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CAMPAIGN FINANCE DIVISION

☒ **WAIVER REQUEST**
☐ **RECONSIDERATION REQUEST**

DATE: 9/3/2020
DOCKET #:

FILER INFORMATION

Name: Shawon Bernard
Office: BESE, District 2
Parish: ASSUMPTION, JEFFERSON, ORLEANS, ST. CHARLES, ST. JAMES, ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
Election Date: 10/12/2019
Level of Office: Major

REPORT INFORMATION

Name of Report: SUPP2019
Original Due Date: 2/18/2020
Date Filed: 2/26/2020
Activity Receipts: \$-0
Expenditures: \$202.97
Funds at Close of Reporting Period: \$-0

LATE FEE INFORMATION

Amount of Late Fee: \$800
Days Late: 8
Late Fee Order Received: 5/14/2020
Payment/Waiver Request Due Date: 6/3/2020
Waiver Request Received: 6/3/2020
Additional Information Requested:
- Medical
XX - Financial
- Other

COMMENTS: Shawon Bernard request a waiver and states the following: The campaign had a minimal deficient amount of funds with an outstanding personal loan. In fact, the 2019 Supplement filing was in essences a procedural forgiveness of a personal loan she made to the campaign. There were no expenditures during this period other than her forgiving the loan to close out the campaign. The time frame of your department sending the notice, her receiving it and submitting the supplemental report included the long weekend of the Mardi Gras holiday. A letter that usually takes 1-2 days from Baton Rouge to New Orleans to arrive resulted in an unusually increase of 5 days for delivery. Upon immediate receiving the Notice of Delinquency, she completed and submitted the report.

OTHER LATE FEE INFORMATION

Campaign Finance:

Other Outstanding Reports: No
Other Outstanding Late Fees: No
Prior Late Fees: Yes
Reassessed Late Fees: No

Disclosure Statements:

Other Outstanding Late Fees: No
Prior Late Fees: No

Shawon Bernard
5501 Norgate Drive
New Orleans

June 3, 2020

State of Louisiana
Department of State Civil Service
Louisiana Board of Ethics
P.O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

June 2, 2020

RE: Waiver Request for Late fee Assessment for the October 12, 2019 Election
2019 Supplemental Campaign Finance Disclosure Report filed 8 days late

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am in receipt of your Late Fee Assessment Order that outlines the law related to my requirements for timely filing my campaign finance report for the October 12, 2019 election, your finding of such report being filed 8 days late and the assessment of the \$100.00 per day fine that amounts to \$800.00.

For your consideration to reduce, suspend or waive the late fee assessment of \$800.00, I offer the following:

1. It was never my intent to be late with the 2019 Supplemental filing for the October 12, 2019.
2. This was the first statewide campaign that I was a candidate in. While I had previously been a candidate in a parish election, this statewide election resulted in more contributors, donations, expenditures, and reporting time.
3. The required time to complete each filing became taxing and confusing. It required more time than I had previously needed to timely comply with the campaign finance reporting. The process to complete the online filing with me making a personal loan to my campaign was very confusing to close out the campaign.
4. The campaign had a minimal deficient amount of funds with an outstanding personal loan. In fact, the 2019 Supplement filing was in essence a procedural forgiveness of a personal loan I made to the campaign. There were no expenditures during this period other than me forgiving the loan to close out the campaign.
5. I was in communication with your office for assistance prior to the 2019 Supplemental filing. I received assistance to complete that prior filing. The result of that filing revealed

the deficiencies and clarified the outstanding personal loan contribution I made to the campaign. There were no additional contributions or expenditures made during the final period.

6. Upon immediate receiving the Notice of Delinquency, I completed and submitted the 2019 Supplemental October 12, 2019 filing report. The Supplemental report was due on February 18, 2020; the deficiency letter was mailed from your office on February 21, 2020 and was received on February 26, 2020. The report was immediately completed and submitted.
7. Please note that this time frame of your department sending the notice and me receiving the notice and submitting the supplemental report included the long weekend of the Mardi Gras holiday. A letter that usually takes 1-2 days from Baton Rouge to New Orleans to arrive resulted in an usually increase of 5 days for delivery.

As you consider my appeal for a waiver of the \$800.00 late fee fine, I ask you to consider my prior timely compliance with reporting. Because of the newness of my first statewide campaign, the reporting became overwhelming. In addition, when I needed assistance with completing and filing the prior report I did reach out for assistance from your office. Lastly, the final supplemental report reflected a forgiveness of a personal loan I made to the campaign.

Again, your consideration of providing a waiver of the \$800.00 for late fees in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Shawon Bernard

Melissa Horn

From: Shawon Bernard <shawonbernard@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 12:55 AM
To: Melissa Horn
Subject: Re: 2019 Suppl/ Financial Information Form
Attachments: Ethics Waiver.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please do not click on links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Hi,

Attached is my waiver letter. I could not find how to upload it on the ethic page. I will continue to try. If it must be uploaded to that page, please advise.

Thanks
Shawon Bernard

On Monday, June 1, 2020, 02:48:17 PM CDT, Melissa Horn <melissa.horn@la.gov> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

As per our conversation, attached is the Financial Statement which needs to be completed in support of your waiver request.

Please contact me should you need additional information or have questions.

Thank you,

Melissa H. Horn

Program Compliance Officer

Louisiana Board of Ethics

P. O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821