

State of OH County of Summit
Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me on this
19 day of December, 2022 by
Michael Smith proved to me on the basis
of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) who appeared before me.
Notary Signature Eleanor Polen

December 17, 2022
Case No. 2022G-024
Ford v. Smith



ELEANOR POLEN
Notary Public, State of Ohio
My Commission Expires
11/08/2027

Response to Complaint

RECEIVED

DEC 22 2022

OHIO ELECTIONS
COMMISSION

Violation of R.C. 3517.01(C)(8):

The Facebook page, The Real Nordonia News, was created in October, 2021, nearly a year before a school bond was even discussed. The primary purpose of the group, as has been stated on the page since creation, is to bring transparency to the community and hold local officials accountable. Therefore, it's primary purpose isn't to influence a ballot issue, therefore it is not a PAC. Furthermore, assuming my preferred pronoun is 'I', and not 'we', to create a narrative that I as a sole person am a PAC, is very offensive and uncalled for.

Violation of R.C. 3517.018:

Facebook allows donations on their platform for individuals. No proof has been provided by Matt Ford that any donations were made, besides Facebook comments. Last I checked, I am not responsible for other people's comments, and the burden of proof is on Matt Ford, not me, nor the OEC. There is no law saying an individual cannot ask for money on Facebook.

Violation of R.C. 3517.10(D)

Irrelevant, as I am not a PAC so no treasurer is required.

Violation of R.C. 3517.10:

A PAC does not need to be created for the community to come together to refill a depleted food bank during an emergency. How miserable do you have to be to even think that is required?

Violation of R.C. 3517.105(A)

I am not responsible for disclosing a disclaimer, as I did not fund the yard signs. Again, that burden falls on Matt Ford to discover who funded them and who dispersed them to people. I am not required to disclose that information.

Summary:

This complaint is a knee-jerk reaction from a butt-hurt individual named Matt Ford. His misplaced anger is a result of his PAC wasting thousands of donors' money on a losing cause. His response, was to file this complaint against someone that spent zero dollars. I merely rallied the community without spending a dime and that bothers him to this day. It is very unfortunate that he is misusing this necessary commission to further his political agenda.

Michael Smith

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Smith", written over a horizontal line.