consent order. If the Commission accepts the consent order, the case will be closed. If the Commission rejects the consent order or does not make a decision to accept or deny the consent order, the Respondent will be entitled to another hearing to determine if the Respondent committed the violation(s) alleged.

If this is a **probable cause hearing**, the Commission will decide if there is probable cause to believe that the Respondent committed a violation of Florida's election laws. Respondent should be prepared to explain how the staff in its recommendation incorrectly applied the law to the facts of the case. *Respondent may not testify, call others to testify, or introduce any documentary or other evidence at the probable cause hearing*. The Commission will only decide whether Respondent should be *charged* with a violation and, before the Commission determines whether a violation has occurred or a fine should be imposed, Respondent will have an opportunity for another hearing at which evidence may be introduced.

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

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

Florida Elections Commission, Petitioner,

v.

Case No.: FEC 20-488

Jamaad M. Cesar-Batts, Respondent.

ORDER OF PROBABLE CAUSE

THIS MATTER was heard by the Florida Elections Commission ("Commission") at its regularly scheduled meeting on February 7, 2024, in Tallahassee, Florida.

On December 21, 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 violations:

Count 1:

On July 22, 2020, Jamaad M. Cesar-Batts violated Section 106.07(5), Florida Statutes, when he certified that the campaign's 2020 M1 Report was true, correct, and complete when it was not.

Count 2:

On September 2, 2020, Jamaad M. Cesar-Batts violated Section 106.07(5), Florida Statutes, when he certified that the campaign's 2020 M2 Report was true, correct, and complete when it was not.

Count 3:

On or about August 13, 2020, Jamaad M. Cesar-Batts violated Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes, when he paid for and displayed political advertisements, in the form of yard signs, that contained express advocacy but did not include proper disclaimers.

The Commission finds that there is **no probable cause** to charge Respondent with violating Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes.

The Commission finds that the public interest would not be served by proceeding further regarding Count 1, the alleged violation of Section 106.07(5), Florida Statutes, as to the 2020 M1 Report, because of the nature of the errors involved.

Therefore, it is **ORDERED** that Count 1, the alleged violation of Section 106.07(5), Florida Statutes, as to the 2020 M1 reporting period, is **DISMISSED** pursuant to Section 106.25(4)(j), Florida Statutes.

DONE AND ORDERED by the Florida Elections Commission on February 7, 2024.

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

Copies furnished to: Mattie T. Clay, Assistant General Counsel Jamaad M. Cesar-Batts, Respondent Tracy Eckhardt, 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

Order of Probable Cause FEC Case # 20-488 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 thirty (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 thirty (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 thirty (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 West Gaines Street, Collins Building, Suite 224, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1050. The telephone number is (850) 922-4539. The Clerk will provide you with a copy of Chapter 28-106, *Florida Administrative Code*, and other applicable rules upon request. No mediation is available.

In Re: Jamaad Cesar Batts

Case No.: FEC 20-488

TO: Jamaad Cesar Batts 829 Randolph St. Crescent City, FL 32112 Tracy Eckhardt 109 N Prospect St. Crescent City, FL 32112

NOTICE OF HEARING (PROBABLE CAUSE DETERMINATION (PCD))

A hearing will be held in this case before the Florida Elections Commission on **February 7**, **2024 at 12:30 p.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.

In Re: Jamaad M. Cesar-Batts

Case No.: FEC 20-488

STAFF RECOMMENDATION FOLLOWING INVESTIGATION

Pursuant to Section 106.25(4)(c), Florida Statutes, undersigned staff counsel files this written recommendation for disposition of the sworn complaints in this case recommending that there is **probable cause** to charge Respondent with violating Sections 106.07(5) and 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes, and no probable cause to charge Respondent with violating Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes. Based upon a thorough review of the Report of Investigation submitted on April 4, 2023, the following facts and law support this staff recommendation:

1. On October 22, 2020, the Florida Elections Commission ("Commission") received two sworn complaints from Tracy Eckhardt ("Complainant") alleging that Jamaad M. Cesar-Batts ("Respondent") violated Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.

2. Respondent was a candidate for Crescent City Commission, Group 3, in the 2020 election. (ROI Exhibit 2, page 1; ROI Exhibit 3, page 1)¹ Respondent's Statement of Candidate form ("DS-DE 84") was filed on July 8, 2020. (ROI Exhibit 2, page 1) Respondent was defeated. (ROI, page 1, ℙ1; Attachment A, page 1)

3. By letter dated September 8, 2021, the Executive Director notified Respondent that Commission staff would investigate the following statutory provisions:

Section 106.07(5), Florida Statutes: Respondent, a 2020 candidate for Crescent City Commission, Group 3, may have certified the 2020 Ml and 2020 M2 campaign treasurer reports were true, correct, and complete when they were not, as alleged in the complaint.

Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes: Respondent, a 2020 candidate for Crescent City Commission, Group 3, may have falsely reported or deliberately failed to include information during the 2020 Ml and 2020 M2 reporting periods, required by Chapter 106, as alleged in the complaint.

Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes: Respondent, a 2020 candidate for Crescent City Commission, Group 3, paid for and distributed a political advertisement in the form of a newspaper

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

publication that contained express advocacy but did not include a proper disclaimer as alleged in the complaint.

Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes: Respondent, a 2020 candidate for Crescent City Commission, Group 3, paid for and distributed a political advertisement in the form of yard signs that contained express advocacy but did not include a proper disclaimer as alleged in the complaint.

4. On July 8, 2020, Respondent filed his Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates form ("DS-DE 9") appointing himself as treasurer for his campaign. (ROI Exhibit 1, page 1)

5. Respondent acknowledged on July 8, 2020, that he was provided access to read and understand the requirements of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes. (ROI Exhibit 2, page 1)

Alleged Violation: Section 106.07(5), Florida Statutes

6. Complainant alleged that Respondent violated Florida's election laws by certifying that the campaign's 2020 M1 and 2020 M2 Reports were true, correct, and complete when they were not by incorrectly reporting two contributors' names and four contributors' addresses.

7. Under Section 106.07, Florida Statutes, a campaign treasurer's report is required to contain all contributions received and all expenditures made during the reporting period. The report must list the full name, address, and occupation of each contributor as well as the amount and date of each contribution.

8. The campaign's 2020 M1 Report was filed on July 22, 2020, and covered the period from July 1, 2020, to July 31, 2020. (ROI Exhibit 4, page 1) Respondent reflected four in-kind contributions, two of which originated from Respondent, and no expenditures. (ROI Exhibit 4, pages 2-3)

9. Respondent's bank records show one opening deposit totaling \$50.00 during the relevant reporting period, which was not reported. (ROI Exhibit 4, page 2; ROI Exhibit 10, pages 1 & 7)

10. Respondent acknowledged that he misspelled one contributor's name by reporting "Gerard" instead of "Gerald" and acknowledged that two contributors' addresses were incorrect. (ROI Exhibit 6, pages 1-2; ROI Exhibit 11, page 3)

11. As of December 8, 2023, Respondent has not corrected the 2020 M1 Report. (Attachment B, page 1)

12. Respondent certified that the campaign's 2020 M1 Report was true, correct, and complete when it was not.

13. The campaign's 2020 M2 Report was filed on September 2, 2020, and covered the period from August 1, 2020, to August 31, 2020. (ROI Exhibit 5, page 1) Respondent reflected two in-kind contributions, one of which originated from Respondent, two additional contributions, and no expenditures. (ROI Exhibit 5, pages 2-3)

14. Respondent's bank records show two bank fees totaling \$9.95 during the relevant reporting period, which were not reported. (ROI Exhibit 5, page 3; ROI Exhibit 10, page 2)

15. Respondent acknowledged that he incorrectly reported one contributor's name as "Thomas Ricks" instead of "Rich Brooks" and acknowledged that two contributors' addresses were incorrect. (ROI Exhibit 6, page 1; ROI Exhibit 11, page 3)

16. As of December 8, 2023, Respondent has not corrected the 2020 M2 Report. (Attachment B, page 1)

17. Respondent certified that the campaign's 2020 M2 Report was true, correct, and complete when it was not.

Alleged Violation: Sections 106.07(5) and 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes

18. Complainant alleged that Respondent violated Florida's election laws by failing to include a proper disclaimer on a political advertisement, namely, a newspaper publication featuring a milk giveaway. Complainant further alleged that Respondent failed to report this advertisement as an expenditure or in-kind contribution.

19. Candidates are required to prominently mark their paid political advertisements with the exact political disclaimer language as set forth under Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes, i.e., "Political advertisement paid for and approved by (name of candidate), (party affiliation), for (office sought)" or "Paid by (name of candidate), (party affiliation), for (office sought)."

20. The unreported advertisement at issue is a picture in a local newspaper with Respondent standing in front of a milk truck. The advertisement states, "ELECT BATTS Jamaad C. Batts for City Commissioner Crescent City Commissioner Group 3" and features a disclaimer stating, "Paid for and approved by Jamaad C. Batts, Nonpartisan, for Crescent City Commissioner Group 3." (ROI Exhibit 8, page 1) The newspaper advertisement, which is dated August 13, 2020, is not reflected in Respondent's campaign treasurer's reports. (ROI Exhibit 4, pages 2-3; ROI Exhibit 5, pages 2-3; ROI Exhibit 12, pages 2-3, 5-6, 8-9 & 11-12; Attachment B, page 1)

21. Respondent denied that the advertisement was his, stated that the milk giveaway was sponsored by a church, and asserted that a friend provided the advertisement to him in-kind. (ROI Exhibit 11, pages 1 & 3) Respondent provided pictures of political advertisements that he paid for and approved, which did not match the milk advertisement. (ROI Exhibit 6, pages 4-7)

22. It appears that Respondent did not pay for the newspaper advertisement; therefore, he was not responsible for the disclaimer language on the advertisement. However, because Respondent acknowledged that the advertisement was provided to him, Respondent was required

to report the advertisement in the campaign's 2020 M2 Report as an in-kind contribution but failed to do so. As previously established, Respondent certified that the campaign's 2020 M2 Report was true, correct, and complete when it was not.

Alleged Violation: Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes

23. Complainant alleged that Respondent violated Florida's election laws by failing to include a proper political disclaimer on his campaign yard signs.

24. The yard signs at issue state, "ELECT Jamaad C. Batts FOR City Commissioner." No disclaimer language is visible on the signs. (ROI Exhibit 8, pages 2-3)

25. Respondent provided a photograph of the yard sign with a handwritten disclaimer stating, "Advertisement Paid by Jamaad C. Batts for City Commissioner Group 3." (ROI Exhibit 6, page 5; ROI Exhibit 8, pages 2-3) Respondent provided additional pictures of political advertisements he paid for and approved, but all advertisements contained an incorrect political disclaimer. (ROI Exhibit 6, pages 4-7)

26. It is uncertain whether the handwritten disclaimer was added to the yard signs before or after the complaint. Even if the disclaimer was included prior to the complaint, the disclaimer language is incorrect. Therefore, Respondent paid for and displayed political advertisements that did not include a proper disclaimer.

Alleged Violation: Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes

27. Complainant alleged that Respondent violated Florida's election laws by falsely reporting or deliberately failing to include information required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, in one or more campaign treasurer's reports.

28. Respondent stated that his campaign was put together quickly. Respondent stated that he did not have access to Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, or the *Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook*. Respondent had prior elections experience running for a special election. (ROI Exhibit 11, pages 1 & 3)

29. Insufficient evidence exists showing that Respondent deliberately failed to include required information in his campaign treasurer's reports.

30. "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).

31. The facts set forth above show that Respondent was 2020 candidate for Crescent City Commission, Group 3. Respondent certified that the campaign's 2020 M1 and 2020 M2

Reports were true, correct, and complete when they were not. Respondent paid for and displayed a political advertisement that did not include a proper disclaimer. It does not appear that Respondent falsely reported or deliberately failed to include information in the campaign's reports.

Based upon these facts and circumstances, I recommend that the Commission find no probable cause to charge Respondent with violating Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes, and find **probable cause** to charge Respondent with violating the following:

Count 1:

On July 22, 2020, Jamaad M. Cesar-Batts violated Section 106.07(5), Florida Statutes, when he certified that the campaign's 2020 M1 Report was true, correct, and complete when it was not.

Count 2:

On September 2, 2020, Jamaad M. Cesar-Batts violated Section 106.07(5), Florida Statutes, when he certified that the campaign's 2020 M2 Report was true, correct, and complete when it was not.

Count 3:

On or about August 13, 2020, Jamaad M. Cesar-Batts violated Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes, when he paid for and displayed political advertisements, in the form of yard signs, that contained express advocacy but did not include proper disclaimers.

Respectfully submitted on December 21, 2023.

U[]Clar

Mattie T. Clay (Assistant General Counsel

I reviewed this Staff Recommendation this $\mathcal{H}^{\underbrace{\mathcal{H}}}$ day of December 2023.

Stephanie J. Cunningham

General Counsel

Select Language 🗸 🗸

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2020 General Election

Election Date: 11/3/2020

(Website last updated at: 11/13/2020 4:26:35 pm)

Registered Voters:	50,693
-	36,515
Voter Turnout:	72.03%
Precincts Reporting:	
	35 / 35
Election Day:	
	Completely Reported
Early Votes:	Completely Reported
Vote By Mail:	completely Reported
	Completely Reported

******OFFICIAL 2020 GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS ******

Summary Results

y novano		
Filter Races		
Select a race:	Crescent City Commissioner, Group 3	~
Vote Type View:	Graphical	~

1 - South Putnam Government Center Show De	etailed View	
Choice	Percent	Votes
Cynthia "Cindy" Burton	51.40%	350
Jamaad Cesar-Batts	48.60%	331
		681

Search Financial Reports

Search Results						s <u>New search</u>				
Туре	Date	Candidate	Office	Contributor/Vendor	Amount	Cont Type/Purpose	Туре	Occupation	Amend	Report
Cont	7/22/2020	Cesar- Batts, Jamaad -363	City Commissioner- Group 3 Crescent City	Gerard Watson 211 Propsect St Crescent city , Fl 32112	\$100.00	Individual	In Kind			M1
Cont	7/22/2020	Cesar- Batts, Jamaad -363	City Commissioner- Group 3 Crescent City	Jamaad Cesar 829 Randolph St Crescent city , Fl 32112	\$82.00		In Kind	Driver		M1
Cont	7/25/2020	Cesar- Batts, Jamaad -363	City Commissioner- Group 3 Crescent City	Jamaad Cesar 829 Randolph st Crescent city , Fl 32112	\$300.00		In Kind	Driver		M1
Cont	8/27/2020	Cesar- Batts, Jamaad -363	City Commissioner- Group 3 Crescent City	Jamaad Batts 829 Randolph St Crescent City, Fl 32112	\$278.00	Individual	In Kind	Driver		M2
Cont	8/27/2020	Cesar- Batts, Jamaad -363	City Commissioner- Group 3 Crescent City	Robert Delfranco 231 Prospects St Crescent City, Fl 32112	\$100.00	Individual	In Kind	N/A		M2
Cont	8/27/2020	Cesar- Batts, Jamaad -363	City Commissioner- Group 3 Crescent City	Thomas Ricks 152 Ricks Drive Crescent City, Fl 32112	\$100.00	Individual	Check	Painter		M2
Cont	8/27/2020	Cesar- Batts, Jamaad -363	City Commissioner- Group 3 Crescent City	Center Victory Worship 1022 Huntington Rd Crescent City , Fl 32112	\$200.00	Committee	Check	Church		M2
Cont	9/27/2020	Cesar- Batts, Jamaad -363	City Commissioner- Group 3 Crescent City	Jamaad Batts 829 Randolph St Crescent City , Fl 32112	\$41.00	Other	In Kind	Driver		МЗ
Cont	9/30/2020	Cesar- Batts, Jamaad -363	City Commissioner- Group 3 Crescent City	Jamaad Batts 829 Randolph St Crescent City , Fl 32112	\$95.00		In Kind	Driver		мз
Cont	10/6/2020	Cesar- Batts, Jamaad -363	City Commissioner- Group 3 Crescent City	Robert Defranceo Prospect st Crescent City , Fl 32112	\$155.00	Individual	Check	Principal		G1
Cont	10/24/2020	Cesar- Batts, Jamaad -363	City Commissioner- Group 3 Crescent City	Vincent Oliver 833 Randolph St Crescent City , Fl 32112	\$200.00	Individual	In Kind	Clerk		G2
Cont	1/4/2021	Cesar- Batts, Jamaad -363	City Commissioner- Group 3 Crescent City	Daine Sykes Orange Ave Crescent City, Fl 32112	\$80.00	Individual	In Kind	N/A		TRG
Cont	1/6/2021	Cesar- Batts, Jamaad -363	City Commissioner- Group 3 Crescent City	Vincent Oliver 833 Randolph St Crescent city , Fl 32112	\$150.00	Individual	In Kind	CountyOffice		TRG
Ехр	1/7/2021	Cesar- Batts, Jamaad -363	City Commissioner- Group 3 Crescent City	Victory Worship Center 1022 Huntington Road Crescent , Fl 32112	\$200.00	Donate toMusic ministry at local church VWC	Monetary			TRG
Ехр	1/10/2021	Cesar- Batts, Jamaad -363	City Commissioner- Group 3 Crescent City	Vincent Oliver 833 Randolph St Crescent City , Fl 32112	\$114.00		Monetary			TRG
Ехр	1/12/2021	Cesar- Batts, Jamaad -363	City Commissioner- Group 3 Crescent City	Jamaad Batts 829 Randolph Street Crescent City, FL 32112	\$141.00	Repayment of Inkind Loans	Monetary			TRG
			Total	Contributions	\$1,881.00		1			
	Sales and		Total	Expenditures	\$455.00					

New search

FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION REPORT OF INVESTIGATION Case No.: FEC 20-488

Respondent: Jamaad M. Cesar-Batts

Counsel for Respondent: N/A

Complainant: Tracy Eckhardt

Counsel for Complainant: N/A

On October 22, 2020, the Florida Elections Commission (Commission) received a sworn complaint alleging that Respondent violated Chapters 104 or 106, Florida Statutes. Commission staff investigated whether Respondent violated the following statutes:

Section 106.07(5), Florida Statutes, may have certified one or more campaign treasurer's reports as true, correct, and complete when they were not;

Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes, may have falsely reported or deliberately failed to include information required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes; and

Sections 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes, may have paid for and distributed political advertisements that contained express advocacy but did not include a proper disclaimer.

I. Preliminary Information:

1. Respondent was a 2020 candidate for Crescent City Commission, Group 3; he was defeated in the general election held on November 3, 2020. Respondent was not a first-time candidate.

2. Respondent's filing officer was the City Clerk of the City of Crescent City.¹

3. An Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository (DS-DE 9) was filed on July 8, 2020. Respondent was appointed as campaign treasurer. To review the DS-DE 9, refer to Exhibit 1.

4. Respondent filed a Statement of Candidate on July 8, 2020, in which Respondent certified he had been provided access to read and understand the requirements of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes. To review the Statement of Candidate, refer to Exhibit 2.

5. A Qualification Statement was signed by Respondent on August 4, 2020. The Qualification Statement acknowledged that Respondent was an active candidate for the election. To review the qualifying statement signed by Respondent, refer to Exhibit 3.

II. Alleged Violation of Sections 106.07(5) and 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes:

6. I investigated whether Respondent violated these sections of the election laws by certifying that one or more campaign treasurer's reports were true, correct, and complete when they were not and by falsely reporting or deliberately failing to include information required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, in one or more campaign treasurer's reports.

7. Specifically, Complainant alleged that Respondent incorrectly reported the names of two contributors, incorrectly reported the addresses of four contributors, and failed to report the cost of a

¹ Respondent's campaign treasurer's reports are kept on file by the Putnam County Supervisor of Elections.

political advertisement in a local newspaper.

8. Respondent filed the 2020 M1 report on July 22, 2020. By filing the report, Respondent certified it was true, correct, and complete. Although titled "2020 M1," the specified reporting period was July 1, 2020, through July 31, 2020.² The report included two in-kind contributions on July 22, 2020, both valued at \$100.00, one from Gerard Watson of 211 Prospect Street, Crescent City, FL 32112, and the other from Robert Defranco of 122 Summit Street, Crescent City, FL 32112. Complainant alleged that Mr. Watson's name could not be verified and that neither address existed. To review the 2020 M1 report, refer to Exhibit 4.

9. Respondent filed the 2020 M2 report on September 2, 2020. By filing the report, Respondent certified it was true, correct, and complete. Although titled "2020 M2," the specified reporting period was August 1, 2020, through August 31, 2020. The report included a check contribution in the amount of \$100.00 on August 27, 2020, from Thomas Ricks of 152 Ricks Drive, Crescent City, FL 32112. The report also included an in-kind contribution on August 27, 2020, valued at \$100.00 from Robert Delfranco of 231 Prospects Street, Crescent City, FL 32112. Complainant alleged that Mr. Ricks' name could not be verified and that neither address existed. To review the 2020 M2 report, refer to Exhibit 5.

10. In response to the complaint, Respondent acknowledged that Mr. Watson's first name was mis-spelled; it is Gerald, not Gerard. Respondent further acknowledged that Mr. Ricks' name was reported incorrectly; it should have been Rich Brooks. Respondent provided online contribution confirmation for \$100.00 from Gerald C. Watson³ on July 13, 2020. Respondent also acknowledged that the addresses at issue were reported incorrectly.⁴ He asserted that corrections would be made. However, there is no record of amended reports having been filed. To review the response, refer to Exhibit 6. To review Respondent's filing history, refer to Exhibit 7.

11. Complainant provided a copy of an advertisement in the August 13, 2020, edition of the *Palatka Daily News*. It advertised a "Milk Giveaway" on August 15, 2020, and displayed a photo of Respondent standing in front of a milk truck. The advertisement also contained the phrase, "ELECT BATTS Jamaad C. Batts for City Commissioner Crescent City Group 3." It contained a disclaimer stating, "Paid for and approved by Jamaad C. Batts, Nonpartisan, for Crescent City Commissioner Group 3." Complainant also attached screenshots of Respondent's posts on social media promoting the event. Complainant alleged Respondent did not report the cost of this advertisement. To review a copy of the advertisement, refer to Exhibit 8, page 1. To review the social media posts, refer to Exhibit 9.

12. A review of Respondent's 2020 M1 and 2020 M2 reports, which covered from July 1, 2020, through August 31, 2020, did not include an expenditure or in-kind contribution relative to the newspaper advertisement. To review the 2020 M1 and 2020 M2 reports, refer to Exhibits 4 and 5.

13. In response to the complaint, Respondent stated, "Since the Milk Give-Away was ultimately done by the church and NOT by Mr. Batts, it would be wrong to expense the cost of the ad as a campaign expense." Respondent explained that he was advised by the Supervisor of Elections not to attend the event, which was sponsored by a church. Respondent stated that he did not attend the event. With his

² The report was filed on July 22, 2020, though it was noted to cover through July 31, 2020.

³ Although reported as being in-kind, the in-kind description for this \$100.00 contribution was listed as "cashapp," so it appears to have been a "check" type contribution made via an online platform. However, I subpoenaed bank records from Respondent's designated campaign depository, which was opened on July 3, 2020, upon deposit of \$50.00 in cash, and no record of the \$100.00 online contribution deposit was found. To review the bank records, refer to Exhibit 10.

⁴ Commission staff found through a search on <u>www.usps.com</u> that 122 N. Summit Street, Crescent City, FL 32212 is an actual address, but the other three addresses were not found on that website. Regardless, Respondent acknowledged in his response that none of the four contributor addresses at issue was correctly reported by stating that address corrections would be made.

response, Respondent provided a receipt dated August 5, 2020, related to payment for political advertisements, but the receipt was for customized signs, and the images of the signs ordered do not match the graphic on the newspaper advertisement at issue. The total amount paid is not completely visible on the receipt. Respondent identified the document as a receipt for signs that were printed and posted in yards, used at campaign events, and posted on social media. To review the response and receipt, refer to Exhibit 6.

14. I subpoenaed bank records from the designated campaign depository. The records do not show any expenditures for newspaper advertisements. Respondent's bank records do not show any activity except the initial \$50.00 cash deposit by Respondent, monthly bank fees, and withdrawal of \$40.00 on September 22, 2020. To review the bank records, refer to Exhibit 10.

15. In an interview with Respondent, he stated that the contributors whose names and/or addresses he reported incorrectly were well-known people from his town that "everyone knew" and understood where they were from. Respondent stated that the newspaper advertisement at issue was an in-kind contribution from someone in his community, and he did not pay for it. To review the phone log, refer to Exhibit 11.

III. Alleged Violation of 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes:

16. I investigated whether Respondent violated this section of the election laws by paying for and distributing political advertisements without a proper disclaimer.

17. Complainant attached images of the advertisements at issue. The first is the newspaper article referenced above at paragraph 11, which was printed in the August 13, 2020, edition of the *Palatka Daily News*. It advertised a "Milk Giveaway" on August 15, 2020, and displayed a photo of Respondent standing in front of a milk truck. The advertisement also contained the phrase, "ELECT BATTS Jamaad C. Batts for City Commissioner Crescent City Group 3." It contained a disclaimer stating, "Paid for and approved by Jamaad C. Batts, Nonpartisan, for Crescent City Commissioner Group 3." To review a copy of the advertisement, refer to Exhibit 8, page 1.

18. A review of Respondent's 2020 M1 and 2020 M2 reports, which covered from July 1, 2020, through August 31, 2020, did not include an expenditure or in-kind contribution relative to the newspaper advertisement. To review the 2020 M1 and 2020 M2 reports, refer to Exhibits 4 and 5.

19. In response to the complaint, Respondent stated, "Since the Milk Give-Away was ultimately done by the church and NOT by Mr. Batts, it would be wrong to expense the cost of the ad as a campaign expense." In an interview, Respondent stated that the advertisement was provided to his campaign in-kind by someone in the community and asserted that he did not pay for it. To review the response, refer to Exhibit 6. To review the phone log, refer to Exhibit 11.

20. Complainant also provided two photos showing what appear to be three identical signs. The signs state, "ELECT Jamaad C. Batts FOR City Commissioner." Two of the photos are from a distance too great to see whether disclaimers were included, and the third is only a partial image of the sign. However, in response to the complaint, Respondent provided a clear, full photo of the sign shown in the photos. It contained a hand-written disclaimer stating, "Advertisement Paid by Jamaad C. Batts for City Commissioner Group 3." To review the sign photos provided with the complaint, refer to Exhibit 8, pages 2-3. To review the sign photo provided with the response, refer to Exhibit 6, page 5.

21. On the 2020 M1 report, Respondent disclosed an in-kind contribution from himself valued at \$300.00 for "yard signs" on July 25, 2020. On the 2020 M2 report, Respondent disclosed an in-kind contribution from himself valued at \$278.00 for "yard signs" on August 27, 2020. Respondent did not disclose any other expenditures or in-kind contributions relative to yard signs or advertisements in his subsequent campaign treasurer's reports. To review the 2020 M1 report, refer to Exhibit 4. To review the 2020 M2 report, refer to Exhibit 5. To review the 2020 M3, 2020 G1, 2020 G2, and 2020 TRG reports, refer to composite exhibit 12.

22. With his response, Respondent provided a receipt dated August 5, 2020, related to payment for political advertisements, but the receipt was for customized signs, and the images of the signs ordered do not match the newspaper advertisement or yard signs at issue in the complaint. The total amount paid is not completely visible on the receipt. Respondent identified the document as a receipt for signs that were printed and posted in yards, used at campaign events, and posted on social media. To review the response and receipt, refer to Exhibit 6.

23. I subpoenaed bank records from the designated campaign depository. The records do not show any expenditures for newspaper advertisements or yard signs. Respondent's bank records do not show any activity except the initial \$50.00 cash deposit by Respondent, monthly bank fees, and withdrawal of \$40.00 on September 22, 2020. To review the bank records, refer to Exhibit 10.

24. In an interview with Respondent, he indicated that his campaign was put together quickly, and he stated that he does not possess and has not read Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, or the *Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook*. To review the phone log, refer to Exhibit 11.

Respectfully submitted on April 4, 2023.

Brian Ayres Investigation Specialist

FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION REPORT OF INVESTIGATION Jamaad C. Batts – FEC 20-488

	LIST OF EXHIBITS						
Exhibits #s	Description of Exhibits						
Exhibit 1	Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository (DS-DE 9)						
Exhibit 2	Statement of Candidate (DS-DE 84)						
Exhibit 3	Qualification Statement						
Exhibit 4	2020 M1 CTR						
Exhibit 5	2020 M2 CTR						
Exhibit 6	Response to Complaint						
Exhibit 7	Filing history						
Exhibit 8	Complaint Images						
Exhibit 9	Social Media Posts						
Exhibit 10	Bank Records						
Exhibit 11	Phone log						
Exhibit 12 2020 M3, 2020 G1, 2020 G2 CTRS and 2020 TRG							

APPOINTMENT OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER AND DESIGNATION OF CAMPAIGN DEPOSITORY FOR CANDIDATES (Section 106.021(1), F.S.)	JUL 0 8 2020 BY:						
(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)							
NOTE: This form must be on file with the qualifying officer before opening the campaign account.	OFFICE USE ONLY						
1. CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX(ES):							
	Treasurer/Deputy Depository Office Party						
2. Name of Candidate (in this order: First, Middle, Last)	3. Address (include post office box or street, city, state, zip						
Jamaad Cesar Batts	^{code)} 829 Prandslph St						
4. Telephone 5. E-mail address	Crescent City FI, 32112,						
(904)352 9516 Jamaadcayahoo.co							
6. Office sought (include district, circuit, group number) City Commission Group	7. If a candidate for a <u>nonpartisan</u> office, check if applicable:						
J Commission Group	My intent is to run as a Write-In candidate.						
8. If a candidate for a partisan office, check block and fi	Il In name of party as applicable: My intent is to run as a						
Write-n No Party Affiliation	Party candidate						
9. I have appointed the following person to act as my-	Campaign Treasurer Deputy Treasurer						
10. Name of Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer							
Jamaad Cesar Batts	<u>></u>						
11. Mailing Address	12. Telephone						
829 Phanololph St	(904)352-9516						
13. City 14. County 15. S							
Crescent city Putnoon Fil	32112 Jomaaol@yahoo.com						
18. I have designated the following bank as my	Primary Depository Secondary Depository						
19. Name of Bank CenterState	20. Address 500 N Summitt St						
21. City 22. County	23. State 24. Zip Code						
Crescent city Dutnom	FL 32112						
UNDER PENALTIES OF PERJURY, I DECLARE THAT I HAVE READ T	HE FOREGOING FORM FOR APPOINTMENT OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER AND RY AND THAT THE FACTS STATED IN IT ARE TRUE.						
25. Date	26. Signature of Candidate						
7-5-2020)	X Jun Jon -						
27. Treasurer's Acceptance of Appointme	nt (fill in the blanks and check the appropriate block)						
I, <u>Some of C. Balls</u> , do hereby accept the appointment (Please Print or Type Name)							
designated above as: Campaign Treasu							
2.5 202 a X							
Date A	Signatura of Campaign Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer						
	Dignatures Campaign Tressurer of Deputy Tressurer						

DS-DE 9 (Rev. 10/10)

Rule 1S-2.0001, F.A.C. Exhibit 1 Page 1 of 1

OFFICE USE ONLY STATEMENT OF RECEIVED CANDIDATE JUL 0 8 2020 (Section 106.023, F.S.) (Please print or type) 1. Jamaad C. Batts candidate for the office of <u>City Commission Group 3</u> have been provided access to read and understand the requirements of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes. Х 1.5.5090 ignature of Candidate 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).

City of Crescent City Election Qualification Statement

amodol cesor - Batte ر , residing at Print Name of Candidate Occupation of Candidate A _____, Putnam County, Florida, for 6 months or greater, am a 4910 Pordalph Address of Candidate Commissioner candidate for ________ _ for the City of Crescent City and I am willing to serve if Print Commissioner Group Number or Mayor elected. DEBORAH WAZOWICZ Notary Public – State of Florida Commission # GG 115106 My Comm. Expires Jun 14, 2021 STATE OF FLORIDA Bonded through National Notary Assn. COUNTY OF PUTNAM 4 day of Ungust 020, by The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this _ JAMAAD CESAR. BATTS Albona Vazowic Signature of Notary Personally known $\underline{\aleph}$ or produced identification ____.

Type of identification produced ______.

CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT SUMMARY							
(1) Jamaad Batts Cesar	OFFICE USE ONLY						
Name (2) 829 Randolph Street	ONLINE SUBMISSION [1218922]						
(2) 829 Randolph Street Address (number and street)	Submitted on:						
Crescent City, FL 32112	7/22/2020 22:46:42 (eastern)						
City, State, Zip Code							
Check here if address has changed	(3) ID Number: <u>363</u>						
(4) Check appropriate box(es):							
	ioner- Group 3 Crescent City						
 Political Committee (PC) Electioneering Communications Org. (ECO) 	Check here if PC or ECO has disbanded						
Party Executive Committee (PTY)	☐ Check here if PTY has disbanded						
Independent Expenditure (IE) (also covers an individual making electioneering communications)	Check here if no other IE or EC reports will be filed						
	t Identifiers						
Cover Period: From 7 / 1 / 2020 To	7/ 31/ 2020 Report Type:						
Original Amendment Sp	ecial Election Report						
(6) Contributions This Report	(7) Expenditures This Report						
	Monetary Expenditures \$, , 0,00						
Cash & Checks \$, , , 0 . 00	Expenditures \$,,,						
Loans \$,,0.00	Transfers to						
	Office Account \$,, 0 . 00						
Total Monetary \$							
¢ 582 00	Total Monetary \$, , , 0 . 00						
In-Kind \$, <u>582</u> .00	(8) Other Distributions						
	(8) Other Distributions \$,,,000						
(9) TOTAL Monetary Contributions To Date	(10) TOTAL Monetary Expenditures To Date						
\$,, <u>0</u> . <u>00</u>	\$,, <u>0</u> . <u>00</u>						
	tification						
	son to falsify a public record (ss. 839.13, F.S.)						
I certify that I have examined this report and it is true, cor	rect, and complete:						
(Type name)	(Type name)						
☐ Individual (only for IE ☐ Treasurer ☐ Deputy Treasurer or electioneering comm.)	Candidate Chairperson (only for PC and PTY)						
X	X						
Signature	Signature						

DS-DE 12 (Rev. 11/13)

SEE REVERSE FOR INSTRUCTIONS

CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT – ITEMIZED CONTRIBUTIONS

Jamaad Batts Cesar			(2) I.D. Number				
7/1/2020		7	/31/2020	(4) Pag	e ¹	of ¹	
(7)		(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	
Full Name (Last, Suffix, First, Middle)							
Service of Antonio and		A CLOSE OF CHERY PROPERTY OF CONTRACTOR	STOLDS STOLD STO	5.00000 57.565.057.96	Amendment	Amount	
Defranco, Robert 122 Summit st Crescent city, Fl 32112	I	Geeupaton	IK	campaign website		\$100.0	
Watson , Gerard 211 Propsect St Crescent city , Fl 32112	I		IK	cashapp		\$100.0	
Cesar, Jamaad 829 Randolph st Crescent city, Fl 32112	S	driver	IK	yard signs		\$300.0	
	~						
Cesar, Jamaad 829 Randolph St Crescent city , Fl 32112	S	driver	IK	t-shirts		\$82.0	
_							
_							
	7/1/2020 od// 	7/1/2020 od / / through the the the the the the the the the th	7/1/2020 7 od / / through 7 (7) (8) Full Name (Last, Suffix, First, Middle) Street Address & Contributor Street Address & Contributor Type Occupation Defranco, Robert I I I 122 Summit st Crescent city, F1 32112 I I Watson, Gerard I I I Watson, Gerard I I I Crescent city, F1 32112 S driver Cesar, Jamaad S driver Street Adolph st S driver Crescent city, F1 32112 S driver	7/1/2020 7/31/2020 od / / / (7) (8) (9) Full Name Contributor Contribution (Last, Suffix, First, Middle) Street Address & Contributor Contribution Defranco, Robert I IK IK 22 Summit st Crescent city , Fl 32112 I IK Watson , Gerard I IK IK 211 Propsect St Crescent city , Fl 32112 I IK Cesar, Jamaad S driver IK 629 Randolph st S driver IK Cesar, Jamaad S driver IK	7/1/2020 7/31/2020 od / / / / / (4) Pag (7) (8) (9) (10) Full Name Contributor Contribution In-kind (Last, Suffix, First, Middle) Street Address & Contributor Contribution In-kind Defranco, Robert I I IK Campaign 122 Summit st Crescent city , F1 32112 I IK cashapp Watson , Gerard I I IK cashapp Crescent city , F1 32112 S driver IK yard signs Cesar, Jamaad S driver IK t-shirts Cesar, Jamaad S driver IK t-shirts	7/1/2020 7/31/2020 1	

(1) Name Jama	CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S ad Batts Cesar	(2) EXPENDIT 2) I.D. Number		363
(3) Cover Period	7/1/2020 I/through	7/31/2020	4) Page <u>1</u>	of_	0
(5) Date (6) Sequence	(7) Full Name (Last, Suffix, First, Middle) Street Address & City, State, Zip Code	(8) Purpose (add office sought if contribution to a candidate)	(9) Expenditure Type	(10) Amendment	(11) Amount
Number	ony, orac, zip ooue				
_ / _					
//					
_/ /					
_/ /					
11					

DS-DE 14 (Rev. 11/13)

SEE REVERSE FOR INSTRUCTIONS AND CODE VALUES

CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT SUMMARY								
(1) Jamaad Cesar-Batts	OFFICE USE ONLY							
Name	ONLINE SUBMISSION [1228914]							
(2) 829 Randolph Street	Submitted on:							
Address (number and street) Crescent City, FL 32112	9/2/2020 08:25:32 (eastern)							
City, State, Zip Code								
Check here if address has changed	(3) ID Number: 363							
(4) Check appropriate box(es):	· · ·							
	ioner- Group 3 Crescent City							
Political Committee (PC)								
Electioneering Communications Org. (ECO)	Check here if PC or ECO has disbanded							
 Party Executive Committee (PTY) Independent Expenditure (IE) (also covers an 	 Check here if PTY has disbanded Check here if no other IE or EC reports will be filed 							
individual making electioneering communications)								
(5) Repo	rt Identifiers							
Cover Period: From 8 $/1$ $/2020$ To								
	pecial Election Report							
(6) Contributions This Report	(7) Expenditures This Report							
(,,	Monetary							
Cash & Checks \$, , 300 . 00	Expenditures \$ _ , _ , _ 0 . 00							
Loans \$,, <u>0</u> .00	Transfers to							
^	Office Account \$,, 0 . 00							
Total Monetary \$								
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	Total Monetary \$,,,,							
In-Kind \$, <u>378</u> .00								
	(8) Other Distributions \$, , 0.00							
	\$,,000							
(9) TOTAL Monetary Contributions To Date	(10) TOTAL Monetary Expenditures To Date							
\$,, <u>300</u> . <u>00</u>	\$, ,000							
(11) Co	I							
	son to falsify a public record (ss. 839.13, F.S.)							
I certify that I have examined this report and it is true, co	rrect, and complete:							
(Type name)	(Type name)							
☐ Individual (only for IE ☐ Treasurer ☐ Deputy Treasurer	Candidate Chairperson (only for PC and PTY)							
or electioneering comm.)								
x	x							
Signature	Signature							

DS-DE 12 (Rev. 11/13)

SEE REVERSE FOR INSTRUCTIONS

CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT – ITEMIZED CONTRIBUTIONS

(1) Name	Jamaad Cesar-Batts		(2) I.D. Number						
	8/1/2020	8/31/2020							
(3) Cover Per	riod / /	thr	ough	<i>ll</i>	(4) Page	e <u> </u>	of		
(5) Date (6)	(7) Full Name (Last, Suffix, First, Middle)		(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)		
Sequence	Street Address &	c	ontributor	Contribution	In-kind				
Number	City, State, Zip Code	Туре		Туре	Description	Amendment	Amount		
8/27/2020 / /	Batts, Jamaad 829 Randolph St Crescent City, Fl 32112	I	driver	IK	yard signs		\$278.0		
8/27/2020 / /	Delfranco, Robert 231 Prospects St Crescent City, Fl 32112	I	n/a	IK	campaign website		\$100.0		
8/27/2020 / / 3	Ricks, Thomas 152 Ricks Drive Crescent City, Fl 32112	I	painter	СН			\$100.0		
8/27/2020 / /	Victory Worship, Center 1022 Huntington Rd Crescent City , Fl 32112	C	church	CH			\$200.0		
1 1									
1 1									
1 1									
1 1									

(1) Name Jama	CAMPAIGN TREASURER " ad Cesar-Batts	() EXPENDIT 2) I.D. Number		363
	8/1/2020 I/through	8/31/2020	4) Page <u>1</u>		0
(5) Date (6)	(7) Full Name (Last, Suffix, First, Middle) Street Address &	(8) Purpose (add office sought if contribution to a	(9) Expenditure	(10)	(11)
Sequence Number	City, State, Zip Code	candidate)	Туре	Amendment	Amount
_/ /					
//					
_/ /					
11					
_/ /					

DS-DE 14 (Rev. 11/13)

To Whom It May Concern.

Case Number : Fec20-488

This letter is in response to the complaint filed by Tracy Eckhardt who is the lesbian partner of the candidate's opposition, Cynthia "Cindy" Burton.

In regard to violations 106.19 and 106.055

- 1. Cost of Milk Ad see #2 below. Since the Milk Give-Away was ultimately done by the church and NOT by Mr. Batts, it would be wrong to expense the cost of the ad as a campaign expense.
- 2. The cost of the milk is irrelevant as the candidate was contacted by the Supervisor of Elections, Charles Overturf, and told that several members of his opposition candidate (Cynthia "Cindy" Burton) team and her lesbian partner, Tracy Eckhardt, had made an accusation that the milk was from a Covid-19 Grant. Although that was a lie that was precipitated by the opposition, it was advised that Mr. Batts should not do the Milk Give-Away as a campaign function. Mr. Overturf advised the candidate to NOT even be at the Milk Give-Away that was sponsored by the church. Jamaad Batts complied with the direction of the Supervisor of Elections. The church proceeded with the Milk Give-Away as planned, with members of the church and other volunteers. Mr. Batts was NOT even there. This was only AFTER the Cindy Burton campaign failed to get the event cancelled by complaining to the bank (whose parking lot was being used), that they should NOT allow the give-away of food during a pandemic (how ridiculous is that!). The bank refused to comply with their demand to cancel the event.
- 3. Jamaad Batts was not aware that there was a charge for receiving money from the cash app. He will investigate and, of course, file a correction to his monthly report.
- 4. In regard to fictious names:
 - a) Jamaad made an error in identification of the supporter's name. He thought that it was Thomas Ricks, but the name should have been Rich Brooks. The candidate recalled seeing a sign with the name (that he THOUGHT was Ricks), but it was actually BROOKS. A photo of the sign is included. The candidate will, of course, file a correction.
 - b) The campaign treasurer misspelled Mr. Watson's first name by mistakenly typing an "R" instead of "L", so the name came out as Gerard instead of Gerald. This "typo" will be corrected.
- 5. In regard to fictious addresses:
 - a) See 4.a above. Address correction will be made.
 - b) Address correction will be made.
 - c) Address correction will be made.
 - d) Address correction will be made.

In regard to violations 106.143, 106.071 and 106.1439

Attached please find the receipt with the picture of the campaign signs that were printed. These are the signs that are posted in yards, used in campaign events and posted on social media. The size of the sign was truncated on the social media site and the disclaimer does not fully show. The candidate will, of course, take any corrective action.



\$100.00

For jamaad C. Batts Campaign Jul 13 at 3:27 PM

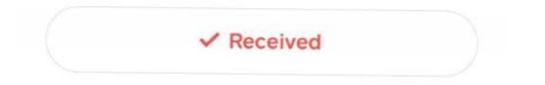
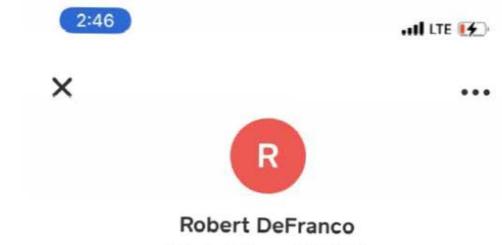


Exhibit 6 Page 2 of 7

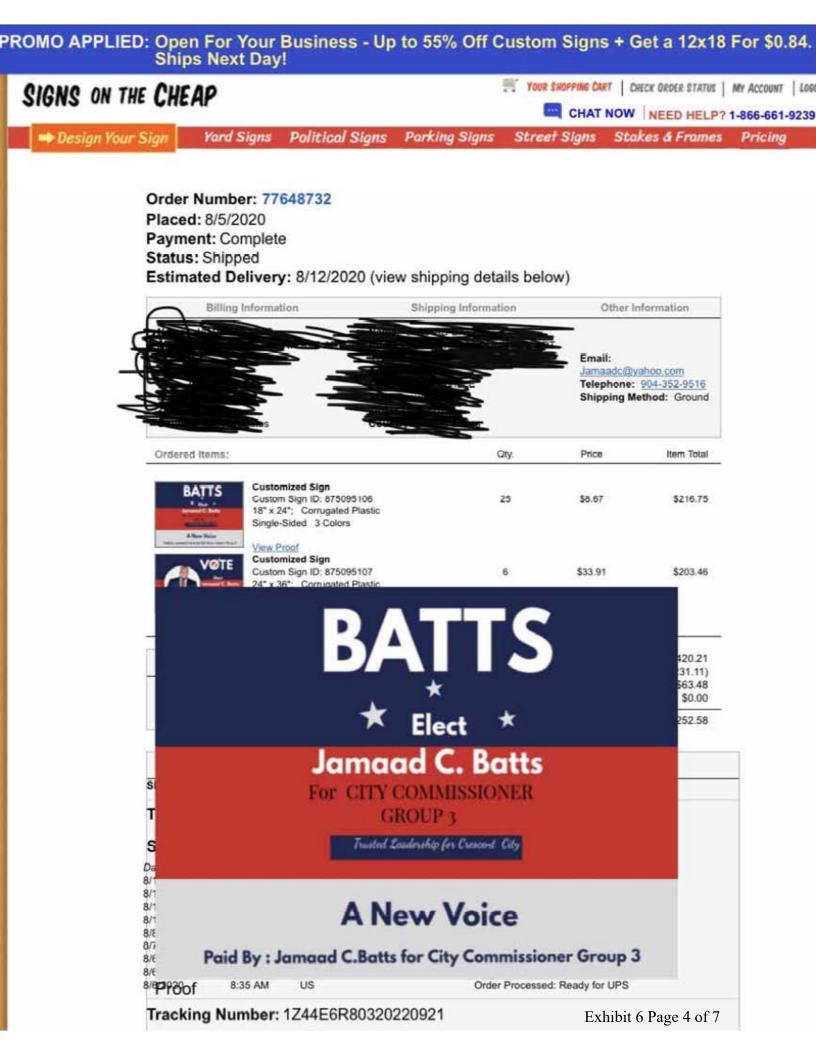


Payment from \$FLCBA

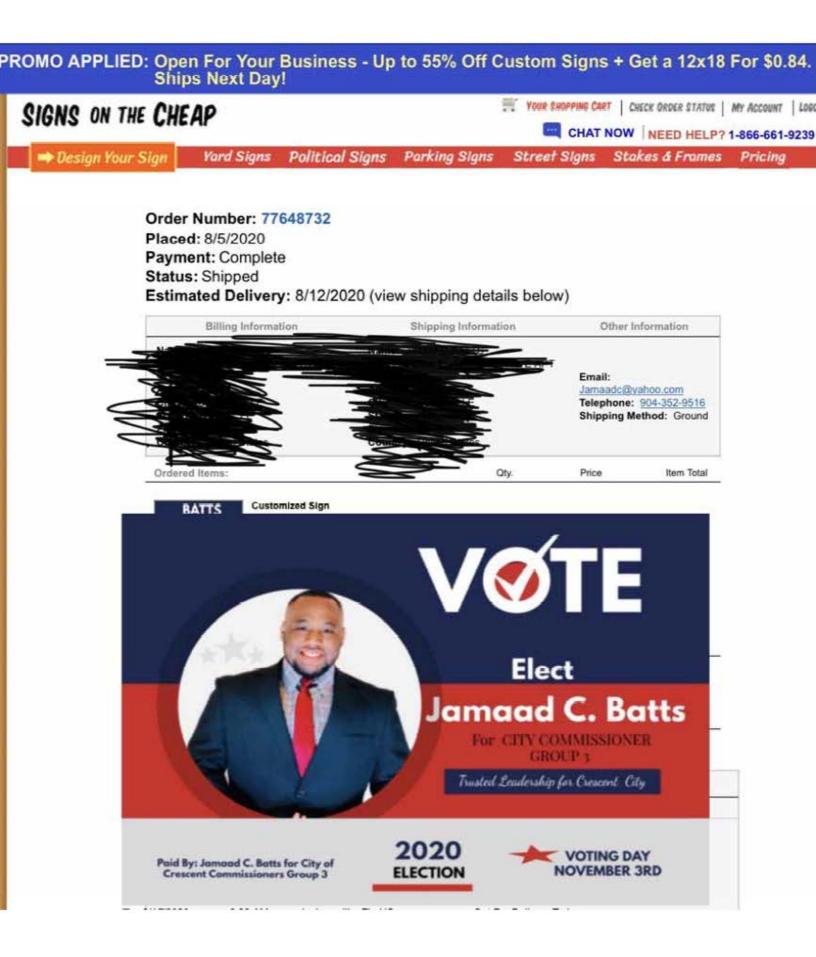
\$155.00

Oct 6 at 12:29 PM











Candidate: Jamaad Cesar-Batts

Office: City Commissioner- Group 3 Crescent City

□ Show only financial reports (Hides bio)

Available reports...

M1	8/10/2020
M2	9/10/2020
M3	10/9/2020
G1	10/23/2020
G2	10/30/2020
TRG	1/27/2021

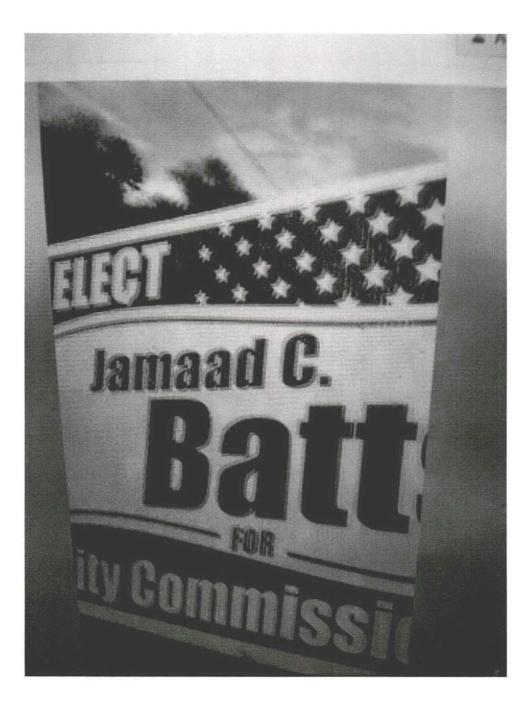
The following financial reports are available:					
Report View Transactions	Monetary Contributions	In-Kind Contributions	Expenditures and Distributions		
M1 (7/1/2020 - 7/31/2020)	\$0.00	\$582.00	\$0.00		
M2 (8/1/2020 - 8/31/2020)	\$300.00	\$378.00	\$0.00		
M3 (9/1/2020 - 9/30/2020)	\$0.00	\$136.00	\$0.00		
G1 (10/1/2020 - 10/16/2020)	\$155.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
G2 (10/17/2020 - 10/29/2020)	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00		
TRG (10/30/2020 - 1/27/2021)	\$0.00	\$230.00	\$455.00		

Candidate qualifying forms and miscellaneous documents

Charles L. Overturf III, Supervisor of Elections, Putnam County

Address & Qualifying Office: 2509 Crill Ave, Suite 900, Palatka, FL 32177 P: (386) 329 - 0224 | F: (386) 329 - 0455 | H: M-F 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Email: electionsoffice@putnam-fl.com (mailto:electionsoffice@putnam-fl.com)





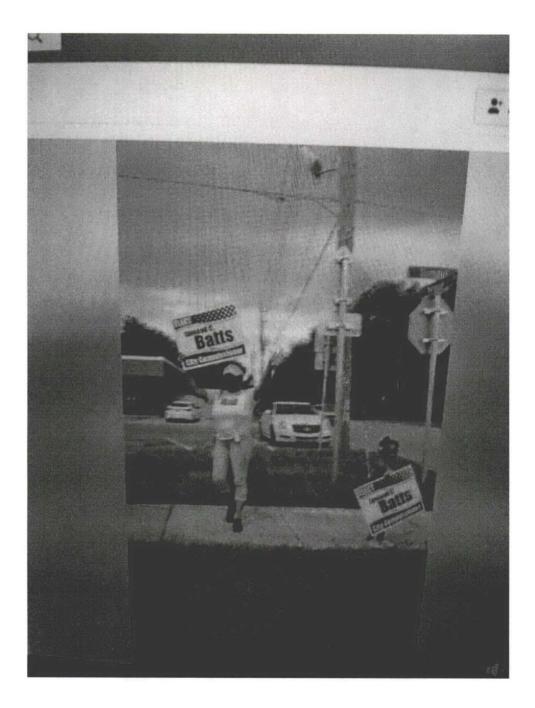


Exhibit 8 Page 3 of 3



Mayor Brett Peterson

Home

About

Photos

Posts

Community

Create a Page



August 6 · 😋

Milk give-away August 15 at Center State Bank parking lot. Great program!

MILK GIVEAWAY

Mission

We are so excited to serve and give back to our community & Surrounding Areas during these difficult times

> First Come First Serve

 Date & Time August 15, 2020
 8:00am - 12:00pm

Location

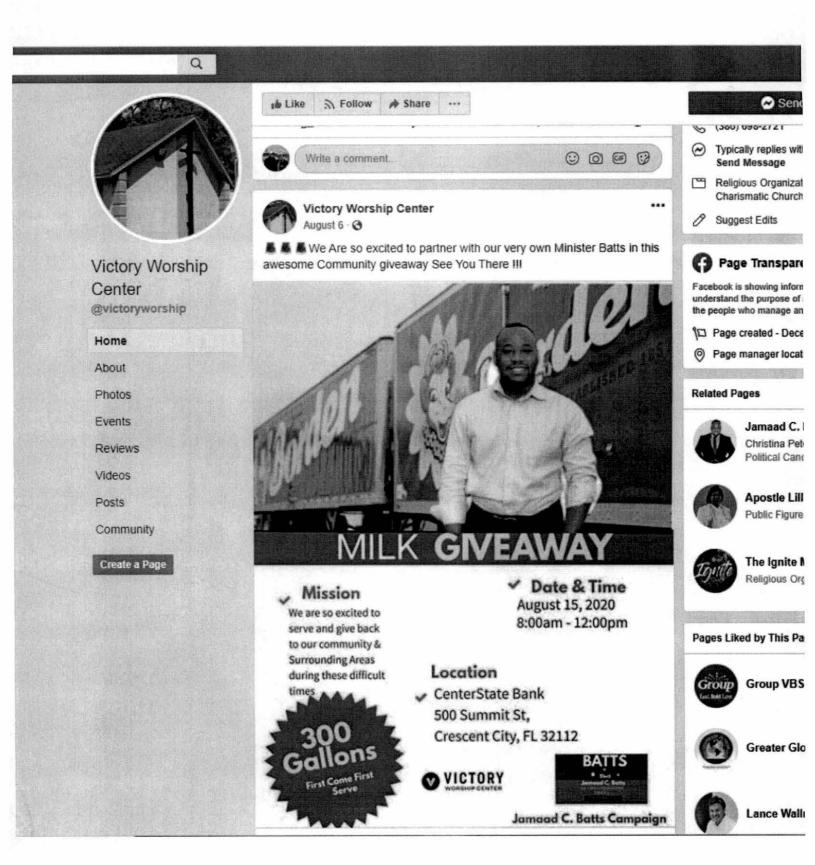
CenterState Bank
 500 Summit St,
 Crescent City, FL 32112

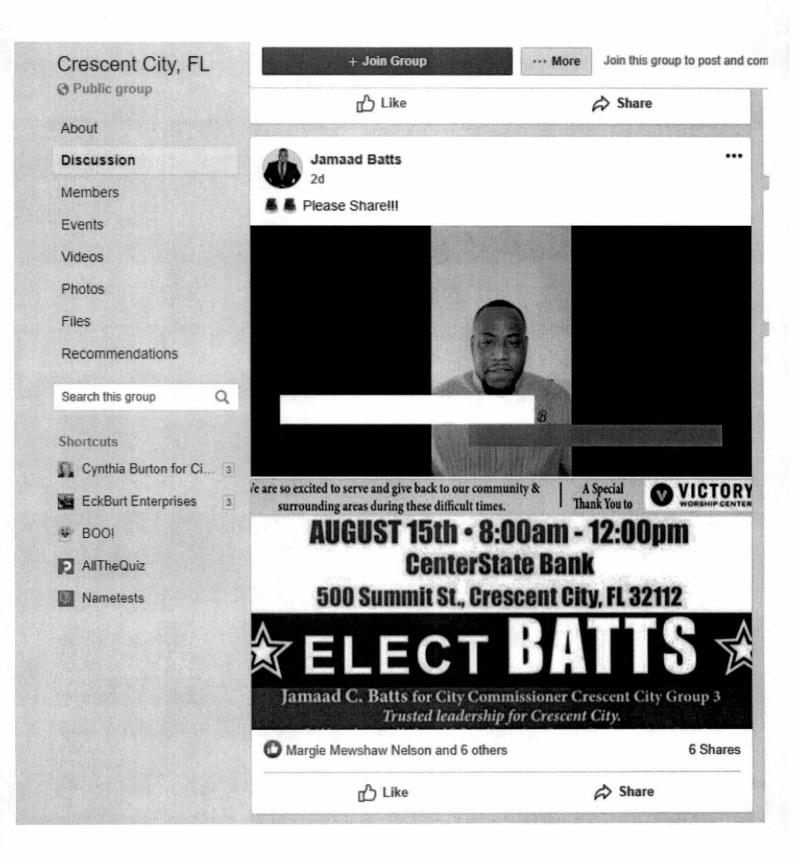


Jamaad C. Batts Campaign

5 Shares

06







Jamaad C. Batts For Crescent City "City Commissioner Group 3"

@Jamaad4Commissioner Group3

Home	
About	
Videos	5

Posts

Photos

Community

Create a Page

🖆 Like 🔊 Follow 🏟 Share 🚥



Jamaad C. Batts For Crescent City "City Commissioner Group 3" August 6 · 🕲 ...



Date & Time 4 Mission August 15, 2020 We are so excited to 8:00am - 12:00pm serve and give back to our community & **Surrounding Areas** Location during these difficult times CenterState Bank 500 Summit St, Crescent City, FL 32112 ATTS Come First VICTORY Jamaad C. Batts Campaign 00 10 1 Comment r Like Comment Share



Crescent City Office 500 North Summit Crescent City, FL 32112 Telephone: 386-698-1982 24 Hour Inquiry: (888)292-7005 www.centerstatebank.com

1

JAMAAD CESAR CAMPAIGN ACCOUNT		
829 RANDOLPH ST	Statement Date	08/02/2020
CRESCENT CITY FL 32112-1913		

PAGE 1 of 3

South State Bank and CenterState Bank, N.A. have merged to become South State Bank, N.A. Please visit bankingforward.com to learn more.

SMALL BUSINESS CHECKING			ACC	OUNT NO.	
	Sum	mary of Activity	Since Your Last Staten	nent	
1 Deposits 0 Withdraw Ending E	s/Credits vals/Debits Balance As Of 08/02/20			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	_00 50.00 .00 50.00 _00
		DEPOSITS AN	ND OTHER CREDITS		
DATE	DESCRIPT	ΓΙΟΝ			AMOUNT
7/03	Deposit				50.00
		DAILY E	BALANCE SUMMARY		
DATE	BALANCE	DATE	BALANCE	DATE	BALANCE
7/03	50.00				



Crescent City Office 500 North Summit Crescent City, FL 32112 Telephone: 386-698-1982 24 Hour Inquiry: (888)292-7005 www.centerstatebank.com

1

JAMAAD CESAR CAMPAIGN ACCOUNT		
829 RANDOLPH ST	Statement Date	08/31/2020
CRESCENT CITY FL 32112-1913		

PAGE 1 of 1

South State Bank and CenterState Bank, N.A. have merged to become South State Bank, N.A. Please visit bankingforward.com to learn more.

SMALL BUSINESS CHECKING		ACC	OUNT NO.		
	Sum	mary of Activity	Since Your Last State	ment	
0 Deposits 2 Withdraw Ending B	Credits	20		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	50.00 .00 ⁺ 9.95 40.05 9.95
		MISCELLA			
DATE	DESCRIPT	ΓΙΟΝ			AMOUNT
8/31 8/31	Maintenance TRADITIONA	Fee L PAPER STATEMEI	NT FEE		7.95 2.00
		DAILY E	ALANCE SUMMARY		
DATE	BALANCE	DATE	BALANCE	DATE	BALANCE
8/31	40.05				



Crescent City Office 500 North Summit Crescent City, FL 32112 Telephone: 386-698-1982 24 Hour Inquiry: (888)292-7005 www.centerstatebank.com

1

JAMAAD CESAR CAMPAIGN ACCOUNT 829 RANDOLPH ST Statement Date 09/30/2020 CRESCENT CITY FL 32112-1913

PAGE 1 of 2

South State Bank and CenterState Bank, N.A. have merged to become South State Bank, N.A. Please visit bankingforward.com to learn more.

SMALL BU	SMALL BUSINESS CHECKING ACCO			OUNT NO.	
	Sum	mary of Activity	Since Your Last Statem	nent	
0 0 3 0 Withdraw Ending B	/Credits als/Debits alance As Of 09/30/20	20		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	40.05 .00 49.95 9.90- 9.95
		MISCELLAI			
DATE	DESCRIPT	TION			AMOUNT
9/22 9/30 9/30	Teller Check Maintenance TRADITIONA	Fee L PAPER STATEMEN	IT FEE		40.00 7.95 2.00
		DAILY B	ALANCE SUMMARY		
DATE	BALANCE	DATE	BALANCE	DATE	BALANCE
9/22	.05	9/30	9.90 -		



Account: * Page 2 of 2



09/22/2020 \$40.00



Crescent City Office 500 North Summit Crescent City, FL 32112 Telephone: 386-698-1982 24 Hour Inquiry: (888)292-7005 www.centerstatebank.com

1

JAMAAD CESAR CAMPAIGN ACCOUNT		
829 RANDOLPH ST	Statement Date	10/30/2020
CRESCENT CITY FL 32112-1913		

PAGE 1 of 1

South State Bank and CenterState Bank, N.A. have merged to become South State Bank, N.A. Please visit bankingforward.com to learn more.

SMALL BUSINESS CHECKING			ACC	COUNT NO.	
	Sum	mary of Activity	Since Your Last State	ment	
0 Deposits 0 Withdrav 2 Ending E	s/Credits			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	9.90- .00 ⁺ 9.95 - 19.85- 9.95
		MISCELLA			
DATE	DESCRIP	ΓΙΟΝ			AMOUNT
10/30 10/30	Maintenance TRADITIONA	Fee L PAPER STATEMEI	NT FEE		7.95 2.00
		DAILY E	BALANCE SUMMARY		
DATE	BALANCE	DATE	BALANCE	DATE	BALANCE
10/30	19.85 -				



Crescent City Office 500 North Summit Crescent City, FL 32112 Telephone: 386-698-1982 24 Hour Inquiry: (888)292-7005 www.centerstatebank.com

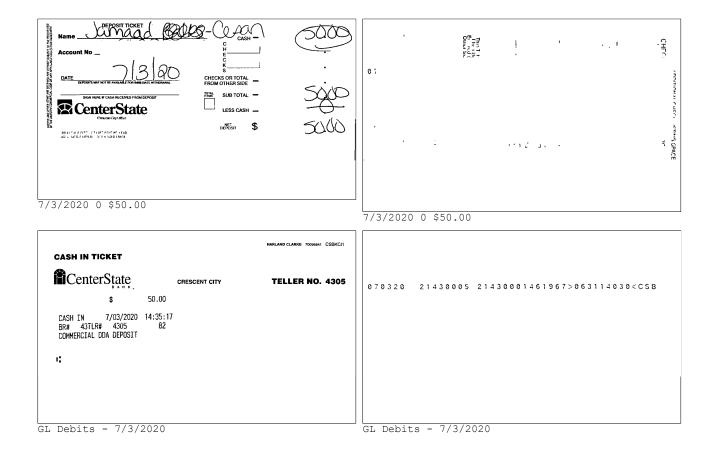
1

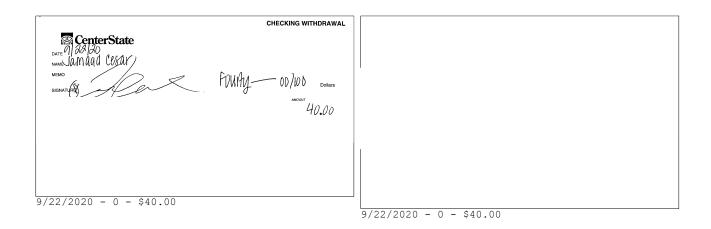
JAMAAD CESAR CAMPAIGN ACCOUNT		
829 RANDOLPH ST	Statement Date	11/03/2020
CRESCENT CITY FL 32112-1913		

PAGE 1 of 1

South State Bank and CenterState Bank, N.A. have merged to become South State Bank, N.A. Please visit bankingforward.com to learn more.

SMALL BU	SMALL BUSINESS CHECKING			OUNT NO.	
	Sum	mary of Activity	Since Your Last Staten	nent	
2 Deposits Withdraw Ending B	/Credits	20		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	19.85- 19.85 .00 .00 .00 .00
		DEPOSITS AN	ND OTHER CREDITS		
DATE	DESCRIP	ΓΙΟΝ			AMOUNT
11/03 11/03	Refund Maint Refund Elec :				15.90 3.95
		DAILY E	BALANCE SUMMARY		
DATE	BALANCE	DATE	BALANCE	DATE	BALANCE
11/03	.00				





FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION PHONE LOG Case No.: FEC 20-488

Respondent: Jamaad Cesar-batts

Complainant: Tracy Eckhart

 Date and time: September 15, 2021 @ 10:55am Name: Charles Overturf III – Supervisor of Elections, Putnam County Phone #: 386-329-0224
 Summary: Mr. Overturf called in response to the affidavit sent to his office. Online CTRS are available on his website, however qualifying documents and check images of Respondent's campaign are not. I sent an affidavit to the Supervisor for a request of records and standard question of his office's interaction with Respondent. Mr. Overturf left a brief voicemail asking for me to call back. Entered by: Brian Ayres

- 2. Date and time: September 16, 2021 @ 12:56 pm Name: Jamaad Cesar-Butts - Respondent Phone #: 904-352-9516 Summary: Respondent called and left a voicemail asking to go over questions about the complaint he received. Entered by: Brian Ayres
- 3. Date and time: September 17, 2021@ 10:35am
 Name: Charles Overturf III
 Phone #: 386-329-0224
 Summary: I called Mr. Overturf back to go over the questions he had regarding the affidavit. I left a voicemail detailing my contact information.
 Entered by: Brian Ayres
- 4. Date and time: September 17, 2021 @10:45 am Name: Jamaad Cesar-Butts - Respondent Phone #: 904-352-9516

Summary: I called R to discuss the complaint and investigation. Respondent stated that this was a small campaign that got "nasty" with his opponent. He stated he thought he provided all material to show this issue was worked out. I discussed the focus of the case and how the advertisement was not reported in his CTR. Respondent stated the advertisement in the church paper was an in-kind contribution from a friend and he did not pay for the ad. Respondent stated the misspelled names and addresses were from people in the community that "everyone knew" and understand where they are from. Respondent stated he did not have access to the candidate and treasurer's handbook or chapter 106, Florida Statutes. Respondent was in a special election previously when his cousin passed away. This campaign was put together quickly.

Entered by: Brian Ayres

5. **Date and time:** September 17, 2021 @ 11:15 am

Name: Charles Overturf – Supervisor of Elections Phone #:

Summary: I called Mr. Overturf back to discuss the affidavit sent to his office. Mr. Overturf explained that for this election Crescent City's Clerk would have the information I was requesting and that they have been going through a staff transition recently. I thanked Mr. Overturf and notified him that I will reach out to Crescent City directly to see who I can address the new affidavit to.

Entered by: Brian Ayres

- 6. Date and time: September 17, 2021 @11:31 AM Name: Mayor Michelle Meyers, Crescent City Phone #: 386-698-2525
 Summary: I called the operator of Crescent city and asked to speak to the city clerk. I was sent to the Mayor's office line. I left a detailed message asking who I may be able to send the affidavit to to get qualifying information from regarding the Respondent's 2020 election for city commissioner. Entered by: Brian Ayres
- 7. Date and time: September 23, 2021 @ 11:15 am Name: Charles Rudd – City Manager, Crescent City Phone #: 386-698-2525 ext 246
 Summary: I called Mr. Rudd after receiving a voicemail from Mayor Meyers explaining he is acting city manager. Crescent city has gone through staff turnover and I reached out for information regarding how to send an affidavit and where to send an affidavit for records regarding R's campaign. Entered by: Brian Ayres
- 8. Date and time: September 23, 2021 @ 11:20 am Name: Mayor Michele Meyers – Crescent city Phone #: 386-559-4563
 Summary: I called to thank Mayor Meyers for her assistance and information. She provided me with Mr. Rudd's (City Manager) email so I may reach out and send an affidavit to. Entered by: Brian Ayres
- 9. Date and time: September 23, 2021 @ 11:45 am Name: Charles Rudd – City manager Phone #: 386-698-2525 ext 246
 Summary: Mr. Rudd confirmed that I can send an affidavit addressed to him to Crescent City Hall or by email.
 Entered by: Brian Ayres
- 10. Date and time: January 26, 2022 @ 1:00pm Name: Southstate Bank - Teller Phone #: 326-698-1982 Summary: I called to confirm how to send a subpoena for bank records to Southstate Bank (FKA Centerstate Bank). The customer service representative took my information and stated her branch manager will call me back to provide the information. Entered by: Brian Ayres

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

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

- Did you pay for the advertisement issued on the Palatka Daily News paper on August 13, 2020? If so, why did you not report the expense, if not why did you not report the in-kind contribution for the advertisement. This was an in-kind contribution from someone in his community. He did not go to the event. He did not pay for the advertisement.
- According to the complaint the names an/or addresses used in your M1 and M2 CTR do not exist. Have you amended the reports? These are people from his community that most understand where they are from. He has since worked with the Election officer to amend these reports.
- Have you ever run for public office? If so, please name each office you ran for and state what year each election occurred. **Ran in a special election previously.**
- 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. **Only has acted as his own treasurer.**
- 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? None specified it was a hastily put together campaign/
- Do you possess a copy of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes? If so, when did you first obtain it? Have you read it? No
- Do you possess a copy of the [*Candidate and Campaign Treasurer* OR *Political Committee* OR *Electioneering Communications Organization*] *Handbook*? If so, when did you first obtain it? Have you read it? **No**
- 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?

CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT SUMMARY							
(1) Jamaad Cesar-Batts	OFFICE USE ONLY						
Name (2) 829 Randolph Street	ONLINE SUBMISSION [1233743]						
(2) 829 Randolph Street Address (number and street)	Submitted on:						
Crescent City, FL 32112	10/8/2020 17:42:21 (eastern)						
City, State, Zip Code							
Check here if address has changed	(3) ID Number: <u>363</u>						
(4) Check appropriate box(es):							
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	oner- Group 3 Crescent City						
 Political Committee (PC) Electioneering Communications Org. (ECO) 	Check here if PC or ECO has disbanded						
Party Executive Committee (PTY)	Check here if PTY has disbanded						
Independent Expenditure (IE) (also covers an individual making electioneering communications)	Check here if no other IE or EC reports will be filed						
(5) Report Identifiers							
Cover Period: From 9 / 1 / 2020 To	9/ 30/ 2020 Report Type:M3						
Criginal Amendment Sp	ecial Election Report						
(6) Contributions This Report	(7) Expenditures This Report						
	Monetary						
Cash & Checks \$, , , 0 . 00	Expenditures \$,,,						
Loans \$,,0.00_	Transfers to						
	Office Account \$, , 0 . 00						
Total Monetary \$							
	Total Monetary \$, , 0 . 00						
In-Kind \$,, <u>136</u> .00							
	(8) Other Distributions \$, , 0.00						
	\$,, <u>0</u> . <u>00</u>						
(9) TOTAL Monetary Contributions To Date	(10) TOTAL Monetary Expenditures To Date						
\$,, <u>300</u> . <u>00</u>	\$,, <u>0</u> . <u>00</u>						
(11) Certification							
It is a first degree misdemeanor for any person to falsify a public record (ss. 839.13, F.S.)							
I certify that I have examined this report and it is true, cor	rect, and complete:						
(Type name)	(Type name)						
Individual (only for IE Treasurer Deputy Treasurer	Candidate Chairperson (only for PC and PTY)						
or electioneering comm.)							
X	<u>x</u>						
Signature	Signature						

DS-DE 12 (Rev. 11/13)

SEE REVERSE FOR INSTRUCTIONS

CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT – ITEMIZED CONTRIBUTIONS

(1) Name	Jamaad Cesar-Batts				(2) I.D. Numbe	r3	63
	9/1/2020		ç	9/30/2020		-	-
(3) Cover Per	iod / /	thr	ough	<i>ll</i>	(4) Page	e <u>1</u>	of _1
(5) Date	(7) Full Name		(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
(6) Sequence	(Last, Suffix, First, Middle) Street Address &	c	ontributor	Contribution	In-kind		
Number	City, State, Zip Code		Occupation	Туре	Description	Amendment	Amount
9/27/2020 / /	Batts, Jamaad 829 Randolph St Crescent City , Fl 32112	0	driver	IK	campaign handouts (staples)		\$41.0
9/30/2020 / /	Batts, Jamaad 829 Randolph St Crescent City , Fl 32112	S	driver	IK	campaign handouts (staples)		\$95.0
2				-			
1 1							
1 1							
1 1							
1 1	_						
1 1							
1 1							

(1) Name Jama	CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S ad Cesar-Batts		2) EXPENDIT 2) I.D. Number		363
	9/1/2020 I/through	9/30/2020	4) Page <u>1</u>		0
(5) Date (6) Sequence	(7) Full Name (Last, Suffix, First, Middle) Street Address &	(8) Purpose (add office sought if contribution to a	Expenditure	(10)	(11)
Number	City, State, Zip Code	candidate)	Туре	Amendment	Amount
_/ /					
_ / /					
_/ /					
_/ /					
_/ /					
_//					
11					

DS-DE 14 (Rev. 11/13)

CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT SUMMARY							
(1) Jamaad Cesar-Batts	OFFICE USE ONLY						
Name (2) 829 Randolph Street	ONLINE SUBMISSION [1236166]						
(2) 829 Randolph Street Address (number and street)	Submitted on:						
Crescent City, FL 32112	10/23/2020 20:47:58 (eastern)						
City, State, Zip Code							
Check here if address has changed	(3) ID Number: <u>363</u>						
(4) Check appropriate box(es):							
	oner- Group 3 Crescent City						
 Political Committee (PC) Electioneering Communications Org. (ECO) 	Check here if PC or ECO has disbanded						
Party Executive Committee (PTY)	Check here if PTY has disbanded						
Independent Expenditure (IE) (also covers an individual making electioneering communications)	Check here if no other IE or EC reports will be filed						
(5) Report Identifiers							
Cover Period: From <u>10</u> / <u>1</u> / <u>2020</u> To	<u>10</u> / <u>16</u> / <u>2020</u> Report Type: <u>G1</u>						
Original Amendment Sp	ecial Election Report						
(6) Contributions This Report	(7) Expenditures This Report						
	Monetary						
Cash & Checks \$,, <u>155</u> . <u>00</u>	Expenditures \$,,,						
Loans \$,,0.00	Transfers to						
	Office Account \$,,0.00						
Total Monetary \$							
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	Total Monetary \$, , 00						
In-Kind \$,, <u>0</u> .00							
	(8) Other Distributions \$,,000_						
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·						
(9) TOTAL Monetary Contributions To Date	(10) TOTAL Monetary Expenditures To Date						
\$,, <u>455</u> . <u>00</u>	\$,, <u>0</u> . <u>00</u>						
	tification						
It is a first degree misdemeanor for any person to falsify a public record (ss. 839.13, F.S.)							
I certify that I have examined this report and it is true, cor	rect, and complete:						
(Type name)	(Type name)						
Individual (only for IE Treasurer Deputy Treasurer or electioneering comm.)	Candidate Chairperson (only for PC and PTY)						
X	<u>X</u>						
Signature	Signature						

DS-DE 12 (Rev. 11/13)

SEE REVERSE FOR INSTRUCTIONS

CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT – ITEMIZED CONTRIBUTIONS

(1) Name	Jamaad Cesar-Batts	ar-Batts (2) I.D. Number 3					63
	10/1/2020			0/16/2020		_	
(3) Cover Per	iod / /	thro	ough	11	(4) Pag	e	_ of
(5)	(7)		(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Date	Full Name		(-)	(5)	()	()	()
(6)	(Last, Suffix, First, Middle)						
Sequence	Street Address &		ontributor	Contribution	In-kind		
Number	City, State, Zip Code	Туре	Occupation	Туре	Description	Amendment	Amount
10/6/2020	Defranceo, Robert Prospect st	I	principal	СН	pdn add		\$155.00
1 1	Crescent City , Fl 32112						
1							
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1 1							
1 1							
1 1							
1 1			5				

DS-DE 13 (Rev. 11/13)

(1) Name Jamaa	CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S ad Cesar-Batts) EXPENDIT 2) I.D. Number		363
(3) Cover Period	10/1/2020 1 /through	0/16/2020 //(4	4) Page <u>1</u>	of	0
(5) Date (6)	(7) Full Name (Last, Suffix, First, Middle)	(8) Purpose (add office sought if	(9)	(10)	(11)
Sequence Number	Street Address & City, State, Zip Code	contribution to a candidate)	Expenditure Type	Amendment	Amount
_/ /					
_/ /					
_/ /					
_/ /					
_/ /					
11					
_/ /					

DS-DE 14 (Rev. 11/13)

CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT SUMMARY							
(1) Jamaad Cesar-Batts	OFFICE USE ONLY						
Name (2) 829 Randolph Street	ONLINE SUBMISSION [1236348]						
(2) 829 Randolph Street Address (number and street)	Submitted on:						
Crescent City, FL 32112	10/25/2020 20:51:29 (eastern)						
City, State, Zip Code							
Check here if address has changed	(3) ID Number: <u>363</u>						
(4) Check appropriate box(es):							
	oner- Group 3 Crescent City						
 Political Committee (PC) Electioneering Communications Org. (ECO) 	Check here if PC or ECO has disbanded						
Party Executive Committee (PTY)	Check here if PTY has disbanded						
Independent Expenditure (IE) (also covers an individual making electioneering communications)	Check here if no other IE or EC reports will be filed						
(5) Report Identifiers							
Cover Period: From <u>10</u> / <u>17</u> / <u>2020</u> To	10 / 29 / 2020 Report Type: <u>G2</u>						
☐ Original ☐ Amendment ☐ Sp	ecial Election Report						
(6) Contributions This Report	(7) Expenditures This Report						
	Monetary						
Cash & Checks \$, , , 00	Expenditures \$, , , 00						
Loans \$,,_0.00	Transfers to						
	Office Account \$, , 0 . 00						
Total Monetary \$,,,0 00							
	Total Monetary \$, , , 0 . 00						
In-Kind \$,, 200 00							
	(8) Other Distributions \$ 0 . 00						
	\$,, <u>0</u> . <u>00</u>						
(9) TOTAL Monetary Contributions To Date	(10) TOTAL Monetary Expenditures To Date						
\$,, <u>455</u> . <u>00</u>	\$,, 00_						
(11) Cer	l tification						
It is a first degree misdemeanor for any person to falsify a public record (ss. 839.13, F.S.)							
I certify that I have examined this report and it is true, cor	rect, and complete:						
(Type name)	(Type name)						
Individual (only for IE Treasurer Deputy Treasurer	Candidate Chairperson (only for PC and PTY)						
or electioneering comm.)							
X	<u>x</u>						
Signature	Signature						

DS-DE 12 (Rev. 11/13)

SEE REVERSE FOR INSTRUCTIONS

CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT – ITEMIZED CONTRIBUTIONS

(1) Name	Jamaad Cesar-Batts				2) I.D. Numbe	er3	63
	10/17/2020			0/29/2020			_
(3) Cover Per	iod / /	thro	ough	11_	(4) Pag	le	of
(5) Date	(7) Full Name		(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
(6) Sequence Number	(Last, Suffix, First, Middle) Street Address & City, State, Zip Code		ontributor Occupation	Contribution	In-kind Description	Amendment	Amount
10/24/2020 / /	Oliver , Vincent 833 Randolph St Crescent City , Fl 32112	I	clerk	Type IK	meat (for election day)	Anenanen	\$200.00
1							
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1 1							

DS-DE 13 (Rev. 11/13)

(1) Name Jamaa	CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S ad Cesar-Batts		2 EXPENDIT (2) I.D. Number		363
(3) Cover Period	10/17/2020 <i>I</i> through	10/29/2020 //	4) Page <u>1</u>	of	0
(5) Date (6)	(7) Full Name (Last, Suffix, First, Middle) Street Address &	(8) Purpose (add office sought if contribution to a	Expenditure	(10)	(11)
Sequence Number	City, State, Zip Code	candidate)	Туре	Amendment	Amount
_/ /					
_/ /					
_/ /					
_/ /					
//					
_/ /					
11					

DS-DE 14 (Rev. 11/13)

CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT SUMMARY						
(1) Jamaad Cesar-Batts	OFFICE USE ONLY					
Name (2) 829 Randolph Street	ONLINE SUBMISSION [1241845]					
(2) 829 Randolph Street Address (number and street)	Submitted on:					
Crescent City, FL 32112	1/20/2021 13:51:22 (eastern)					
City, State, Zip Code						
Check here if address has changed	(3) ID Number: <u>363</u>					
(4) Check appropriate box(es):						
	oner- Group 3 Crescent City					
 Political Committee (PC) Electioneering Communications Org. (ECO) 	Check here if PC or ECO has disbanded					
	Check here if PTY has disbanded					
Independent Expenditure (IE) (also covers an individual making electioneering communications)	Check here if no other IE or EC reports will be filed					
(5) Repor	Identifiers					
Cover Period: From <u>10</u> / <u>30</u> / <u>2020</u> To	1 / 27 / 2021 Report Type: <u>TRG</u>					
☑ Original ☐ Amendment ☐ Sp	ecial Election Report					
(6) Contributions This Report	(7) Expenditures This Report					
	Monetary					
Cash & Checks \$, , , 00	Expenditures \$, , <u>455</u> . <u>00</u>					
Loans \$,, 0.00	Transfers to					
	Office Account \$, , 0 . 00					
Total Monetary \$,,,0 00						
	Total Monetary \$,, <u>455</u> .00					
In-Kind \$,, 230 . 00						
	(8) Other Distributions \$, , 0.00					
	\$,, <u>0</u> . <u>00</u>					
(9) TOTAL Monetary Contributions To Date	(10) TOTAL Monetary Expenditures To Date					
\$,, <u>455</u> . <u>00</u>	\$,, <u>455</u> . <u>00</u>					
(11) Cer	I tification					
	on to falsify a public record (ss. 839.13, F.S.)					
I certify that I have examined this report and it is true, cor	rect, and complete:					
(Type name)	(Type name)					
Individual (only for IE Treasurer Deputy Treasurer or electioneering comm.)	Candidate Chairperson (only for PC and PTY)					
X	<u>X</u>					
Signature	Signature					

DS-DE 12 (Rev. 11/13)

SEE REVERSE FOR INSTRUCTIONS

CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT – ITEMIZED CONTRIBUTIONS

(1) Name				(2) I.D. Number				
10/30/2020			1	1/27/2021				
(3) Cover Per	riod / /	thre	ough	11	(4) Page	e	of	
(5) Date (6)	(7) Full Name (Last, Suffix, First, Middle)		(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	
Sequence	Street Address &	C	ontributor	Contribution	In-kind			
Number	City, State, Zip Code		Occupation	Туре	Description	Amendment	Amount	
1/4/2021 / /	Sykes, Daine Orange Ave Crescent City, Fl 32112	I	n/a	IK	chips, water, pizza, soda		\$80.0	
1/6/2021 / /	Oliver , Vincent 833 Randolph St Crescent city , Fl 32112	I	county office	IK	bbq trays bbq sauce bread		\$150.0	
/ /					soda etc			
1 1								
1 1	_							
1 1	_							
1 1								
1 1								

DS-DE 13 (Rev. 11/13)

SEE REVERSE FOR INSTRUCTIONS AND CODE VALUES

(1) Name Jama	CAMPAIGN TREASURER'		2 EXPENDIT (2) I.D. Number		363
(3) Cover Period	10/30/2020 d/_/through_	1/27/2021 //	(4) Page <u>1</u>	of_	1
(5) Date (6) Sequence Number	(7) Full Name (Last, Suffix, First, Middle) Street Address & City, State, Zip Code	(8) Purpose (add office sought if contribution to a candidate)	(9) Expenditure Type	(10) Amendment	(11) Amount
1/7/2021	Victory Worship Center , 1022 Huntington Road Crescent , Fl 32112	donate tomusic ministry at local church vwc	МО		\$200.00
1/10/2021 // 2	Oliver , Vincent 833 Randolph St Crescent City , Fl 32112		MO		\$114.00
1/12/2021 // 3	Batts, Jamaad 829 Randolph Street Crescent City, FL 32112	repayment of inkind loans	МО		\$141.00
_/ /					
_/ /					
_/ /					
_/ /					
//					

DS-DE 14 (Rev. 11/13)

SEE REVERSE FOR INSTRUCTIONS AND CODE VALUES



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



September 8, 2021

Jamaad M. Cesar-Batts 829 Randolph Street Crescent City, FL 32112

RE: Case No.: FEC 20-488; Respondent: Jamaad M. Cesar-Batts

Dear Mr. Cesar-Batts:

On October 22, 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(5), Florida Statutes: Respondent, a 2020 candidate for Crescent City Commission, Group 3, may have certified the 2020 M1 and 2020 M2 campaign treasurer reports were true, correct, and complete when they were not, as alleged in the complaint.

Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes: Respondent, a 2020 candidate for Crescent City Commission, Group 3, may have falsely reported or deliberately failed to include information during the 2020 M1 and 2020 M2 reporting periods, required by Chapter 106, as alleged in the complaint.

Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes: Respondent, a 2020 candidate for Crescent City Commission, Group 3, paid for and distributed a political advertisement in the form of a newspaper publication that contained express advocacy but did not include a proper disclaimer as alleged in the complaint.

Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes: Respondent, a 2020 candidate for Crescent City Commission, Group 3, paid for and distributed a political advertisement in the form of yard signs that contained express advocacy but did not include a proper disclaimer as alleged in the complaint.

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 Jamaad M. Cesar-Batts September 8, 2021 Page 2 FEC 20-488

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.

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 <u>confidential</u> 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 **Brian Ayres**, the investigator assigned to this case, by phone at (850) 922-4539 or by email at Brian.Ayres@myfloridalegal.com.

Sincerely Tim Melean

Tim Vaccaro Executive Director

TV/mw

	Case Number : F jamaad cesar to:					11/06/2020	0 06:02 PM	
History:	This messag	e has been fo	orwarded.					
	Batts image0.jpeg	image1.jpeg	image2.jpeg	Video.mov	image3.jpeg	image4.jpeg		_
image5.jpeg								
Jamaad C. Ba	atts Campaigh.docx							
Sent from	my iPhone							

-

To Whom It May Concern.

Case Number : Fec20-488

This letter is in response to the complaint filed by Tracy Eckhardt who is the lesbian partner of the candidate's opposition, Cynthia "Cindy" Burton.

In regard to violations 106.19 and 106.055

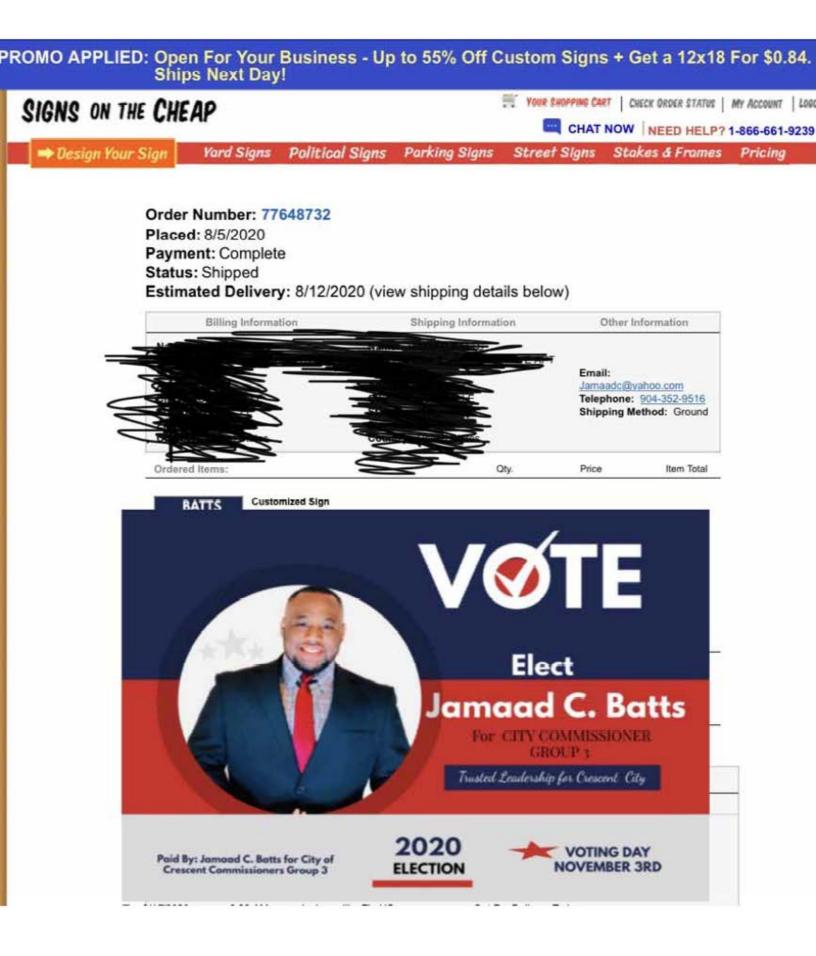
- 1. Cost of Milk Ad see #2 below. Since the Milk Give-Away was ultimately done by the church and NOT by Mr. Batts, it would be wrong to expense the cost of the ad as a campaign expense.
- 2. The cost of the milk is irrelevant as the candidate was contacted by the Supervisor of Elections, Charles Overturf, and told that several members of his opposition candidate (Cynthia "Cindy" Burton) team and her lesbian partner, Tracy Eckhardt, had made an accusation that the milk was from a Covid-19 Grant. Although that was a lie that was precipitated by the opposition, it was advised that Mr. Batts should not do the Milk Give-Away as a campaign function. Mr. Overturf advised the candidate to NOT even be at the Milk Give-Away that was sponsored by the church. Jamaad Batts complied with the direction of the Supervisor of Elections. The church proceeded with the Milk Give-Away as planned, with members of the church and other volunteers. Mr. Batts was NOT even there. This was only AFTER the Cindy Burton campaign failed to get the event cancelled by complaining to the bank (whose parking lot was being used), that they should NOT allow the give-away of food during a pandemic (how ridiculous is that!). The bank refused to comply with their demand to cancel the event.
- 3. Jamaad Batts was not aware that there was a charge for receiving money from the cash app. He will investigate and, of course, file a correction to his monthly report.
- 4. In regard to fictious names:
 - a) Jamaad made an error in identification of the supporter's name. He thought that it was Thomas Ricks, but the name should have been Rich Brooks. The candidate recalled seeing a sign with the name (that he THOUGHT was Ricks), but it was actually BROOKS. A photo of the sign is included. The candidate will, of course, file a correction.
 - b) The campaign treasurer misspelled Mr. Watson's first name by mistakenly typing an "R" instead of "L", so the name came out as Gerard instead of Gerald. This "typo" will be corrected.
- 5. In regard to fictious addresses:
 - a) See 4.a above. Address correction will be made.
 - b) Address correction will be made.
 - c) Address correction will be made.
 - d) Address correction will be made.

In regard to violations 106.143, 106.071 and 106.1439

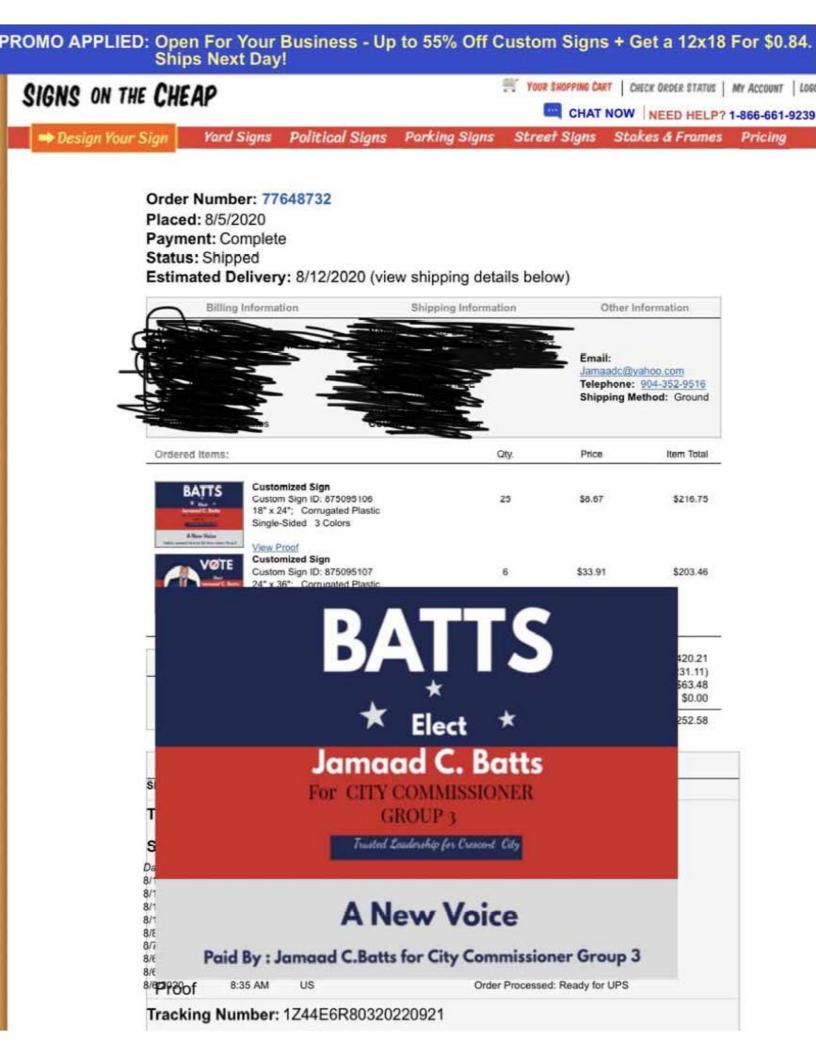
Attached please find the receipt with the picture of the campaign signs that were printed. These are the signs that are posted in yards, used in campaign events and posted on social media. The size of the sign was truncated on the social media site and the disclaimer does not fully show. The candidate will, of course, take any corrective action.

*





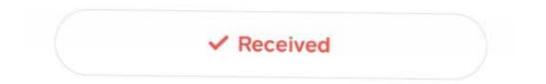






\$100.00

For jamaad C. Batts Campaign Jul 13 at 3:27 PM

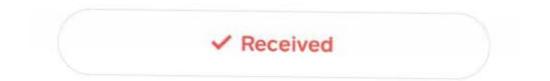




Payment from \$FLCBA

\$155.00

Oct 6 at 12:29 PM



COMPLAINT

	The Commission's records and proceedings in a case are confidential until the Commission rules on probable cause. A copy of the complaint will be provided to the person against whom it is brought.						
1.	PERSON BRINGING COMPLAINT:						
	Name: Tracy Eckhardt Work Phone: ()						
	Address: 109 N Prospect St. Home Phone: (321) 277-1423						
	Address:109 N Prospect St.Home Phone: (321) 277-1423City:Crescent CityPutnamState:FLZip Code:32112						
2.	PERSON AGAINST WHOM COMPLAINT IS BROUGHT:						
	If you intend to name more than one individual or entity, please file multiple complaints . A person can be an individual, political committee, political party, electioneering communication organization, club, corporation, partnership, company, association, or other type of organization. Name of individual or entity: Jamaad M. Cesar-Batts						
	Address: 829 Randolph St. Phone: (904) 352-9516						
	Address:829 Randolph St.Phone: (904) 352-9516City:Crescent CityCounty:PutnamState:FLZip Code:32112						
	If individual is a candidate, list the office or position sought: City Commissioner, Gr. 3						
	Have you filed this complaint with the State Attorney's Office? (check one) Yes V No						
	Are you alleging a violation of Section 104.271(2), F.S.? (check one) Yes 📝 No						
	Are you alleging a violation of Section 104.2715, F.S.? (check one) 🗌 Yes 🗹 No						

3. ALLEGED VIOLATION(S):

Please attach a <u>concise</u> narrative statement in which you list the provisions of the Florida Election Code that you believe the person named above may have violated. The Commission has jurisdiction only to investigate provisions of Chapter 104 and Chapter 106, Florida Statutes. <u>Please include the</u> <u>following items as part of your attached statement:</u>

- The facts and actions that you believe support the violations you allege;
- The names/telephone numbers of persons whom you believe may be witnesses to the facts;
- A copy or picture of any political advertisement(s) you mention in your statement;
- A copy of each document you mention in your statement;
- An explanation of why you believe information you reference from websites is relevant; and
- Any other evidence supporting your allegations.

SEE REVERSE SIDE OF DOCUMENT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

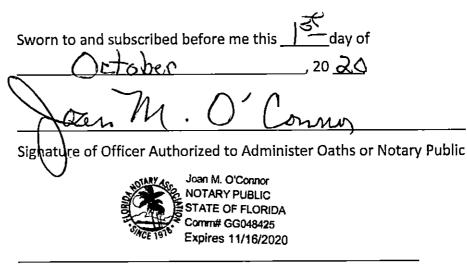
Any person who files a complaint while <u>knowing</u> that the allegations are false or without merit commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in Sections 775.082 and 775.083, Florida Statutes.

4. <u>OATH:</u>

STATE OF FLORIDA COUNTY OF

I swear or affirm that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

of Person Bringing Complaint Original Sig



(Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public)
Personally Known_____ Or Produced Identification_____
Type of Identification Produced______

5. IMPROPERLY COMPLETED COMPLAINT FORMS MAY BE RETURNED:

- You **MUST submit this** completed complaint **form** in order to file a complaint.
- You MUST complete ALL FOUR of the above sections of this form. DO NOT leave any blanks.
- You MUST submit the ORIGINAL complaint form. Copied/faxed/emailed forms are returned.
- Each complaint can only be filed against **ONE PERSON** or **ENTITY.** If you wish to file against multiple parties, you **MUST** submit a complaint form **for each party** you wish to file against.
- **DO NOT** submit multiple complaint forms with one set of attachments applying to multiple complaints. You **MUST** attach **copies** of attachments **to each complaint** to which they apply.
- MAKE SURE the alleged violation(s) of Chapters 104 or 106 occurred within the last 2 years.
- MAKE SURE your complaint is sworn and there is no defect to the notarization in Section 4.

Violated Florida Election Code 106.19, 106.055

Jamaad C. Batts failed to report expenses, correct names and correct addresses on Treasurer's Report to the Supervisor of Elections Office.

- 1. He advertised a "Milk Giveaway" on August 13th in the Palatka Daily News. **The cost of this** advertisement was not reported. (Picture attached.)
- He advertised a "Milk Giveaway" on four known social media outlets and the Palatka Daily News. He failed to report the cost of the milk, whether it was purchased or contributed "inkind".
- 3. He reported receiving a cash app in the amount of \$100.00 on 7/22/20 but **did not report the fee as an expenditure that it cost for receiving this money.** (report attached)
- 4. Fictious names reported on Treasurer's Report:
 - a. 8/27/20 contribution from Thomas Ricks, Crescent City, FL, name cannot be verified
 - b. 7/22/20 in kind contribution from Gerard Watson, Crescent City FL, name cannot be verified
- 5. Fictious addresses reported on Treasurer's Report:
 - a. 8/27/20, 152 Ricks Drive, Crescent City, FL, location does not exist
 - b. 7/22/20, 122 Summit St., Crescent City, FL, location does not exist
 - c. 7/22/20, 211 Prospect St, Crescent City, FL, location does not exist
 - d. 8/27/20, 231 Prospect St., Crescent City, FL, location does not exist (Treasurer's Report Attached)

I reported these mistakes to Charles Overture, Supervisor of Elections at his office on September 4, 2020, and again on September 30, 2020. He replied that it was "troubling information" but he couldn't do anything about it.

State projects

Road work

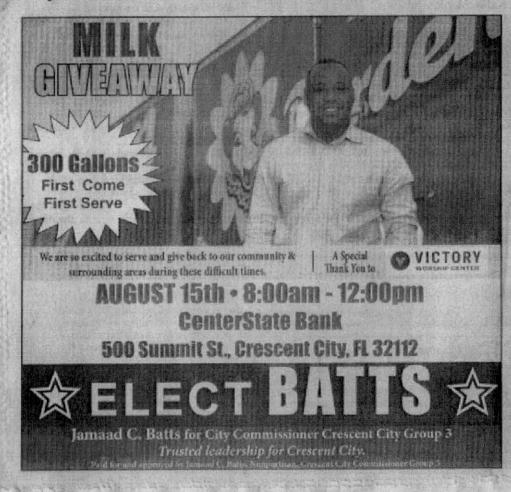
Palatka

meeting

The following roads are closed to through traffic for road work/construction: Hotel, Dodge, Emmett, Kirkland,

Flagging operations will be in place for the southbound lanes of U.S. 17 from just north of Hoot Owl Road to just north of the Dunns Creek Bridge Monday, Aug. 17 through Friday, Aug. 21 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., weather and

transportation began a widening project in May 2019 on State Road 20 from County Road 315 to SW 56th Avenue, Interlachen. Estimated completion date is summer 2021. Commonwealth Avenue closure, road closure at both State Road 20 and E. Boyiston Street/ Atlantic Avenue for drainage work through mid-August.





I'm proud to be a part of Putnam County! I've lived here and owned a business for over 41 years. We've so much to be thankful for; the beautiful river & a giving community that supports each other. We're truly living in "God's Country" here is Putnam County!

- Denise Bramlitt



People are talking! People are reading "What I love about Putnam" to see what their neighbors are saying. It's time for you to talk, too. E-mail your picture and comments to positivelyputnamfl@palatkadailynews.com WE ARE POSITIVELY PUTNAM FL!

Georgia Pacific

DOUGLAS

LAW FIRM

ST. JOHNS

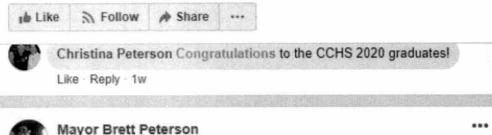
ST. JOHNS

3A PALATKA DAILY NEWS . THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2020



Mayor Brett Peterson

Home About Photos Posts Community Create a Page



August 6 · O

Milk give-away August 15 at Center State Bank parking lot. Great program!

MILK GIVEAWAY

, Mission We are so excited to serve and give back

to our community & Surrounding Areas during these difficult times

> First Come First Serve

06

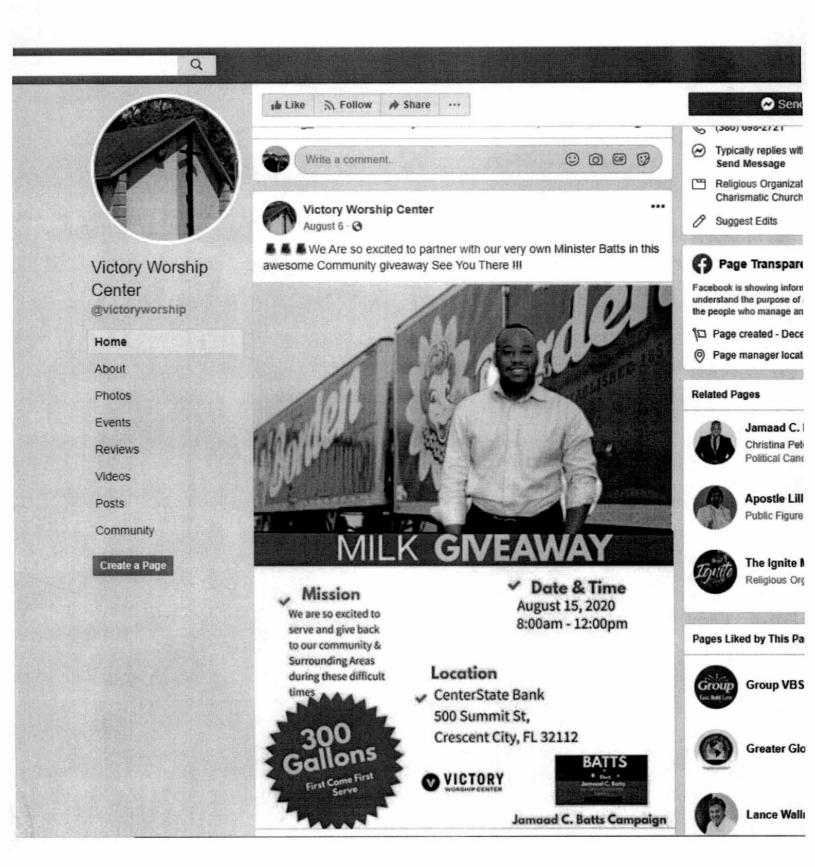
Date & Time
 August 15, 2020
 8:00am - 12:00pm

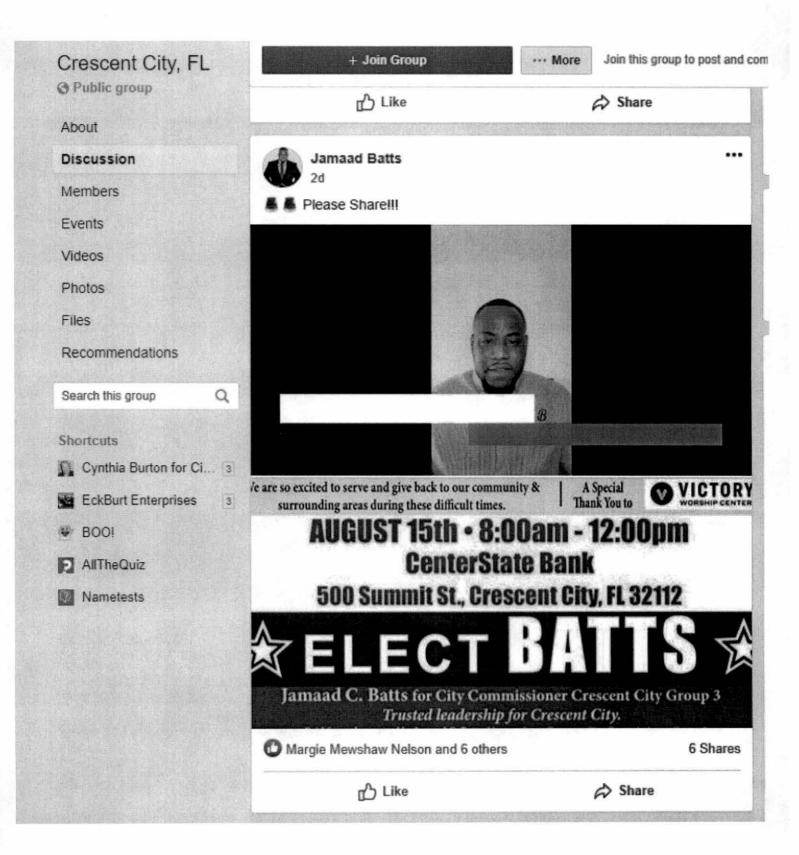
Location CenterState Bank 500 Summit St, Crescent City, FL 32112



Jamaad C. Batts Campaign

5 Shares







Jamaad C. Batts For Crescent City "City Commissioner Group 3"

@Jamaad4Commissioner Group3

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Videos

Posts

Photos

Community

Create a Page

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Jamaad C. Batts For Crescent City "City Commissioner Group 3" August 6 · 🚱

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Date & Time 4 Mission August 15, 2020 We are so excited to 8:00am - 12:00pm serve and give back to our community & **Surrounding Areas** Location during these difficult times CenterState Bank 500 Summit St, Crescent City, FL 32112 ATTS Come First VICTORY Jamaad C. Batts Campaign 00 10 1 Comment r Like Comment Share

Candidate: Jamaad Cesar-Batts

Office: City Commissioner- Group 3 Crescent City

Seq#	Contributor	Entity	Occupation	Cont. Type	
Date			Amend		Amount
#1	Thomas Ricks	Individual	Painter	Check	
8/27/2020	152 Ricks Drive Crescent City, Fl 32112				\$100.00
#2	Center Victory Worship	Committee	Church	Check	
8/27/2020	1022 Huntington Rd Crescent City , Fl 32112				\$200.00

Campaign Treasurer's Report -	In-Kind	Contributions
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Seq# Date	Contributor	Entity	Occupation Amend	In-Kind Dese	cription Amount
#1	Robert Defranco	Individual		Campaign We	bsite
7/22/2020	122 Summit st Crescent city , Fl 32112				\$100.00
#2	Gerard Watson	Individual		Cashapp	
7/22/2020	211 Propsect St Crescent city , Fl 32112				\$100.00
#3	Jamaad Cesar	Candidate	Driver	Yard Signs	
7/25/2020	829 Randolph st Crescent city , Fl 32112	to Themselves			\$300.00

8/27/2020	231 Prospects St Crescent City, Fl 32112			\$100.00
#6	Robert Delfranco	Individual	N/A	Campaign Website
8/27/2020	829 Randolph St Crescent City, Fl 32112			\$278.00
#5	Jamaad Batts	Individual	Driver	Yard Signs
#4 7/22/2020	Jamaad Cesar 829 Randolph St Crescent city , Fl 32112	Candidate to Themselves	Driver	T-Shirts \$82.00

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Campaign Treasurer's Report – Itemized Expenditures					
Seq# Date	Vendor	Purpose	Exp. Type Amend	Amount	
		То	tal Expenditures	\$0.00	

Campaign Treasurer's Report – Fund Transfers							
Seq#	Institution	Transfer Type	Nature of Account				
Date			Amend	Amount			

Campaign Treasurer's Report – Distributions					
Seq#	Vendor	Purpose	Expenditure Relat	ted Exp.	
Date			Amend	Amount	

* Petty cash expenditures are realized when the funds are withdrawn for petty cash. Therefore, the referenced item is not included in the total.

106.19 Violations by candidates, persons connected with campaigns, and political committees.--

(1) Any candidate; campaign manager, campaign treasurer, or deputy treasurer of any candidate; committee chair, vice chair, campaign treasurer, deputy treasurer, or other officer of any political committee; agent or person acting on behalf of any candidate or political committee; or other person who knowingly and willfully:

(a) Accepts a contribution in excess of the limits prescribed by s. 106.08;

(b) Fails to report any contribution required to be reported by this chapter;

(c) Falsely reports or deliberately fails to include any information required by this chapter; or

(d) Makes or authorizes any expenditure in violation of s. 106.11(4) or any other expenditure prohibited by this chapter;

is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(2) Any candidate, campaign treasurer, or deputy treasurer; any chair, vice chair, or other officer of any political committee; any agent or person acting on behalf of any candidate or political committee; or any other person who violates paragraph (1)(a), paragraph (1)(b), or paragraph (1)(d) shall be subject to a civil penalty equal to three times the amount involved in the illegal act. Such penalty may be in addition to the penalties provided by subsection (1) and shall be paid into the General Revenue Fund of this state.

(3) A political committee sponsoring a constitutional amendment proposed by initiative which submits a petition form gathered by a paid petition circulator which does not provide the name and address of the paid petition circulator on the form is subject to the civil penalties prescribed in s. 106.265.

(4) Except as otherwise expressly stated, the failure by a candidate to comply with the requirements of this chapter has no effect upon whether the candidate has qualified for the office the candidate is seeking.

History.-s. 19, ch. 73-128; s. 57, ch. 77-175; s. 62, ch. 79-400; s. 12, ch. 91-107; s. 649, ch. 95-147; ss. 24, 45, ch. 97-13; s. 8, ch. 2002-197; s. 11, ch. 2006-300; s. 69, ch. 2011-40; s. 35, ch. 2013-37.

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History.-s. 5, ch. 73-128; s. 1, ch. 76-88; s. 1, ch. 77-174; s. 43, ch. 77-175; s. 7, ch. 89-256; s. 29, ch. 90-315; s. 8, ch. 2013-37.

106.055 Valuation of in-kind contributions.— Any person who makes an in-kind contribution shall, at the time of making such contribution, place a value on such contribution, which valuation shall be the fair market value of such contribution. Travel conveyed upon private aircraft shall be valued at the actual cost of per person commercial air travel for the same or a substantially similar route.

History.-s. 44, ch. 77-175; s. 43, ch. 2007-30.

 FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION 107 West Gaines Street, Suite 224, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1050

COMPLAINT

FL ELECTIONS CON OCT'20 AN11:23

P	·····				
The Commission's records and proceedings in a case probable cause. A copy of the complaint will be pro					
1. <u>PERSON BRINGING COMPLAINT</u> :					
Name: Tracy Eckhardt	Work Phone: ()				
Address: 109 N Prospect St.	Home Phone: (<u>321</u>)277-1423				
Name: ITACY ECKNARD Address: 109 N Prospect St. City: Crescent City County: Putnam	State: <u>FL</u> Zip Code: <u>32112</u>				
2. PERSON AGAINST WHOM COMPLAINT IS BROU	<u>GHT</u> :				
If you intend to name more than one individual or entity, please file multiple complaints . A person can be an individual, political committee, political party, electioneering communication organization, club, corporation, partnership, company, association, or other type of organization.					
Name of individual or entity: Jamaad M. Cesar-Batts					
Address: 829 Randolph St.	Phone: (904) 352-9516				
Address: 829 Randolph St. City: Crescent City County: Putnam	State: FL Zip Code: 32112				
If individual is a candidate, list the office or positior	n sought: City Commissioner, Gr. 3				
Have you filed this complaint with the State Attorn	ey's Office? (check one) Yes 📝 No				
Are you alleging a violation of Section 104.271(2), F.S.? (check one) Tyes 📝 No					
Are you alleging a violation of Section 104.2715, F.S.	S.? (check one) 🗌 Yes 🗹 No				
3. ALLEGED VIOLATION(S):					

Please attach a <u>concise</u> narrative statement in which you list the provisions of the Florida Election Code that you believe the person named above may have violated. The Commission has jurisdiction only to investigate provisions of Chapter 104 and Chapter 106, Florida Statutes. <u>Please include the</u> <u>following items as part of your attached statement:</u>

- The facts and actions that you believe support the violations you allege;
- The names/telephone numbers of persons whom you believe may be witnesses to the facts;
- A copy or picture of any political advertisement(s) you mention in your statement;
- A copy of each document you mention in your statement;
- An explanation of why you believe information you reference from websites is relevant; and γ
- Any other evidence supporting your allegations.

SEE REVERSE SIDE OF DOCUMENT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any person who files a complaint while <u>knowing</u> that the allegations are false or without merit commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in Sections 775.082 and 775.083, Florida Statutes.

FEC Form 1 (5/17) Rules 2B-1.0025 & 2B-1.009, F.A.C.

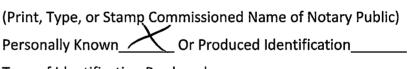
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4. OATH:

STATE OF FLORIDA (COUNTY OF ag w

I swear or affirm that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

nature of Person Bringing Complaint Sworn to and subscribed before me this 20 20 Signature of Officer Authorized to Administer Oaths or Notary Public Joan M. O'Connor NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF FLORIDA Comm# GG048425 Expires 11/16/2020



Type of Identification Produced

5. IMPROPERLY COMPLETED COMPLAINT FORMS MAY BE RETURNED:

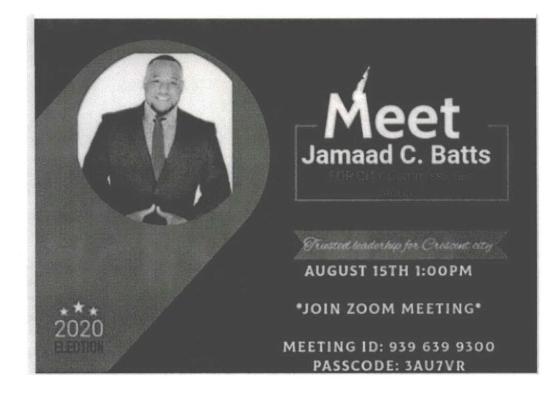
- You MUST submit this completed complaint form in order to file a complaint. •
- You **MUST** complete **ALL FOUR** of the above sections of this form. **DO NOT** leave any blanks.
- You MUST submit the ORIGINAL complaint form. Copied/faxed/emailed forms are returned.
- Each complaint can only be filed against **ONE PERSON** or **ENTITY.** If you wish to file against multiple parties, you **MUST** submit a complaint form for each party you wish to file against.
- **DO NOT** submit multiple complaint forms with one set of attachments applying to multiple complaints. You **MUST** attach **copies** of attachments **to each complaint** to which they apply.
- MAKE SURE the alleged violation(s) of Chapters 104 or 106 occurred within the last 2 years.
- MAKE SURE your complaint is sworn and there is no defect to the notarization in Section 4.

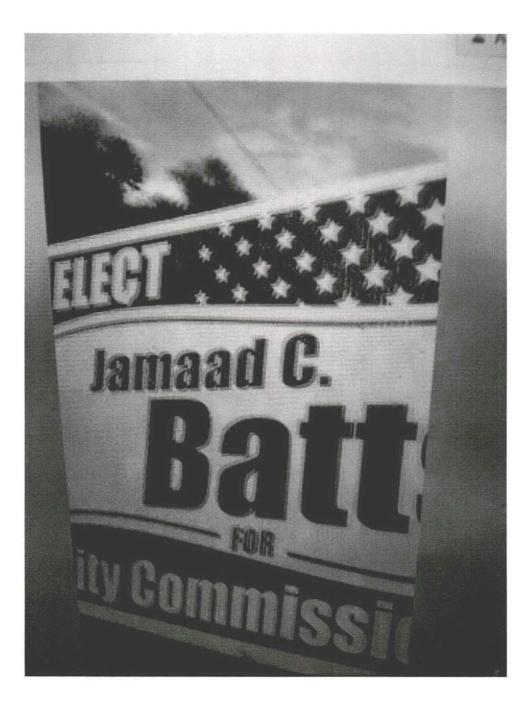
Violation of Florida Election Code 106.143, 106.071, 106.1439

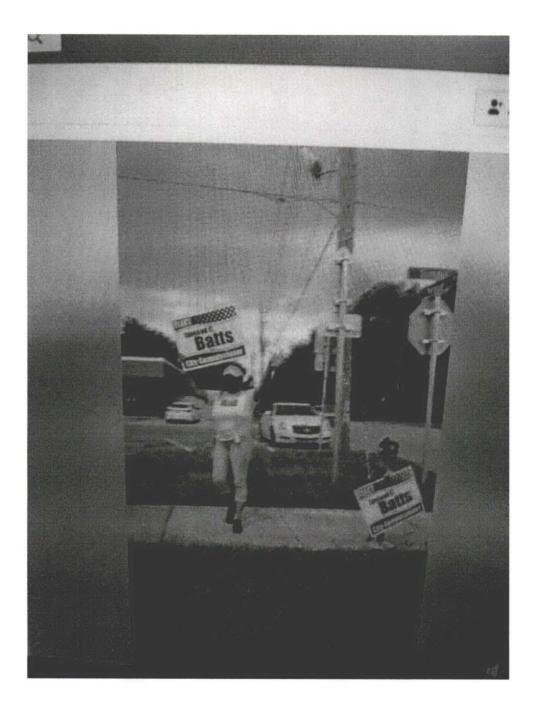
Jamaad M. Cesar-Batts has violated the above codes by using **campaign signs without disclaimer as required.** There have been three different signs in violation. These signs have been posted on properties, social media outlets and have been held at campaign events on the streets. Pictures of these signs have also appeared on social media sites, (Jamaad C. Batts for City Commissioner) along with a video of a campaign event on the street.

Pictures are attached.

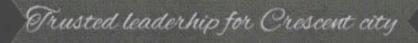
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Jamaad C. Batts FOR CITY Commissioner



OCTOBER 9TH 7:00PM

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

MEETING ID: 939 639 9300 PASSCODE:BATTSCC3 106.143 Political advertisements circulated prior to election; requirements.-

(1)(a) Any political advertisement that is paid for by a candidate, except a write-in candidate, and that is published, displayed, or circulated before, or on the day of, any election must prominently state:

"Political advertisement paid for and approved by <u>(name of candidate)</u>, <u>(party affiliation)</u>, for <u>(office sought)</u>"; or

2. "Paid by __(name of candidate) , __(party affiliation) , for __(office sought) ."

(b) Any political advertisement that is paid for by a write-in candidate and that is published, displayed, or circulated before, or on the day of, any election must prominently state:

 "Political advertisement paid for and approved by <u>(name of candidate)</u>, write-in candidate, for <u>(office sought)</u>"; or

2. "Paid by __(name of candidate)_, write-in candidate, for __(office sought)_."

(c) Any other political advertisement published, displayed, or circulated before, or on the day of, any election must prominently:

1. Be marked "paid political advertisement" or with the abbreviation "pd. pol. adv."

2. State the name and address of the persons paying for the advertisement.

3. State whether the advertisement and the cost of production is paid for or provided in kind by or at the expense of the entity publishing, displaying, broadcasting, or circulating the political advertisement.

(d) Any political advertisement made pursuant to s. 106.021(3)(d) must prominently state the name and address of the political committee or political party paying for the advertisement.

(2) Political advertisements made as in-kind contributions from a political party must prominently state: "Paid political advertisement paid for in-kind by <u>(name of political party)</u>. Approved by <u>(name of person, party affiliation, and office sought in the political advertisement)</u>."

(3) Any political advertisement of a candidate running for partisan office shall express the name of the political party of which the candidate is seeking nomination or is the nominee. If the candidate for partisan office is running as a candidate with no party affiliation, any political advertisement of the candidate must state that the candidate has no party affiliation. A political advertisement of a candidate running for nonpartisan office may not state the candidate's political party affiliation. This section does not prohibit a political advertisement from stating the candidate's partisan-related experience. A candidate for nonpartisan office is prohibited from campaigning based on party affiliation.

(4) It is unlawful for any candidate or person on behalf of a candidate to represent that any person or organization supports such candidate, unless the person or organization so represented has given specific approval in writing to the candidate to make such representation. However, this subsection does not apply to:

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History.-s. 1, ch. 2004-253; s. 16, ch. 2008-4; s. 1, ch. 2009-149.

106.071 Independent expenditures; electioneering communications; reports; disclaimers.

(1) Each person who makes an independent expenditure with respect to any candidate or issue, and each individual who makes an expenditure for an electioneering communication which is not otherwise reported pursuant to this chapter, which expenditure, in the aggregate, is in the amount of \$5,000 or more, shall file periodic reports of such expenditures in the same manner, at the same time, subject to the same penalties, and with the same officer as a political committee supporting or opposing such candidate or issue. The report shall contain the full name and address of the person making the expenditure; the full name and address of each person to whom and for whom each such expenditure has been made; the amount, date, and purpose of each such expenditure; a description of the services or goods obtained by each such expenditure; the issue to which the expenditure relates; and the name and address of, and office sought by, each candidate on whose behalf such expenditure was made.

(2) Any political advertisement paid for by an independent expenditure shall prominently state "Paid political advertisement paid for by <u>(Name and address of person paying for advertisement)</u> independently of any <u>(candidate or committee)</u>."

(3) Subsection (2) does not apply to novelty items having a retail value of \$10 or less which support, but do not oppose, a candidate or issue.

(4) Any person who fails to include the disclaimer prescribed in subsection (2) in any political advertisement that is required to contain such disclaimer commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

History.—s. 47, ch. 77-175; s. 10, ch. 89-256; s. 4, ch. 2004-252; s. 25, ch. 2010-167; ss. 13, 30, ch. 2011-6; HJR 7105, 2011 Regular Session.

106.1437 Miscellaneous advertisements.—Any advertisement, other than a political advertisement, independent expenditure, or electioneering communication, on billboards, bumper stickers, radio, or television, or in a newspaper, a magazine, or a periodical, intended to influence public policy or the vote of a public official, shall clearly designate the sponsor of such advertisement by including a clearly readable statement of sponsorship. If the advertisement is broadcast on television, the advertisement shall also contain a verbal statement of sponsorship. This section does not apply to an editorial endorsement. For purposes of this chapter, an expenditure made for, or in furtherance of, a miscellaneous advertisement is not considered to be a contribution to or on behalf of a candidate, and does not constitute an independent expenditure. Such expenditures are not subject to the limitations applicable to independent expenditures.

History.—s. 36, ch. 90-315; s. 6, ch. 2004-252; s. 27, ch. 2010-167; ss. 18, 30, ch. 2011-6; s. 67, ch. 2011-40; HJR 7105, 2011 Regular Session.

106.1439 Electioneering communications; disclaimers.-

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(1) Any electioneering communication, other than a telephone call, shall prominently state: "Paid electioneering communication paid for by <u>(Name and address of person paying for the communication)</u>."

(2) Any electioneering communication telephone call shall identify the persons or organizations sponsoring the call by stating either: "Paid for by <u>(insert name of persons or organizations sponsoring the call)</u>." or "Paid for on behalf of <u>(insert name of persons or organizations authorizing call)</u>." This subsection does not apply to any telephone call in which the individual making the call is not being paid and the individuals participating in the call know each other prior to the call.

(3) Any person who fails to include the disclaimer prescribed in this section in any electioneering communication that is required to contain such disclaimer commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

History.-s. 7, ch. 2004-252; s. 28, ch. 2010-167; ss. 19, 30, ch. 2011-6; HJR 7105, 2011 Regutar Session.

GERULAED MAIL U.S. POSTAGE PAID FCM LG ENV GAINESVILLE, FL 32608 OCT 02, 20 AMOUNT KOTTACIONALIS. RECEIVED 2020 OCT 22 A II: 22 \$5.35 B2305E123417-94 7020 1000 0001 5008 0090 32399 STATE OF FLORIDA FUDRIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION 107 WEST GAINES ST. SUITE 224 TALLAHASSEE, FL 32379-1050 հիլիկերնորդիմնորիինենիիրկիկինլիի

Tracy Eckhardt 109 N Prospect St. Crescent City, FL 32112-2627

ON PAGE 92 OF THIS FILE, THERE IS A REFERENCE TO A VIDEO.

A COPY OF THIS VIDEO IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.