## **OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY**

EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA BREVARD AND SEMINOLE COUNTIES

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July 29, 2021

Rick Swearingen, Commissioner FDLE P.O. Box 1489 Tallahassee, Fl. 32302-1489

Re: Investigation Request

Dear Commissioner Swearingen,

Please accept this letter as a request for your agency to conduct an investigation into potential violations of election law as it relates to the 2020 Senate District 9 election, covering Seminole and Volusia County.

Enclosed please find materials forwarded to our office by the State Attorney for the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit, after a complaint was filed there, and with the Florida Elections Commission alleging violations of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes in the Senate District 37 campaign in Miami-Dade Counties.

While the initial complaint involved the District 37 campaign, the subsequent investigation and prosecution by the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit determined that some activity may have involved the Senate District 9 campaign in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Circuits. We verified that the Complaint had been appropriately filed with the FEC and made a determination at that time to allow the FEC to exercise their duty and authority to investigate the allegations.

We are not aware of the status of the FEC investigation and have attempted to refrain from discussing the complaint publicly due to the confidential provisions of Chapter 106. However, with the continuing release of public records from the prosecution in the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit detailing the activities of persons involved with the District 9 campaign, I am concerned that pending or future investigations may be impaired which has prompted this request.

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As you know, we have had tremendous success in working with your agency on public corruption and related investigations. Your agency always does a thorough and professional investigation, and we would gladly assist your agents in the investigation as we have done in the past. To that end, any criminal violations in the 18<sup>th</sup> Circuit would be assigned to my Chief Assistant Stacey Salmons in Seminole County who has already touched base with one of your agents regarding these issues. She is my top prosecutor in Seminole County and has successfully handled previous cases from your office.

Again, while I am confident in the ability of the FEC to investigate these matters, your agencies expertise in criminal investigations and the outstanding working relationship we have had with your agency leads me to make this request to restore public confidence in the process and ensure a complete investigation is submitted to my office if criminal violations are discovered.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further.

Sineerely,

Phil Archer