



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RQ-2

November 13, 2009

Jeffery Caynon, Treasurer  
Houston Fire Fighters Political Action Fund,  
International Association of Fire Fighters  
1907 Freeman Street  
Houston, TX 77009

Response Due Date:  
December 18, 2009

Identification Number: C00203497

Reference: July Quarterly Report (1/1/09-6/30/09)

Dear Treasurer:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report(s) 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 items:

1. Schedule A of your report (see attached) discloses a receipt(s) from an organization(s) that is not registered with the Commission. 2 U.S.C. §441b prohibits the receipt of funds from national banks, corporations, and labor organizations. Under 11 CFR §102.6, however, certain entities may serve as collecting agents for the purpose of transmitting contributions to a separate segregated fund. A collecting agent may be, but is not limited to, a committee which is affiliated with the separate segregated fund; the connected organization; or a local, national, or international union.

Funds received from a collecting agent are to be attributed to the original contributors and should be disclosed according to the requirements of 11 CFR §104.3(a). If the amounts in question were contributed by individuals and transmitted to your committee by a collecting agent, the activity should be included on Line 11(a)(i) of the Detailed Summary Page. Any contribution from an individual exceeding \$200 in the aggregate during the calendar year should be itemized on a supporting Schedule A. Collecting agents need not be identified on your report.

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If any apparently prohibited contribution in question was incompletely or incorrectly disclosed, you should amend your original report with clarifying information.

If you have received funds from an entity which was not serving as a collecting agent, you may have to make a refund. If within 30 days of receipt you (1) transferred the prohibited amount to an account not used to influence federal elections, and (2) provided written notice to the person making the contribution of the option of receiving a refund, you may retain the contribution in an account not used to influence federal elections. Any request from a donor for a refund must be honored.

If the foregoing conditions for transfers to a non-federal account were not met within 30 days of receipt, the prohibited amount must be refunded. See 11 CFR 103.3(b)(1).

Please inform the Commission of your corrective action promptly in writing and provide a photocopy of your check for any transfer-out or refund. In addition, any transfers-out or refunds should be disclosed on Schedule B supporting Line 22 or 28 of the report covering the period during which the transaction was made.

Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning the acceptance of prohibited contributions, prompt action by your committee in transferring-out or refunding the amounts will be taken into consideration.

2. Please amend your report by providing the address for each disbursement itemized on Schedule(s) H4 supporting Line(s) 21(a).

3. Schedule H4 discloses 100% non-federal activity. Please be advised that by definition, this activity does not qualify as an expense(s) that can be allocated between your federal and non-federal accounts. If the disbursements were for operating expenditures paid for with 100% federal funds, they should be itemized on Schedule B for Line 21(b) of the Detailed Summary Page. If these expenses were permissibly paid for with 100% non-federal funds, they should not be disclosed on Schedule H4. Further, any reimbursement from your committee's non-federal account for any portion of this activity is not permissible and must be returned. 11 CFR §102.5(a)(1)(i) Please amend your report to clarify this discrepancy.

4. Schedule H4 of your report discloses activity which is 100% federal. For future reporting, please be advised that any activity which is financed

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entirely by the federal account (including administrative expenses), should be reported on Schedule B supporting Line 21(b).

5. Separate Segregated Funds and Nonconnected committees that have established a federal account and a non-federal account may use only funds subject to the prohibitions and limitations of the Act, or they may allocate expenditures for administrative costs, generic voter drives, fundraising programs or events and public communications referencing only a political party between their federal and their non-federal accounts. 11 CFR §106.6(b)

Separate Segregated Funds and Nonconnected committees may pay administrative expenses, costs for generic voter drives and expenses related to public communications referencing any political party from their federal account, or allocate between their federal and non-federal accounts. Committees that choose to allocate these expenses must disclose the allocation ratio to be applied to each category of activity on a Schedule H1. Administrative expenses, generic voter drive costs and expenses related to public communications referencing any political party committee (but no clearly identified candidates) must be paid for with at least 50 percent Federal funds. 11 CFR §106.6(c)

Schedule H2 is used by all political committees to report the allocation ratios of their joint federal and non-federal fundraising events and direct candidate support programs. Schedule H2 is filed with each report that discloses a disbursement for allocated activity. Schedule H3 is used by all political committees to report transfers received by the federal account from the non-federal account(s) to pay the non-federal share of allocable expenses.

Any expenditures made on behalf of both federal and non-federal candidates (including in-kind contributions and independent expenditures) must be allocated between your committee's federal and non-federal accounts. Schedule H4 is used by all political committees to report payments for allocable expenses. 11 CFR §106.1(a)

Please clarify if your committee is operating from one account or if your committee has established both a federal and a non-federal account. Furthermore, if your Committee has established a federal and a non-federal account, please clarify the procedures you are currently using to pay for allocable expenses. The Commission recommends that you take steps to correct any non-compliance with the regulations. Also, your committee

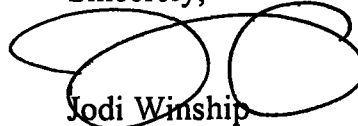
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should establish procedures to ensure future compliance with the allocation regulations.

**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) 694-1136.

Sincerely,



Jodi Winship  
Senior Campaign Finance Analyst  
Reports Analysis Division

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<b>Contributor Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Houston Professional Fire Fighters	01/16/2009	\$5,898.25
Houston Professional Fire Fighters	01/16/2009	\$2,078.00
Houston Professional Fire Fighters	01/20/2009	\$10.00
Houston Professional Fire Fighters	02/19/2009	\$42.00
Houston Professional Fire Fighters	02/24/2009	\$5,932.25
Houston Professional Fire Fighters	02/26/2009	\$1,641.96
Houston Professional Fire Fighters	03/27/2009	\$5,986.75
Houston Professional Fire Fighters	04/27/2009	\$6,046.75
Houston Professional Fire Fighters	05/26/2009	\$6,019.75
Houston Professional Fire Fighters	06/04/2009	\$7.00
Houston Professional Fire Fighters	06/18/2009	\$6,000.75

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