



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RQ-2

June 1, 2015

JONATHAN BUCKNEY SMALL, TREASURER
VIRGIN ISLANDS FOR PLASKETT
PO BOX 26502
CHRISTIANSTED, VI 00824

Response Due Date
07/06/2015

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: C00528182

REFERENCE: APRIL QUARTERLY REPORT (01/01/2015 - 03/31/2015)

Dear Treasurer:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report referenced above. This notice requests information essential to full public disclosure of your federal election campaign finances. **Failure to adequately respond by the response date noted above could result in an audit or enforcement action.** Additional information is needed for the following 5 item(s):

1. Schedule A of your report discloses one or more contributions that appear to exceed the limits set forth in the Act (see attached).

An individual or a political committee other than an authorized committee or qualified multi-candidate committee may not make a contribution(s) to a candidate for federal office in excess of \$2,700 per election. An authorized committee may not make a contribution(s) to a candidate for federal office in excess of \$2,000 per election. A qualified multi-candidate committee and all affiliated committees may not make a contribution(s) to a candidate for federal office in excess of \$5,000 per election. The term "contribution" includes any gift, subscription, loan, advance, or deposit of money or anything of value made by any person for the purpose of influencing any election for federal office. (52 U.S.C. § 30116(a) and (f) (formerly 2 U.S.C. § 441a(a) and (f)); 11 CFR § 110.1(b), (e) and (k))

If any apparently excessive contribution in question was incompletely or incorrectly disclosed, you must amend your original report with the clarifying information. If any contribution you received exceeds the limits, you may have to refund the excessive amount.

Excessive contributions may be retained if, within 60 days of receipt, the excessive portions are properly redesignated or reattributed. Guidelines for

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each option are provided below.

For reattributions, excessive contributions from individuals can be retained if, within 60 days of receipt, the excessive amount is properly reattributed to another person. Please note that reattributions only apply to excessive contributions from individuals. An excessive contribution is considered properly reattributed if (1) the contributors provide the committee with written documentation, signed by each contributor, authorizing a reattribution and indicating the amount of the contribution to be attributed to each contributor; or (2) the committee reattributes by presumption the excessive portion of the contribution if the contribution was made on a written instrument from a joint account and was signed by only one of the account holders. In this case, the treasurer must notify the contributors in writing within 60 days of receiving the contribution that the committee intends to reattribute the excessive portion and must give the contributor an opportunity to request a refund. (11 CFR § 110.1(k)(3)(ii)(B))

For redesignations, the funds can be retained if, within 60 days of receipt, the excessive amount is properly redesignated for a different election. An excessive contribution is considered properly redesignated if (1) the committee obtains signed written documentation from the contributor(s) authorizing the redesignation of the contribution for another election, provided that the new designation does not exceed the limitations on contributions made with respect to that election; or (2) your committee redesignates by presumption the excessive portion of the contribution for another election provided that the new designation does not exceed the limitations on contributions made with respect to that election. In this case, the treasurer must notify the contributor of the redesignation in writing within 60 days of the treasurer's receipt of the contribution. The notification must give the contributor an opportunity to request a refund. (11 CFR § 110.1(b)(5)(ii)(B)) Please note that you cannot presumptively redesignate an excessive contribution from a multi-candidate committee. Also, a contribution can only be redesignated to a previous election to the extent that the contribution does not exceed the committee's net debts outstanding for that election. (11 CFR § 110.1(b)(3)(i))

If the foregoing conditions for reattributions or redesignations are not met within 60 days of receipt of the contribution, the excessive amount must be refunded. See 11 CFR § 103.3(b)(1).

If you have not already done so, please inform the Commission of your

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corrective action immediately in writing and provide photocopies of any refund checks and/or letters reattributing or redesignating the contributions in question. Refunds are reported on Line 20(a), (b), or (c), as applicable, of the Detailed Summary Page and on a supporting Schedule B of the report covering the period in which they are made. Redesignations and reattributions are reported as memo entries on Schedule A of the report covering the period in which the authorization for the redesignation and/or reattribution is received. (11 CFR § 104.8(d)(2), (3) and (4))

Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning the acceptance of excessive contributions, your prompt action to refund, redesignate, and/or reattribute the excessive amount will be taken into consideration.

2. Schedule A of your report discloses one or more contributions that appear to be from limited liability corporation(s) (LLC) (see attached).

11 C.F.R. §110.1(g) allows the receipt of contributions from LLCs providing the LLC is treated as a partnership for tax purposes, and has not elected to be treated as a corporation by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Both LLCs that claim corporate status and those that publicly traded would be treated as corporations for FECA purposes.

Please amend your report to clarify if the LLCs in question are treated as partnerships. If any apparently prohibited contribution in question was incompletely or incorrectly disclosed, you must amend your original report with clarifying information.

52 U.S.C. § 30116(f) (formerly 2 U.S.C. §441a(f)) prohibits a candidate for federal office from accepting contributions from a person in excess of \$2,700 per election. A partnership is included in the definition of "person" under (52 U.S.C. § 30101(11) (formerly 2 U.S.C. § 431(11)).

If you have received prohibited contributions, you must make a refund. (11 CFR § 103.3(b)(1)) The refund must be made within 30 days of the treasurer becoming aware of the illegality of the contribution. (11 CFR § 103.3(b)(2))

If you have not already done so, please inform the Commission of your corrective action immediately in writing and provide a photocopy of any refund checks. Refunds must be reported on a Schedule B supporting Line 20(a) of the report covering the period in which the refund was made. (11 CFR § 104.8(d))

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(4)

Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning the acceptance of prohibited contributions, your prompt action to refund the prohibited amount will be taken into consideration.

3. The totals listed on Line(s) 6(a), 6(c), 7(a), 7(c), 11(a)(iii), 11(c), 11(e), 16, 17, 21 and 22, Column B of the Summary and Detailed Summary Page(s) appear to be incorrect. Column B figures for the Summary and Detailed Summary Pages should equal the sum of the Column B figures on your previous report and the Column A figures on this report. Please file an amendment to your report to correct the Column B discrepancies for this report and all subsequent report(s) which may be affected by this correction. Note that Column B should reflect only the election cycle-to-date totals (11/5/14 through 11/8/16). (52 U.S.C. § 30104(b) (formerly 2 U.S.C. § 434(b)) and 11 CFR § 104.3)

4. The beginning cash balance of this report does not equal the ending balance of your 2014 Year End Report. Please correct this discrepancy and amend all subsequent reports that may be affected by the correction. (52 U.S.C. § 30104(b)(1) (formerly 2 U.S.C. § 434(b)(1)) and 11 CFR § 104.3(a)(1))

5. Commission Regulations require that a committee discloses the identification of all individuals who contribute in excess of \$200 in an election cycle. (11 CFR § 104.3(a)(4)(i)) Identification for an individual is defined as the full name (initials for first or last name are not acceptable), complete mailing address, occupation, and name of employer. (11 CFR § 100.12) Your report discloses contributions from individuals for which the identification is not complete.

The following employer and occupation entries appear on your report and are not considered acceptable: "Blank/Blank," and "Self Employed/Business Owner."

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

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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)) See 11 CFR § 104.7(b)(1)(B) for examples of acceptable statements regarding the requirements of federal law.

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 requests 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 should 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 amend your report to 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.

- Your report fails to provide election designations for contributions disclosed on Schedule(s) A for Line(s) 11(a). Please note that Authorized committees should indicate the election for which the contribution was designated. If no election is designated, the contribution is applied to the next election for the federal office the candidate is seeking after the contribution date. (11 CFR §§ 110.1(b)(2) and 110.2(b)(2))

- Your report disclosed a category of financial activity that appears to be disclosed on the wrong line of the Detailed Summary Page. For your information and consideration when preparing future filings, contributions received from other political committees should be properly disclosed on a separate Schedule A, supporting Line 11(c) of the Detailed Summary Page. Please refer to the Form 3 instructions for each line when determining the

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proper categorization(s) for your next filing. (11 CFR § 104.3(a) and (b))

- Schedule A of your report discloses contributions from Beachside Associates LLC, and Synergy Group LLC. If these contributions are unincorporated proprietorships or partnerships, please be advised that these contributions should be attributed to each member in direct proportion to his or her share of the organization's profit or by agreement of its members. Each person who has contributed in excess of \$200 since 11/85/14 should be identified by name, address, occupation, name of employer, amount of contribution, and aggregate total as a memo entry on Schedule A. (11 CFR §110.1(e) and (g))

Please note, you will not receive an additional notice from the Commission on this matter. Adequate responses must be received by the Commission on or before the due date noted above to be taken into consideration in determining whether audit action will be initiated. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act may also result in an enforcement action against the committee. Any response submitted by your committee will be placed on the public record and will be considered by the Commission prior to taking enforcement action. **Requests for extensions of time in which to respond will not be considered.**

Electronic filers must file amendments (to include statements, designations and reports) 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 should have any questions regarding this matter or wish to verify the adequacy of your response, please contact me on our toll-free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5 to reach the Reports Analysis Division) or my local number (202) 694-1132.

Sincerely,



Chris Jones
Campaign Finance Analyst
Reports Analysis Division

**Excessive, Prohibited, and Impermissible Contributions
Virgin Islands for Plaskett (C00528182)**

Excessive Contributions from Individuals

Contributor Name	Date	Amount	Election
Clyburn, James E.	3/25/2015	\$5,000.00	Missing
Klindworth, Todd	1/14/2015	\$3,000.00	Missing
Smith, Michael	1/1/2015	\$5,200.00	Missing

Contributions from Possible Prohibited Entities

Contributor Name	Date	Amount	Election
Beachside Associates, LLC	1/21/2015	\$2,600.00	Missing
Synergy Group, LLC	1/12/2015	\$5,200.00	Missing