

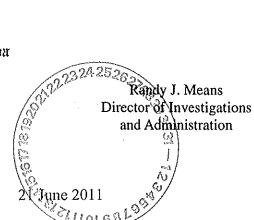
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Ninth Judicial Circuit of Morida

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Brett C. Railey, Chief of Police Winter Park Police Department 500 North Virginia Ave. Winter Park, Fl. 32789

RE: Complaint from Mr. Peter J. Weldon

Dear Chief:

First, I would like to apologize for the length of time it has taken me to respond to your letter requesting our assistance in the review of this matter.

Let me start by saying that the fact that the disclaimer is on the mail piece that was mailed, it appears to be in compliance with Florida law simply because it is present.

However, other concerns expressed in Mr. Weldon's complaint may have merit. Mr. Weldon pointed out that it appeared to be more than one person that had engaged in collecting and or expending money on a political issue, thus creating a political committee. A political committee is required by Florida Election Law to file certain reports showing contributions and expenditures over a \$500.00 threshold.

Research on this matter has revealed that the total cost of the mailer was approximately \$5,000.00 to produce and mail to 8,000 residents of the City of Winter Park.

The following paragraphs contain a brief synopsis of the information gained while looking into this matter.

Contact was made with Mr. Ken Lombardi of Action Mail Services of Orlando where it was verified that they had mailed the mailer in question to 8,000 residents of Winter Park. They had been paid by Mr. Bob Lanier of Printmeisters of Orlando to mail the piece.

Mr. Lanier of Printmeisters of Orlando informed me that he had received payment to print 8,000 pieces of the mailer from Mr. Dave Plotkin, who works on local campaigns during the election cycle.

Mr. Plotkin stated that he had been in contact with Mrs. Beth Dillaha of Winter Park and had obtained the money for the mail piece from her residence where she had left it for him to pick up.

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Contact was made with Ms. Cindy Bonham, Winter Park City Clerk who verified that Mrs. Dillaha had not registered as a Political Committee or Electioneering Communications Organization and had not filed any reports.

I located an expense from the campaign of Bonnie Jackson to Printmeisters in an amount of approximately \$6,000.00. and made contact with Mr. Bob Lanier again to verify that this was for a completely separate mailer that had nothing to do with the mailer in question dealing with Sarah Sprinkel.

Contact with Mrs. Dillaha verified her involvement in setting the stage for the piece to be produced and mailed but made it clear to me that her intentions were to keep the total expense to less that \$5,000.00. The reason for this was that she was under the impression that anything less than \$5,000.00 would not have to be reported, because Florida Statutes require an "Electioneering Communications Organization" (ECO) to file reports if expenses are more than \$5,000.00 in a single calendar year.

Mrs. Dillaha also stated that it was her desire for the people that paid for the mailer to remain anonymous.

I then contacted Mr. Bill Cowles, Orange County Supervisor of Elections and briefly explained the scenario above. It was the belief by Mr. Cowles and staff that because the amount collected and expended for the mailer was more than \$500.00, the group that collected and or expended the money should have registered as a "Political Committee" and filed reports with the Winter Park City Clerk.

Further review of the statutes relating to this section (F.S.S. 106.03) appear to contain language indicating that any violation of this section to be non criminal and complaints pertaining to a suspected violation should be directed to the Division of Elections.

I have informed Mrs. Dillaha that she may still be able to register as a Political Committee and file the required reports before the deadline of June 11th, 2011, but that she would need to contact the City Clerk in Winter Park to determine if that is still an option.

At this point, I have concluded any further investigation into this matter and recommend that if the required reports and registrations are not completed, and the complainant wants to move forward, that he be directed to contact the Florida Division of Elections.

Respectfully.

Roger Floyd, Detective Supervisor

Office of State Attorney

Ninth Judicial Circuit of Florida

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