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U.S. SENATE

SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
05 JUN -8 AM 11:36

April 15, 2005

Mr. Larry Norton, General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463

Dear Mr. Norton:

This letter and the accompanying information is to notify the Federal Election Commission of an issue involving my then congressional campaign committee, David Vitter for Congress, and further to request advice and assistance from your office as to the proper way to formally disclose the information on the committee's FEC report(s).

My campaign held a fundraising event on September 9, 2003, in Washington, D.C. at Signatures Restaurant. My campaign's Finance Director, Carolyn Machado, made the arrangements with the restaurant for the menu, drinks, and method of payment. My personal credit card information was provided to the restaurant to pay for the costs of the event, for which I was later to be reimbursed. That was a standard practice in my campaign at the time since we did not have a campaign credit card. A copy of the agreement with the restaurant is attached, which has my credit card identified as the method of payment. NOTE: I have redacted the last digits of the credit card number because this is still my personal credit card. I can copy my credit card and furnish a copy to your office should that be necessary.

Approximately sixteen people attended the event, which raised $12,000 for my campaign. I attended the event but had to leave early to cast votes in the U.S. House of Representatives, so I was not present at the conclusion of the evening. Ms. Machado reviewed the bill for the event before leaving the restaurant that night and signed the approval for payment of the amounts shown. She recollects that the bill was for approximately $1,500.

Apparently, the restaurant did not follow the procedures we had agreed to in advance and did not run the charges against my credit card. I never thought about this event again until it was brought to my attention very recently that no payment or reimbursement for the event has ever appeared on our FEC report. We immediately began to check into the matter and determined only today that the restaurant did not charge my credit card -- and my campaign committee did not receive an invoice for payment.