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July 31, 2024

Via Email to:
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Micheal P. Beltran, Esq.
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Re: Response to Demand Letter (“Demand”) regarding Anthony Pedicini (“Mr. Pedicini”) and The Committee to Expose Fake Republicans (the “Committee”) on behalf of Kristen Truong (“Ms. Truong”) dated July 29, 2024

Mr. Beltran:

We are writing in response to your Demand on behalf of Mr. Pedicini as well as the Committee. First, your demand for a retraction pursuant to Florida Statute §770.01 is unfounded as that statute does not provide for such relief. Moreover, for the reasons set forth below, no retraction, correction or apology appears to be warranted with respect to the issues set forth in the Demand.

Second, the threats of litigation set forth in the Demand constitute a clear attempt to silence political speech on matters of public importance in advance of an upcoming election. Specifically, a demand was made that Mr. Pedicini, the Committee and any clients or agents thereof “refrain from any remarks regarding Ms. Truong or her husband until no earlier than August 21, 2024” - the day following the Republican Primary Election in Manatee County, Florida in which Tal Siddique, Ms. Truong’s husband, is a candidate for Board of County Commissioners – District 3. As you are aware, Florida Statute §768.295 expressly prohibits the filing of lawsuits – SLAPP suits – against others for exercising their right of free speech in connection with a public issue or their rights to peacefully assemble, to instruct representatives of government, or to petition the government for a redress of grievances. Accordingly, it is your threat to institute litigation unless Mr. Pedicini and the Committee refrain from exercising free speech rights with respect to candidates for political office until after the election that warrants a retraction, apology and/or correction. Demand is hereby made for the same.

Michael P. Beltran, Esq.
July 31, 2024

Page 2

Further, to assist our clients in evaluating the remainder of the Demand, they request that you clarify the following:

- Do you dispute that Ms. Truong and Mr. Siddique relocated to Manatee County in 2021?
- Are you actually unaware that Mr. Siddique registered to vote in 2019 as a Democrat and thereafter voted as a registered Democrat as recently as the 2020 Presidential election?
- Isn't it a fact that Ms. Truong is the Vice President of Public Affairs for Capitol Hill Partners, a Democratic lobbying firm run by former Clinton Administration officials?
- Isn't it also true that, in 2023, Ms. Truong was a registered lobbyist for Results for America, an organization who claims to be inspired to elevate and amplify the voices of community leaders, particularly leaders of color, by liberal organizations including Black Lives Matters and the Innocence Project?

Once we receive your response to the foregoing, our clients may reassess your Demand. In the interim, as I am sure you can understand, our clients cannot agree to your demand to suppress free speech in an election campaign.

Sincerely,

TOBIN | REYES PLLC

Ricardo A. Reyes

Ricardo A. Reyes, Esq.