



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RQ-2

Douglas White, Treasurer  
Black America's Political Action Committee  
2029 P Street, NW, Suite 302  
Washington, DC 20036

FEB 27 2002

Identification Number: C00300921

Reference: Mid-Year Report (1/1/01-6/30/01)

Dear Mr. White:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report(s) referenced above. The review raised questions concerning certain information contained in the report(s). An itemization follows:

-Commission Regulations require that a committee disclose the identification of all individuals who contribute in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. (11 CFR §104.3(a)(4)(i)) Identification for an individual is defined as the full name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer. (11 CFR §100.12) Your report discloses contributions from individuals for which the identification is not complete.

You must provide the missing information, or if you are unable to do so, you must demonstrate that "best efforts" have been used to obtain the information. To establish "best efforts," you must provide the Commission with a detailed description of your procedures for requesting the information. Establishing "best efforts" is a three-fold process.

First, your original solicitation must include a clear and conspicuous request for the contributor information and must inform the contributor of the requirements of federal law for the reporting of such information. (11 CFR §104.7(b)(1))

Second, if the information is not provided, you must make one follow-up, stand alone effort to obtain this information, regardless of whether the contribution(s) was solicited or not. This effort must occur no later than 30

days after receipt of the contribution and may be in the form of a written request or an oral request documented in writing. (11 CFR § 104.7(b)(2))

The request must:

- clearly ask for the missing information, without soliciting a contribution;
- inform the contributor of the requirements of federal law for the reporting of such information, and
- if the request is written, include a pre-addressed post card or return envelope.

Third, if you receive contributor information after the contribution(s) has been reported, you shall either a) file with your next regularly scheduled report, an amended memo Schedule A listing all the contributions for which additional information was received; or b) file on or before your next regularly scheduled reporting date, amendments to the report(s) originally disclosing the contribution(s). (11 CFR §104.7(b)(4))

Please provide the missing information or a detailed description of your procedures for requesting the information. For more information on demonstrating "best efforts," please refer to the Campaign Guide.

-Schedule A supporting Line 17 of your report discloses a payment(s) from Omega List Company. It appears this receipt was for goods and/or services provided by your committee. 11 CFR §100.7(a)(1)(iii)(A) states that "...the provision of any goods or services without charge or at a charge which is less than the usual and normal charge for such goods or services is a contribution." Examples of goods and services include equipment, supplies, personnel, advertising services, membership lists, and mailing lists. The term "usual and normal charge" for goods is defined as "...the price of those goods in the market from which they ordinarily would have been purchased at the time of the contribution".

Furthermore, Advisory Opinion 1986-14 states "...to avoid treatment as a contribution, the sale/purchase price paid to the political committee may not exceed the "usual and normal charge". Please clarify whether your committee assessed the usual and normal charge for the goods and/or services you provided and explain the steps your committee took in determining the amount charged. If your committee provided the goods and/or services at less than the usual and normal charge, the difference between the two is considered to be an in-kind contribution received by your committee from a corporation and is prohibited subject to the limits set forth at 2 U.S.C. §441b(a)

BLACK AMERICA'S POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

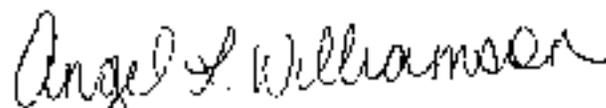
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-Itemized disbursements must include a brief statement or description of why the disbursements were made. Please amend Schedule B of your report to clarify the following description(s): consulting fees and consulting expense. For further guidance regarding acceptable purposes of disbursements, please refer to 11 CFR §104.3(b)(3).

-Your report disclosed a category of financial activity that has been reflected on the wrong line of the Detailed Summary Page. Contributions to Federal Candidates/Committees and Exploratory Committees should be properly disclosed on a separate Schedule B, supporting Line 23 of the Detailed Summary Page. Please refer to the instructions contained on the forms to determine the proper categorization when preparing your next filing.

A response or amendment to your original report(s) correcting the above problem(s) should be filed with the Federal Election Commission within fifteen (15) days of the date of this letter. Electronic filers must file amendments in an electronic format and must submit an amended report in its entirety, rather than just those portions of the report that are being amended. If you need assistance, please feel free to contact me on our toll-free number, (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 1, then press 2 to reach the Reports Analysis Division). My local number is (202) 694-1130.

Sincerely,



Angel L. Williamson  
Senior Reports Analyst  
Reports Analysis Division

