

May 22, 2009
via electronic filing

Ms. Rosa G. Lewis
Senior Campaign Finance Analyst
Reports Analysis Division
Federal Election Commission
Washington, D.C. 20463

Re: SEIU COPE Amended September Monthly Report (8/01/08-8/31/08), received 10/31/08

Dear Ms. Lewis:

This is in response to your letter to SEIU COPE, dated April 22, 2009. Each of your questions will be addressed in turn, below. We are in the process of preparing a second amended report using software upgraded for the recent change in required electronic format.

- 1) The amended report included expenditures made during the period that were not included in the original report as filed on 9/20/08. Over \$3.5 million of the expenditures added to the amended report (over 75 per cent) were for independent expenditures reported on Line 24 that were previously disclosed before the original report deadline on 48 hour notices. When the original report was filed on 9/20, one of the key staff involved in preparing FEC reports was involved in and required to testify in a hearing in California and was away from the office for critical periods. The error was recognized by SEIU and the amended report filed before the election without any inquiry from RAD. During the period when we were working on the amendment, two other Form 3X were filed (10/20 and 10/23) in addition to and at least thirty 48- or 24- hour notices.
- 2) The payment during the period for the \$110 independent expenditure reported on a 48 hour notice was inadvertently included in payment for one of the larger independent expenditures reported to the same vendor. Our amended report will clarify that the amount was paid and show as a separate item on Schedule E.
- 3) This vendor had ten other transactions included in the monthly report and the memo entry was included by mistake. The expenditures represented by that entry from a 48 hour notice on 8/25 was properly accounted for in the other entries in the amended report and the memo entry will be removed from the second amended report we are filing.
- 4) The payments to individuals for travel disclosed on Schedule B were not made to any committee staff, but rather were contributions to defray the travel costs of SEIU members who attended the Democratic National Convention as delegates and we believe have been properly reported as operating expenses on Line 21.
- 5) The amended report we will be filing will modify the expenditures described as "canvass staff and expenses" to clarify that they were payments for "door-to-door voter ID and get out the vote efforts".
- 6) The amended report we will be filing will clarify how the referenced expenditures correlate to the 48 hour notices filed.
- 7) The expenditures in this report that were described as for "database polling services" "research & polling" and "media research services" were not for communications containing express advocacy. They were made for research on communications and voter attitudes prior to any specific independent expenditures being made and thus were correctly included on the report line 21.

ETEXT ATTACHMENT

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions

Sincerely,

Robert Hauptman
for SEIU COPE