STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS P.O. BOX 6486, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401-0486 PHONE (410) 269-2840

William G. Voelp, Chairman Carlos Ayala Janet Millenson Michael G. Summers Yaakov "Jake" Weissman



Linda H. Lamone Administrator

Nikki Charlson Deputy Administrator

Memorandum

- **TO:** State Board Members
- **FROM:** Jared DeMarinis, Director Division of Candidacy and Campaign Finance
- DATE: August 29, 2023

SUBJECT: Waiver of late filing fees standards

Enclosed are the waiver requests, which were submitted by campaign committees that have been assessed late filing fees. The attached Waiver Request Information Page contains an overview of each committee as well as the Administrator's recommendation for Board approval on granting a waiver request.

In the past the Board has considered the following facts in determining whether just cause exists to grant a waiver.

- □ Administrative error of any kind on the part of the Division.
- □ The lateness is due to extenuating circumstances, i.e. physical illness or death in the family.
- □ The late report is the first late report and allows the committee to close, or contains minimal financial activity.
- □ The fee will cause undue financial hardship, if the liability of the fine is the personal responsibility of the officers.
- □ Computer problems occurred which made timely filing impossible. However, the filer still must have demonstrated a good faith effort to timely file.

Prior to the meeting please review each waiver request. Note the recommendations that you may disagree with or have questions on that you would like to discuss.

Pursuant to Election Law Article §13-337 (b) (3), the State Administrator has denied one waiver request. No Board action is required on the denials. Late fees collected year to date for the month of July are \$69,762.62

Please feel free to contact me at 410-269-2853 if you have any questions.

Grant

- 1. Gassaway, Dana for Council At-Large
- 2. Broccolino, Dario Friends of
- 3. Dorchester County Republican Central Committee
- 4. Farmers Employee & Agent PAC (Farmers Group Inc)
- 5. Gibbs, Makeba Committee to Elect
- 6. Merrill, J.D. (John David) Friends of
- 7. St. Mary's County Democratic Central Committee
- 8. State Professional Firefighters PAC, MD
- 9. Weatherspoon, Gladys Friends of

Deny

1. Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486 PAC

Committees with Late Fees Outside SOL

CCF ID	Committee Name	Committee Type	Late Fees
01012813	Blaeuer, Maria for Board of Education	Candidate Committee	\$ 210.00
01010252	Carothers, Jonathan Friends of	Candidate Committee	\$ 140.00
03010723	Deer Creek PAC	Political Action Committee	\$ 70.00
01006529	Fisher, Charles Campaign Fund	Candidate Committee	\$ 250.00
01012720	Fockler, Karl H. For State's Attorney	Candidate Committee	\$ 223.40
01012556	Frederick, Lionel Campaign, The	Candidate Committee	\$ 1,370.00
01012584	Holtzman, Irene Friends of	Candidate Committee	\$ 500.00
01011479	Kunes, David Friends of	Candidate Committee	\$ 1,000.00
01013002	Proctor, Orlando for Delegate	Candidate Committee	\$ 510.00
01011714	Rahim, Anees Abdul Friends of	Candidate Committee	\$ 1,000.00
01012811	Rucker, Antoinette (Netty) Friends of	Candidate Committee	\$ 1,690.00
01011753	Russell, Michael Citizens to Elect	Candidate Committee	\$ 500.00
01011642	Stephenson, Eric for Central Committee	Candidate Committee	\$ 841.24
01012855	Tyler, Denise Friends of	Candidate Committee	\$ 990.00
01011248	White, Richard Jr. for District 6	Candidate Committee	\$ 7,000.00
01009462	Henson, Julius Citizens For	Candidate Committee	\$ 3,500.00
01012638	Pitts, Robert for The Charles County School Board	Candidate Committee	\$ 10.00
01012065	Bishop, Dante Vote	Candidate Committee	\$ 500.00
01012519	Rascoe, Jeffrey Vote For	Candidate Committee	\$ 110.00
01005237	Johnson, Kenneth E. Committee To Elect	Candidate Committee	\$ 880.00
01011277	Oaks, Nathaniel Friends of	Candidate Committee	\$ 2,000.00
01011833	Steger-Smith, T.E. Tre Committee to Elect	Candidate Committee	\$ 1,150.00
01012637	Smallwood-Friia, Dana Your Choice for Change	Candidate Committee	\$ 1,110.00
01006538	Quinn, Shawn Citizens for	Candidate Committee	\$ 400.00

Total: \$25,954.64

General	•	U U	
Account Name	Gassaway, Dana	for Council At-Large	
CCF ID:	01014647	Status: Active	
Date Established	4/14/22		
Date Waiver Requested	7/25/23		
Account Type	Campaign Accou	int	

Officers

Current Treasurer	Tiffany Bush	Start Date: 4/14/22
Responsible Treasurer		
Current Chairman	Dana Gassaway	4/14/22
Responsible Chairman		

Waiver Request Dates

Late Report	Affidavit	Date Received	Fees	Total Fees
1/18/23		N/A	\$1000	\$1000
11/22/22		N/A	\$1000	\$1000
10/18/22		N/A	\$1000	\$1000
8/30/22		N/A	\$1000	\$1000
7/08/22		N/A	\$1000	\$1000
6/14/22		N/A	\$1000	\$1000
				Total: 6,000.00

All required notices were sent to this campaign account for the above listed report(s).

Prior Waiver and Fees

Report	Late Fee	Waiver/payment	Referred OSP
See above	\$		Yes
	\$		

Recent Financial Activity History

Report	Contributions	Expenditures	Cash Balance	Outstanding/ Loans/ Obligations
N/A	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$

Reason for Waiver

Per OSP they will not prosecute.

Division Comments

Grant

CHARLTON T. HOWARD III State Prosecutor

SARAH R. DAVID Deputy State Prosecutor

LETAM DUSON ABIGAIL E. TICSE MARY W. SETZER Senior Assistant State Prosecutors

STATE OF MARYLAND



Hampton Plaza Suite 410 300 East Joppa Road Towson, MD 21286-3152 Telephone (410) 321-4067 1 (800) 695-4058 Fax (410) 321-3851

OFFICE OF THE STATE PROSECUTOR

July 25, 2023

Mr. Jared DeMarinis Director Division of Candidacy and Campaign Finance Maryland State Board of Elections 151 West Street, Suite 200 Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: 23-0120-FTF Dana Gassaway for Council At-Large

Dear Mr. DeMarinis,

The above referenced campaign finance committee was referred to this office for failure to file the 2022 Pre-Primary 1, Pre-Primary 2, Pre-General 1, Pre-General 2, Post General, and the 2023 Annual reports and failing to pay the accompanying late fees.

Our investigation has revealed that the Chairperson/Candidate is currently homeless and therefore, unable to rectify the filing/fees. The other officer of the committee is similarly unavailable.

Therefore, this office declines to pursue this case any further. We consider this matter closed.

Sincerely,

Charlton T. Howard State Prosecutor

General				
Account Name	Broccolino, Dario Friends Of			
CCF ID:	01016347	01016347 Status: Inactive		
Date Established	7/06/10			
Date Waiver Requested	7/31/23			
Account Type	Campaign Accou	int		

Officers

Current Treasurer	Victor Broccolino	Start Date: 7/06/10
Responsible Treasurer		
Current Chairman	Laura Applestein	3/27/18
Responsible Chairman		

Waiver Request Dates

Late Report	Affidavit	Date Received	Fees	Total Fees
6/18/23 2021 Audit		7/25/23	\$1000	\$1000
			\$	\$
				Total: \$1000.00

All required notices were sent to this campaign account for the above listed report(s).

Prior Waiver and Fees

Report	Late Fee	Waiver/payment	Referred OSP
N/A	\$		
	\$		

Recent Financial Activity History

Report	Contributions	Expenditures	Cash Balance	Outstanding/ Loans/ Obligations
1/20/21	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$

Reason for Waiver

The candidate states they believed the account was closed after the 2021 annual report, they received an audit for the 2021 report for a discrepancy in the cash balance. The committee paid a \$500 fine for failing to maintain records and is now being charged a \$1000 fine for an audit, they believe the fines are disproportionate to the offense

Division Comments

Grant

Waiver of late fees for the following Business Contribution Disclosure Statement Report (s): * Check the Business Disclosure Report(s) that apply.
Spring Business Contribution Statement
Fall Business Contribution Statement
None - Submitting MDCRIS

Total Amount of late fee(s) \$ *

1,000

The basis for the request

The request must provide just cause for the waiver of the late fee(s).

When we file the 2021 annual report we requested that the account be closed. The account was changed to inactive status. The placing the account on inactive status precluded our gaining access to the account. We believed that the account was closed and any further reporting was over.

*

In May 2023 we were informed that our account was audited due to a discrepancy between the report cash balance and the actual cash balance according to the bank statement. We informed the SBE that reconciling the difference because we could not located our records. We were assessed, and paid, a \$500 fine for failure to maintain records. Not being able to located the records made finding the discrepancy impossible, especially by the June 18, deadline for filing the correction. Please note that the amount of the discrepancy is \$232.44.

We are requesting a waiver of the \$1,000 fine believing that a total of \$1,500 in fines for a \$232.44 discrepancy is disproportional to the offense.

This campaign was established for my candidacy for State's Attorney and made of family and friends.

*

Print Name and Date:

By printing your name below, you certify that the information provided is true and accurate to the best of your knowledge and under the penalties of perjury.

Dario Broccolino 7/28/23

This form was created inside of State of Maryland.



General	•	
Account Name	Dorchester County Re	epublican Central Committee
CCF ID:	05007953	Status: Active
Date Established	1/01/1901	
Date Waiver Requested	7/20/23	
Account Type	Party CC Account	

Officers

Current Treasurer	Tammy Burns	Start Date: 1/22/21
Responsible Treasurer		
Current Chairman		
Responsible Chairman	Frederick Bryant	1/29/21

Waiver Request Dates

Late Report	Affidavit	Date Received	Fees	Total Fees
2023 Annual Audit		6/29/23	\$175	\$175
Post General Audit		6/29/23	\$175	\$175
Pre-General 2 Audit		6/29/23	\$175	\$175
Pre-Primary 2 Audit		6/29/23	\$175	\$175
Pre-Primary 1 Audit		6/29/23	\$175	\$175
				Total:\$875.00

All required notices were sent to this campaign account for the above listed report(s).

Prior Waiver and Fees

Report	Late Fee	Waiver/payment	Referred OSP
Post General	\$20	paid	N/A
2021 Annual	\$40	paid	N/A
2020 Pre-General	\$80	paid	N/A

Recent Financial Activity History

Report	Contributions	Expenditures	Cash Balance	Outstanding/ Loans/
				Obligations
1/18/23 Annual	\$989.00	\$154.00	\$1,143.00	\$140.00
	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$

Reason for Waiver

The treasurer states he has been traveling for his personal job and did not see the emails requesting an audit he has gone back and amended the record for several treasurers prior to him.

Division Comments

Grant

The basis for the request

*

The request must provide just cause for the waiver of the late fee(s).

Please consider my request for waiver of fees. I have been traveling and training for a different position at work, as well as going back and forth to NC for an imminent domain case, and just saw the emails regarding the missing amended reports / fees in my personal email. I would never intentionally not file the amended reports as required.

The original reports had been filed. The history shows I have amended records going back a couple treasurers ago in attempt to correct the records moving forward and it has been challenging to say the least. In my two different terms as treasurer (2018-2020, 2022-2023), I have strived to keep the records up-to-date and correct.

On the report for 6/22, I did miss an outstanding check in the bank balance which subsequently made the bank balances moving forward incorrect which is four consecutive reports. My 6/22 report also had one contribution out of compliance (the others were stating there was missing employment information but they were listed as retired) which I fixed. There was no major missing data entry. Part of my confusion to adjust the bank balance was a balance of \$1205.32 which totaled four outstanding checks from 2020 that I found while correcting reports from another treasurer.

Once I saw the email regarding missing amended reports, I immediately amended the reports with the requested information and contacted Diane to see if that corrected all of the reports. After my conversation with her, I went back to fix the balances moving forward. I will call her tomorrow to verify the status of the amended reports.

Paying \$875 would be a hardship on me as I work hard to support myself. I volunteered to be treasurer to help the organization and I don't want the organization to have to pay for my mistake. Please consider a waiver or reduction of the fees.

Print Name and Date:

By printing your name below, you certify that the information provided is true and accurate to the best of your knowledge and under the penalties of perjury.

Tammy Burns

This form was created inside of State of Maryland.

Google Forms

General	•	U
Account Name	Farmers Employee &	Agent PAC (Farmers Group Inc)
CCF ID:	03011165	Status: Active
Date Established	8/18/15	
Date Waiver Requested	7/20/23	
Account Type	PAC Account	

Officers

Current Treasurer	Chris Cagnolatti	Start Date: 10/23/18
Responsible Treasurer		
Current Chairman	Collin Wheeler	10/29/18
Responsible Chairman		

Waiver Request Dates

Late Report	Affidavit	Date Received	Fees	Total Fees
Pre-Primary 2 Audit		6/23/23	\$1000	\$1000
Pre-Primary 1 Audit		6/23/23	\$1000	\$1000
2021 Audit		6/23/23	\$1000	\$1000
				Total: \$3,000.00

All required notices were sent to this campaign account for the above listed report(s).

Prior Waiver and Fees

Report	Late Fee	Waiver/payment	Referred OSP
N/A	\$		
	\$		

Recent Financial Activity History

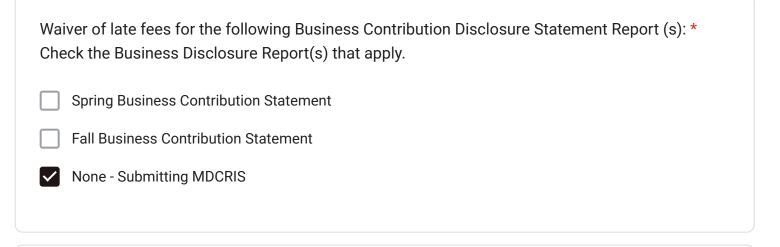
Report	Contributions	Expenditures	Cash Balance	Outstanding/ Loans/ Obligations
1/18/23	\$65,651.00	\$908.00	\$6,560.00	\$0
	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$

Reason for Waiver

The treasurer states there was an administrative mixup on the end of the committee which prevented the notification from being forwarded to the right person as they intend to terminate the committee they are requesting the fees to be waived.

Division Comments

Grant



Total Amount of late fee(s) \$ *

3000

The basis for the request

The request must provide just cause for the waiver of the late fee(s).

There was an administrative mixup on our end that prevented the notifications to be forwarded to myself in a timely manner. Due to the fact that we are intending to terminate the registration for this committee, we request that the fees for all 3 reports be waived.

*

Print Name and Date:

By printing your name below, you certify that the information provided is true and accurate to the best of your knowledge and under the penalties of perjury.

Philip Leeman 6/30/2023

This form was created inside of State of Maryland.

Google Forms

General				
Account Name	Gibbs, Makeba (Gibbs, Makeba Committee to Elect		
CCF ID:	01012763	Status: Active		
Date Established	2/27/18			
Date Waiver Requested	7/17/23			
Account Type	Campaign Accou	int		

Officers

Current Treasurer	Lakeshia Brown	Start Date: 8/22/19
Responsible Treasurer		
Current Chairman	Markebaa Gibbs	11/19/20
Responsible Chairman		

Waiver Request Dates

Late Report	Affidavit	Date Received	Fees	Total Fees
2021 Annual Audit		7/16/23	\$1000	\$1000
			\$	\$
				Total: \$1000.00

All required notices were sent to this campaign account for the above listed report(s).

Prior Waiver and Fees

Report	Late Fee	Waiver/payment	Referred OSP
10/23/20	\$80	paid	N/A
5/22/20	\$40	paid	N/A
1/15/20	\$120	paid	N/A

Recent Financial Activity History

Report	Contributions	Expenditures	Cash Balance	Outstanding/ Loans/
				Obligations
1/20/21 Annual	\$375.00	\$687.00	\$(\$2,395.00)	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$

Reason for Waiver

The candidate states she has been working with her treasurer to amend the request report, but she has pressing obligations and her time is limited. As the candidate, I am the sole provider and caregiver for my family this would be a hardship.

Division Comments

Grant



Jessica Perkins -SBE- <jessica.perkins@maryland.gov>

Fwd: Request for Waiver of Late Fees

1 message

info sbe -SBE- <info.sbe@maryland.gov> Mon, Jul 17, 2023 at 8:23 AM To: Jessica Perkins -SBE- <jessica.perkins@maryland.gov>, Victorica Smith -SBE- <victorica.smith@maryland.gov>

------ Forwarded message ------From: **Makeba Gibbs** <<u>electmakebagibbs@gmail.com</u>> Date: Sun, Jul 16, 2023 at 7:32 PM Subject: Request for Waiver of Late Fees To: <<u>info.sbe@maryland.gov</u>>

Dear Division of Candidacy and Campaign Finance,

I am requesting that the late fees be waived. I have been attempting to work with my treasurer to make these corrections not knowing it was something I could handle and submit myself. She has pressing family obligations and her time is limited.

Having to pay the late fees would have a significant impact on me financially. I am the primary caregiver for my mother who lives in a memory care assisted living home in Florida and I must travel there frequently. I am also paying for childcare and related costs.

I have submitted an amended statement for 1/20/21.

Please consider my plea to have the fees waived. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Makeba Gibbs

General	•	0			
Account Name	Merrill, J.D. (John	Merrill, J.D. (John David) Friends of			
CCF ID:	01012026	Status: Inactive			
Date Established	11/13/17				
Date Waiver Requested	8/03/23				
Account Type	Campaign Account				

Officers

Current Treasurer	Joshua Russakis	Start Date: 11/13/17
Responsible Treasurer		
Current Chairman	Marvin James	11/13/17
Responsible Chairman		

Waiver Request Dates

Late Report	Affidavit	Date Received	Fees	Total Fees
Pre-Primary 1 Audit		7/28/23	\$1000.00	\$1000.00
			\$	\$
				Total: \$1000.00

All required notices were sent to this campaign account for the above listed report(s).

Prior Waiver and Fees

Report	Late Fee	Waiver/payment	Referred OSP
2022 Annual	\$20	paid	N/A
2018 Post-General	\$120	paid	N/A

Recent Financial Activity History

Report	Contributions	Expenditures	Cash Balance	Outstanding/ Loans/
				Obligations
6/14/22	\$1,809.00	\$425.00	\$00	\$00
	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$

Reason for Waiver

The committee states they worked diligently to correct the mistakes promptly but were delayed by internal bank processes for the bank statements.

Division Comments

Grant



623 Stirling St Baltimore, MD 21202

August 3, 2023

Jared DeMarinis Director of Candidacy and Campaign Finance P.O. Box 6486 Annapolis, MD 21401-0486

Dear Director DeMarinis,

The Friends of J.D. (John David) Merrill committee (**CCF ID: 01012026**) requests a total waiver or partial waiver for late filing fees accrued while conducting tasks and submitting the correction of the committee's 2022 Pre-primary report 1.

The committee worked diligently with the MSBE's CCFD representative to reconcile the filing errors made. Despite our diligence and timely correspondence to provide the needed documentation to the auditing team, we were delayed by internal bank processes when trying to acquire the needed bank statements. Both bank accounts for the campaign committee were closed at the time of submitting the original report. As a result, working with the campaign's former banks to collect these documents required several extra steps which contributed to the delay. One set of bank statements was ultimately lost in the mail despite multiple communications with the bank to ensure the documents were on their way.

In addition to the time taken to secure documents from the banks we then had the auditing process itself as the CCFD diligently reviewed our documents. We recognize that the committee was delayed in opening up this process, missing the correction deadline by two days, but we wanted to state our commitment to resolving this manner in a timely fashion once the reconciliation process was underway. We are requesting a waiver that takes into account our two-day delay, but is less than the full late penalty (\$1000) given our cooperation and every effort made to resolve this matter as quickly as possible. We appreciated the support of the CCFD throughout the entire process and hope our cooperation was helpful in conducting the correction process. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request.

Warmly,

JoerKalus

Joshua K. Anderson-Russakis Campaign Committee Treasurer joshrussakis@gmail.com | 410.271.8215

General						
Account Name	St. Mary's County	St. Mary's County Democratic Central Committee				
CCF ID:	05007559	05007559 Status: Active				
Date Established	1/01/1901					
Date Waiver Requested	7/21/23					
Account Type	Party CC Account	-				

Officers

Current Treasurer	Jessica Jolly	Start Date: 3/04/23
Responsible Treasurer		
Current Chairman	Julie Randall	12/19/22
Responsible Chairman		

Waiver Request Dates

Late Report	Affidavit	Date Received	Fees	Total Fees
2023 Annual Audit		7/11/22	\$685	\$685
2022 Post-General Audit		7/11/22	\$685	\$685
2022 Pre-General 2 Audit		7/11/22	\$685	\$685
2022 Pre-General 1 Audit		7/11/22	\$685	\$685
2022 Pre-Primary 2 Audit		7/11/22	\$685	\$685
2022 Pre-Primary 1 Audit		7/11/22	\$685	\$685
2022 Annual Audit		7/11/22	\$685	\$685
2021 Annual Audit		7/11/22	\$685	\$685
				Total: 5,480.00

All required notices were sent to this campaign account for the above listed report(s).

Prior Waiver and Fees

Report	Late Fee	Waiver/payment	Referred OSP
2018 Pre-Primary 1 Audit	\$150	paid	N/A
2018 Annual Audit	\$500	paid	N/A
2017 Annual	\$10	paid	N/A

Recent Financial Activity History

Report	Contributions	Expenditures	Cash Balance	Outstanding/ Loans/
				Obligations
1/18/23	\$4,595.00	\$1,688.00	\$10,441.00	\$0
	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$

Reason for Waiver

The process of correcting the reports exceeded the deadline as additional documentation was needed from our bank.

Division Comments

Grant

*

Waiver of late fees for the following Business Contribution Disclosure Statement Report (s): * Check the Business Disclosure Report(s) that apply.

Spring Business Contribution Statement

Fall Business Contribution Statement

None - Submitting MDCRIS

Total Amount of late fee(s) \$ *

\$10,000.000

The basis for the request

The request must provide just cause for the waiver of the late fee(s).

After our Treasurer resigned earlier this year, I was appointed to the office of Treasurer and received minimal assistance from our previous Treasurer. Soon after, in May we were sent the Deficiency Report notices. I consulted with the previous Treasurer, however they were not aware of why there were discrepancies and encouraged me to review the accounts activities from 2020 for a possible solution. After attempting to figure out why I could not balance the amounts that were requested even with information from 2020, I reached out to the SBE and learned that the issue went back to 2017 and a previous Treasurer for whom the balances were mismatched on the campaign finance reports and that the issue continued up until the most recent Campaign Finance Report. Diane Zagorski has been extremely helpful in helping us to correct the issue. Unfortunately, the process of correcting the issue exceeded the deadline of 6/21/22 as additional missing documentation was needed and requested from our bank through a special ordering process that took additional time and also incurred additional research fees. In addition, we completed the process of reconciliation which took additional time. To prevent this issue from happening again I have taken action to ensure that our records are archived. I am also developing procedures in order to help future treasures ensure they follow the Campaign Finance Guidelines including keeping 10 years worth of records and understanding the process of correctly filing campaign finance reports. I respectfully ask that we be granted a waiver of late fees for the Deficiency Reports. For me, these circumstances were unforeseeable; the long history of this issue and limited window in which I have held this position made it impossible for me to correct in the time allotted. In addition, we will also be greatly impacted by the amount of the fees: the substantial amount means that the just over \$10,000 in our combined accounts will be depleted drastically which will impact our ability to function as a Central Committee. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

*

Print Name and Date:

By printing your name below, you certify that the information provided is true and accurate to the best of your knowledge and under the penalties of perjury.

Jessica Jolly 7/21/2023

This form was created inside of State of Maryland.



General	-	U	
Account Name	State Professiona	l Firefighters PAC, MD	
CCF ID:	03007912	Status: Active	
Date Established	12/23/82		
Date Waiver Requested	6/30/23		
Account Type	PAC Account		

Officers

Current Treasurer	John Quirk	Start Date: 10/29/04
Responsible Treasurer		
Current Chairman	Jeff Buddle	9/28/21
Responsible Chairman		

Waiver Request Dates

Late Report	Affidavit	Date Received	Fees	Total Fees
2023 Annual Audit		N/A	\$1000	\$1000
2022 Pre-Primary 1 Audit		N/A	\$1000	\$1000
2022 Pre-Primary 2 Audit		N/A	\$1000	\$1000
2022 Pre-General 1 Audit		N/A	\$1000	\$1000
2022 Pre-General 2 Audit		N/A	\$1000	\$1000
2022 Post General Audit		N/A	\$1000	\$1000
2022 Annual Audit		N/A	\$1000	\$1000
2021 Annual Audit		N/A	\$1000	\$1000
				Total: 8000.00

All required notices were sent to this campaign account for the above listed report(s).

Prior Waiver and Fees

Report	Late Fee	Waiver/payment	Referred OSP
2018 Pre-Primary Audit	\$70	paid	N/A
2018 Pre-General Audit	\$70	paid	N/A
2018 Post General Audit	\$70	paid	N/A

Recent Financial Activity History

Report	Contributions	Expenditures	Cash Balance	Outstanding/ Loans/ Obligations
1/18/23	\$8,295.00	\$00	\$675.00	\$0
	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$

Reason for Waiver

The treasurer and chairman stated they were both traveling which delayed the correction of the audit, The committee could not find the discrepancies and requested an administrative correction. On June 5 they met with the Auditor.

Division Comments

Grant

PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS OF MARYLAND



June 30, 2023

Via E-mail: Jared.DeMarinis@maryland.gov Jared DeMarinis Director Candidacy & Campaign Finance Division Maryland State Board of Elections 151 West Street, Suite 200 Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Request for Waiver of Late Fees Related to Eight (8) Amendment Requests (for Audit ID Nos. 251, 253-259)

Dear Mr. DeMarinas:

We are writing to respectfully request a waiver of late fees related to eight (8) amendment requests for recent Maryland State Board of Elections ("SBE") Audits (ID Nos. 251, 253-259) (collectively, the "Amendment Requests").

While each of the Amendment Requests are dated April 6, 2023, PAC Treasurer Quirk only received the eight Amendment Requests via regular mail on April 22, 2023, and PAC Chairman Buddle received the same via regular mail on April 26, 2023. Unfortunately, shortly thereafter, both of us were on travel for a work-related conference for approximately a week, which further delayed corrective action on the Amendment Requests.

Upon our return, we sought to diligently determine the discrepancies identified in the associated filings to SBE and quickly identified the source of each discrepancy among the eight Amendment Requests except for one, which preceded the period associated with the eight Amendment Requests.

Nevertheless, we spent additional time reviewing earlier periods of filings to discern when and how the remaining discrepancy occurred. After spending additional time reviewing prior reports not subject to the Amendment Requests, we concluded that we would need an "Administrative Correction" to address this particular discrepancy.

We then wrote to you outlining the discrepancies we identified and the corrective action (amendments) that needed to take place on the respective filings associated with the Amendment Requests. We also wrote requesting an "Administrative Correction" for the remaining discrepancy that preceded the period of the Amendment Requests.

Shortly thereafter, you connected us with Diane Zagorski, who worked with us to make the corrections and update all eight Amendment Requests. We held a virtual meeting with Ms. Zagorski on June 5, 2023. On the following day, June 6, 2023, all of our reports were marked as resolved. In addition, we paid a civil penalty of \$700 to SBE to resolve the matter fully.

From this experience, we have instituted additional internal systems and oversight to ensure that future SBE filings are accurate and therefore not leading to future Amendment Requests. We have learned our lesson.

As such and considering the reasons above, we are respectfully requesting a waiver of the late fees associated with the eight Amendment Requests.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

effrey Zuddle

John Quírk

Jeffrey Buddle, Chairman

John Quirk, Treasurer

Cc: Robert J. Garagiola, Esq.

General				
Account Name	Weatherspoon, G	Weatherspoon, Gladys Friends of		
CCF ID:	01013242	Status: Active		
Date Established	9/23/19			
Date Waiver Requested	8/07/23			
Account Type	Campaign Accou	nt		

Officers

Current Treasurer	Silvia Brewer	Start Date: 9/23/19	
Responsible Treasurer			
Current Chairman El Warren Weatherspoon		9/23/19	
Responsible Chairman			

Waiver Request Dates

Late Report	Affidavit	Date Received	Fees	Total Fees
2023 Annual		7/12/23	\$1000	\$1000
2022 Annual Audit			\$245	\$245
2021 Annual Audit			\$245	\$245
2020 Post-General Audit			\$1000	\$1000
				Total: \$2,490.00

All required notices were sent to this campaign account for the above listed report(s).

Prior Waiver and Fees

Report	Late Fee	Waiver/payment	Referred OSP
N/A	\$		
	\$		

Recent Financial Activity History

Report	Contributions	Expenditures	Cash Balance	Outstanding/ Loans/
				Obligations
1/18/23	\$1.00	\$0	\$1.00	\$0
	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$

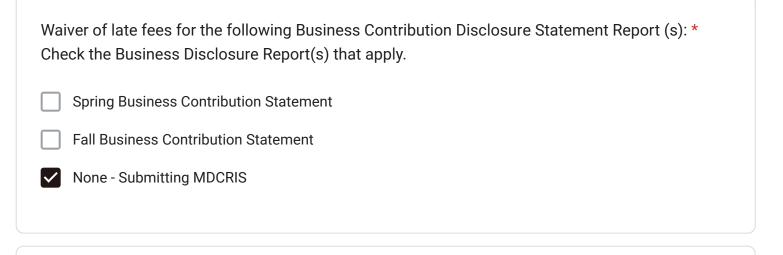
Reason for Waiver

The treasurer states she put the information in and believed she had submitted it but missed a step.

Division Comments

Grant

*



Total Amount of late fee(s) \$ *

\$1000.00

The basis for the request

The request must provide just cause for the waiver of the late fee(s).

The Treasurer believed she had put in the information. Not having done this kind of work before, she kept thinking she was submitting the report and subsequently found out it required an additional step.

Print Name and Date:

By printing your name below, you certify that the information provided is true and accurate to the best of your knowledge and under the penalties of perjury.

Gladys Weatherspoon

This form was created inside of State of Maryland.

Google Forms

General	Ĩ	
Account Name	Plumbers and Steam	fitters Local 486 PAC
CCF ID:	03007851	Status: Active
Date Established	6/09/88	
Date Waiver Requested	7/20/23	
Account Type	PAC Account	

Officers

Current Treasurer	Gary Glab	Start Date: 1/15/15
Responsible Treasurer		
Current Chairman	Pasquale Petrovia	1/11/22
Responsible Chairman		

Waiver Request Dates

Late Report	Affidavit	Date Received	Fees	Total Fees
2022 Pre-General 1 Audit		N/A	\$1000	\$1000
2022 Pre-Primary 2 Audit		N/A	\$1000	\$1000
2022 Pre-primary 1 Audit		N/A	\$1000	\$1000
2022 Annual Audit		N/A	\$1000	\$1000
2021 Annual Audit		N/A	\$1000	\$1000
				Total: 5000.00

All required notices were sent to this campaign account for the above listed report(s).

Prior Waiver and Fees

Report	Late Fee	Waiver/payment	Referred OSP
1/18/17	\$500	Waived	yes
11/22/16	\$10	paid	N/A
3/22/16	\$20	paid	N/A

Recent Financial Activity History

Report	Contributions	Expenditures	Cash Balance	Outstanding/ Loans/ Obligations
1/18/23	\$66,831.00	\$6,000.00	\$213,651.00	\$0
	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$

Reason for Waiver

The committee states they sent all documents to the auditor to work through, but five of the reports have not been filed.

Division Comments

Deny

*

The basis for the request

The request must provide just cause for the waiver of the late fee(s).

On May 12, I sent all available bank statements to Diane Zagorski with the Audit & Enforcement Unit & Campaign Finance Division. This was for the purpose of them conducting an audit. She had informed me that the audit may not be completed in time to avoid any fines. I was willing to accept this in order to have everything straightened out once and for all. We have nothing to hide and was completely transparent and cooperative in getting her all of the required material she needed to perform her task. On May 22 she emailed me to inform me the audit was completed except for a Administrative correction which was outstanding. Also on May 22nd I wrote and mailed a check for \$1,200 for Civil penalties associated with the findings of the audit. On June 2, Msrs. Zagorski informed me that the Administrative correction was corrected, but there was a \$4 item which needed to be changed from Administrative to Electoral. I had attempted to make this \$4 correction and thought I had successfully done so and was under the impression that all was good and this matter was behind us. I continued to receive correspondence that the fine was still running. I thought that the check I had written for \$1,200 had simply not been received yet. On June 13th I called Mrs. Zagorski to inquire why I was still getting mail that the fine was still running and she informed me that the \$4 correction had not been done properly. The Campaign Finance website is less the user friendly to say the least. On June 13th I was given instructions on how to correct the issue and had done so . On June 21st I went on the website and noticed the fines were still running. I immediately called Mrs. Zagorski to inquire why this is still happening and was directed to this website to request a waiver. So here I am begging for mercy and forgiveness of these fines in excess of the \$1,200 previously paid on May 22. I will hire some kind of Professional consultant that is proficient in navigating the Campaign Finance website moving forward, because I find it hard to believe that most people don't find this website difficult to navigate. It is used so infrequently that it is unlikely that others aren't having the same problems as us. The discrepancies began years ago as the previous Treasurers in our organization had not reported properly and these errors were compounded. I feel like I'm starting to ramble on, so I hope you will open up your hearts and waive these running fines. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me directly.

Thank you for your consideration,

Gary Glab

Print Name and Date:

By printing your name below, you certify that the information provided is true and accurate to the best of your knowledge and under the penalties of perjury.

Gary Glab 6/22/23

This form was created inside of State of Maryland.

Google Forms

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS P.O. BOX 6486, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401-0486 PHONE (410) 269-2840

William G. Voelp, Chairman Carlos Ayala Janet Millenson Michael G. Summers Yaakov "Jake" Weissman



Linda H. Lamone Administrator

Nikki Charlson Deputy Administrator

Memorandum

TO:	State Board Members
FROM:	Jared DeMarinis, Director Division of Candidacy and Campaign Finance
DATE:	August 29, 2023
SUBJECT:	Waiver of late filing fees – Persons Doing Public Business, Title 14 of the Election Law Article

Enclosed are the waiver requests, which were submitted by businesses that have been assessed late filing fees. The attached Waiver Request Information Page contains an overview of each entity as well as the Agency's recommendation to the Board.

The Board should consider the following factors in determining whether just cause exists to grant a waiver.

- 1. Administrative error of any kind on the part of the Division.
- 2. The lateness is due to extenuating circumstances, i.e. physical illness or death in the family; or
- 3. Computer problems occurred which made timely filing impossible. However, the filer still must have demonstrated a good faith effort to timely file.

Prior to the meeting please review each waiver request. Note the recommendations that you may disagree with or have questions on that you would like to discuss.

§ 14-107(c) Late Filing Fees

- (1) As provided in this subsection, the State Board may impose fees for late filing of:
 - (i) a statement required under § 14–104 of this title; or
 - (ii) an amended statement required under subsection (b) of this section.
- (2) The State Board may impose late filing fees in the same amounts and in the same manner as provided under § 13–331(a) and (b) of this article for late filing of campaign finance reports.
- (3) Late filing fees imposed under this subsection shall be distributed to the Fair Campaign Financing Fund.

Pursuant to COMAR 33.20.07.01C, the State Administrator has denied six late fee waiver request. No Board action is required on the denials.

Late fees collected year to date for Title 14 Late Fee Waivers are 24,254.00.

Title 14 Person Doing Business

- 1. City of Rockville
- 2. American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
- 3. ASLAN REALTY PARTNERS IV, L.L.C

Denied

- 1. Banner Ridge Partners LP
- 2. Baltimore Jewish Council
- 3. Bensky Construction
- 4. BPA Sales, LP dba Cigars International
- 5. Sagamore Whiskey LLC
- 6. Maryland Care Inc

Business Contribution Disclosure System

General	
Account Name	City of Rockville
BID ID:	14001418
Date Established	10/27/22
Date Waiver Requested	7/27/23
Account Type	Title 14-Person Doing Public Business

Officers

Current Filer	Linda Moran	Start Date: 10/27/22
Principal Officer	Robert DiSpirito	Start Date: 10/27/22

Waiver Request Dates

Late Report	Date Received	Fees	Total Fees
11/30/22	7/27/23	\$1000	\$1000
5/31/23	7/27/23	\$1000	\$1000
			Total: \$1000.00

All required notices were sent to this campaign account for the above listed report(s).

Prior Waiver and Fees

Report	Late Fee	Waiver/payment	Referred OSP
N/A	\$		

Reason for Waiver Per Ethics, they will not prosecute.

Agency Comments

Grant

On Thu, Jul 27, 2023 at 12:51 PM Linda Moran < Imoran@rockvillemd.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon, Ms. Thompson

Thank you four your email. Please see the following in response:

In November, I made multiple attempts to log on and fill out the forms; I was unsuccessful.

Over the past several months, I made multiple attempts to contact the State Board of Elections staff by phone and was never able to get through to staff.

After receiving your email today, I called the Board of Elections and was finally able to speak with someone who helped me complete the forms while we spoke on the phone.

The Board of Elections staff confirmed that the November 2022 and May 2023 reports have been completed.

Additionally, I reached out to the State Prosecutor and am awaiting her email which will contain an affidavit form for a waiver for the fall late fee. Additionally, I filled out a waiver for the May fees with the State Board of Elections.

The City is a non-partisan government entity. We will submit a zero report each time.

I appreciate your outreach and hope that you find this information to be helpful.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Have a nice day.

Regards,

Linda Moran

Assistant to the City Manager

City of Rockville

111 Maryland Avenue

Rockville, Maryland 20850

P: 240-314-8115

www.rockvillemd.gov

Business Contribution Disclosure System

General	
Account Name	American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
BID ID:	14001596
Date Established	5/02/22
Date Waiver Requested	6/13/23
Account Type	Title 14-Person Doing Public Business

Waiver Request Information Page-Late Fees

Officers

Current Filer	John Hoctor	Start Date: 5/02/22
Principal Officer	John Hoctor	Start Date: 5/02/22

Waiver Request Dates

Late Report	Date Received	Fees	Total Fees
5/31/23	6/05/23	\$100	\$100
		\$	\$
			Total: \$100.00

All required notices were sent to this campaign account for the above listed report(s).

Prior Waiver and Fees

Report	Late Fee	Waiver/payment	Referred OSP
N/A	\$		

Reason for Waiver

The business states it received a message on 5/30 for the filing on 5/31. As the business was not familiar with the system they call the 800 number for instructions but did not receive an answer until 6/5 after receiving instructions they were able to file the report.

Agency Comments

Grant

Waiver of late fees for the following Business Contribution Disclosure Statement Report (s): * Check the Business Disclosure Report(s) that apply.
Spring Business Contribution Statement
Fall Business Contribution Statement

None - Submitting MDCRIS

Total Amount of late fee(s) \$ *

100.00

The basis for the request

The request must provide just cause for the waiver of the late fee(s).

Message sent on 5/30 for next day filing received while traveling. No one was reachable on the 800 number attached to the email and there were no attached instructions for filing combined with my complete unfamiliarity with website caused a delay in my filing. Ms. Dave was great help and sent instructions, but this happened on Monday 6/5. I was able to immediately file after receiving instructions from Ms. Dave but up to that point had no clear direction for filing and respectfully ask for a waiver for this filing late fee.

*

Print Name and Date:

By printing your name below, you certify that the information provided is true and accurate to the best of your knowledge and under the penalties of perjury.

John Hoctor

This form was created inside of State of Maryland.

Google Forms

Business Contribution Disclosure System

General	
Account Name	ASLAN REALTY PARTNERS IV, L.L.C.
BID ID:	14001264
Date Established	1/28/22
Date Waiver Requested	8/08/23
Account Type	Title 14-Person Doing Public Business

Waiver Request Information Page-Late Fees

Officers

Current Filer	Michael Raczka	Start Date: 1/28/22
Principal Officer	Michael Raczka	Start Date: 1/28/22

Waiver Request Dates

Late Report	Date Received	Fees	Total Fees
5/31/23	6/02/23	\$40	\$40
		\$	\$
			Total: \$40.00

All required notices were sent to this campaign account for the above listed report(s).

Prior Waiver and Fees

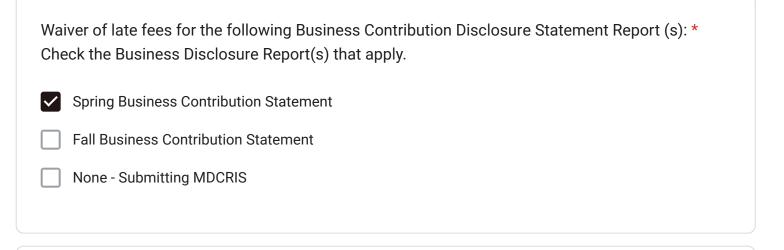
Report	Late Fee	Waiver/payment	Referred OSP
N/A	\$		

Reason for Waiver

The business states the submission did not process the first time it was submitted.

Agency Comments

Grant



Total Amount of late fee(s) \$ *

40

The basis for the request

The request must provide just cause for the waiver of the late fee(s).

My submissions did not process when I initially attempted to submit them, which is why we filed late. Can you please waive these fees? Thank you.

*

Print Name and Date:

By printing your name below, you certify that the information provided is true and accurate to the best of your knowledge and under the penalties of perjury.

Michael Raczka

This form was created inside of State of Maryland.

General	
Account Name	Baltimore Jewish Council
BID ID:	14001503
Date Established	10/01/22
Date Waiver Requested	7/20/23
Account Type	Title 14-Person Doing Public Business

Waiver Request Information Page-Late Fees

Officers

Current Filer	Howard Libit	Start Date: 10/01/22
Principal Officer	Howard Libit	Start Date: 10/01/22

Waiver Request Dates

Late Report	Date Received	Fees	Total Fees
5/31/23	6/30/23	\$1000	\$1000
		\$	\$
			Total: \$1000.00

All required notices were sent to this campaign account for the above listed report(s).

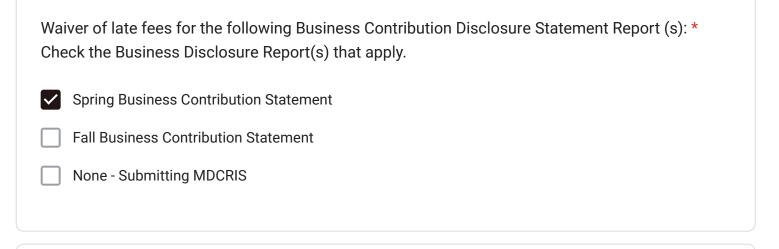
Prior Waiver and Fees

Report	Late Fee	Waiver/payment	Referred OSP
N/A	\$		

Reason for Waiver

The business states the report was filed late because they did not understand the process. As the business hd filed in October of 22 they thought it was an annual thing.

Agency Comments



Total Amount of late fee(s) \$ *

1000

The basis for the request

The request must provide just cause for the waiver of the late fee(s).

I apologize for the late filing of our spring report. I had thought (incorrectly) that this new requirement was an annual requirement, and I knew that we had filed back in October. I was wrong, and when I learned this morning that we were a month late, I immediately contacted the Board of Elections and filed the necessary report. We request a waiver of the fine, as all of us learn about meeting the new requirements.

Print Name and Date: By printing your name below, you certify that the information provided is true and accurate to the best of your knowledge and under the penalties of perjury.

Howard Libit

This form was created inside of State of Maryland.

General	
Account Name	Banner Ridge Partners LP
BID ID:	14001290
Date Established	3/15/22
Date Waiver Requested	7/20/23
Account Type	Title 14-Person Doing Public Business

Waiver Request Information Page-Late Fees

Officers

Current Filer	Anthony Cusano	Start Date: 3/15/22
Principal Officer	Anthony Cusano	Start Date: 3/15/22

Waiver Request Dates

Late Report	Date Received	Fees	Total Fees
5/31/23	7/01/23	\$1000	\$1000
		\$	\$
			Total: \$1000.00

All required notices were sent to this campaign account for the above listed report(s).

Prior Waiver and Fees

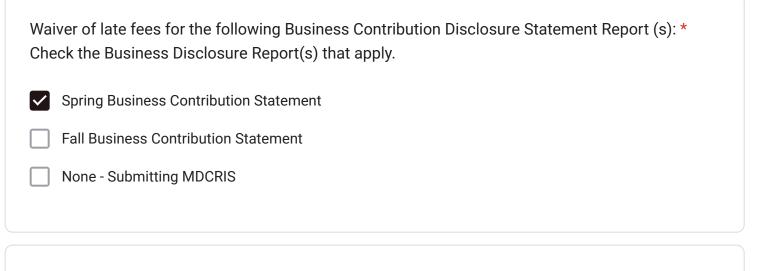
Report	Late Fee	Waiver/payment	Referred OSP
11/30/22	\$140	paid	N/A

Reason for Waiver

The business states they do not make political donations and did not realize they had to continue to file.

Agency Comments

*



Total Amount of late fee(s) \$ *

1000

The basis for the request

The request must provide just cause for the waiver of the late fee(s).

We do not make political contributions and didn't realize we have to continue to file.

Print Name and Date:

By printing your name below, you certify that the information provided is true and accurate to the best of your knowledge and under the penalties of perjury.

Anthony Cusano

This form was created inside of State of Maryland.

General	
Account Name	Bensky Construction
BID ID:	14001145
Date Established	6/22/20
Date Waiver Requested	8/08/23
Account Type	Title 14-Person Doing Public Business

Waiver Request Information Page-Late Fees

Officers

Current Filer	Howard Bensky	Start Date: 6/22/20
Principal Officer	Howard Bensky	Start Date: 6/22/20

Waiver Request Dates

Late Report	Date Received	Fees	Total Fees
5/31/23	6/05/23	\$100	\$100
		\$	\$
			Total: \$100.00

All required notices were sent to this campaign account for the above listed report(s).

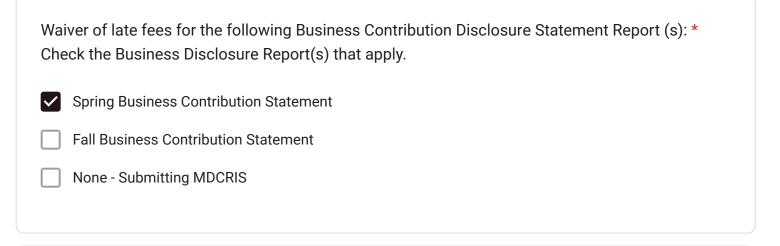
Prior Waiver and Fees

Report	Late Fee	Waiver/payment	Referred OSP
N/A	\$		

Reason for Waiver

The business states they mailed the report to SBE but it was returned for postage, they then filed online but it was already late.

Agency Comments



Total Amount of late fee(s) \$ *

100

The basis for the request

The request must provide just cause for the waiver of the late fee(s).

We had mailed in the Contribution Disclosure Report to the State Board the week it was due (5/31/23). It had been returned to our offices that Friday for misspotage. On Monday when back in the office & checked mail we realized it would be too late to re-send via mail again, properly. Therefore, we just did the disclosure online.

*

Print Name and Date: By printing your name below, you certify that the information provided is true and accurate to the best of your knowledge and under the penalties of perjury.

Amber Bensky Aug. 7, 2023

This form was created inside of State of Maryland.

General	
Account Name	BPA Sales, LP dba Cigars International
BID ID:	14000233
Date Established	1/01/15
Date Waiver Requested	7/20/23
Account Type	Title 14-Person Doing Public Business

Waiver Request Information Page-Late Fees

Officers

Current Filer	Steven Hicks	Start Date: 5/29/20
Principal Officer	Sarah Santos	Start Date: 1/01/15

Waiver Request Dates

Late Report	Date Received	Fees	Total Fees
5/31/23	6/30/23	\$1000	\$1000
		\$	\$
			Total: \$1000.00

All required notices were sent to this campaign account for the above listed report(s).

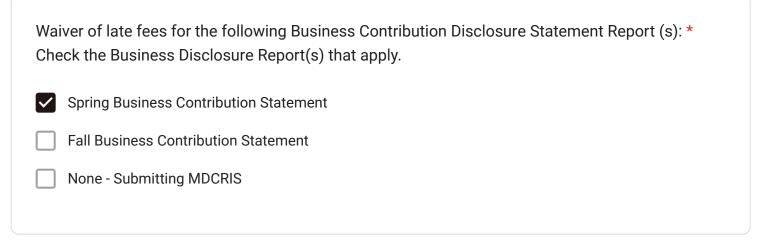
Prior Waiver and Fees

Report	Late Fee	Waiver/payment	Referred OSP
11/30/15	\$10	paid	N/A

Reason for Waiver

The business states they did not receive the pre-notice, when they received the fee running notice the report was filed immediately.

Agency Comments



Total Amount of late fee(s) \$ *

1,000.00

The basis for the request

The request must provide just cause for the waiver of the late fee(s).

I am submitting this request for fee waiver on behalf of BPA Sales, LP DBA Cigars International as a Pre-Notice was not received and upon the receipt of the Fee Running Notice received today, the Contribution Disclosure report was filed immediately. Your consideration of this waiver is very much appreciated. Thank you.

Print Name and Date:

By printing your name below, you certify that the information provided is true and accurate to the best of your knowledge and under the penalties of perjury.

Victoria A. Munson 06/30/2023

This form was created inside of State of Maryland.

General	
Account Name	Maryland Care Inc
BID ID:	14001713
Date Established	11/02/22
Date Waiver Requested	7/11/23
Account Type	Title 14-Person Doing Public Business

Waiver Request Information Page-Late Fees

Officers

Current Filer	Jason Rottman	Start Date: 11/02/22
Principal Officer	Jason Rottman	Start Date: 11/02/22

Waiver Request Dates

Late Report	Date Received	Fees	Total Fees
5/31/23	6/13/23	\$350	\$350
		\$	\$
			Total: \$350.00

All required notices were sent to this campaign account for the above listed report(s).

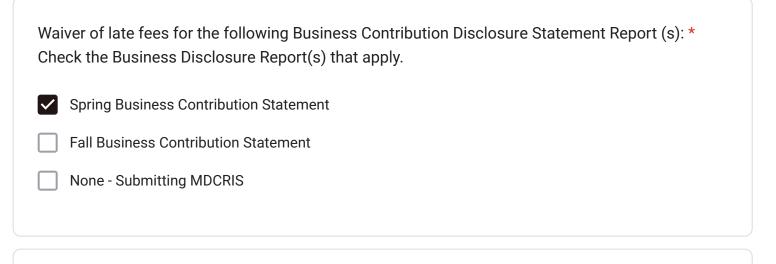
Prior Waiver and Fees

Report	Late Fee	Waiver/payment	Referred OSP
N/A	\$		

Reason for Waiver

The business states they encounter some difficulty while navigating the system and initial setup.

Agency Comments



Total Amount of late fee(s) \$ *

350.00

The basis for the request

The request must provide just cause for the waiver of the late fee(s).

Filing reports in this way was new for MCI. We encountered some technical difficulties while completing the account set up and navigating the interface.

*

Print Name and Date:

By printing your name below, you certify that the information provided is true and accurate to the best of your knowledge and under the penalties of perjury.

Jason Rottman

This form was created inside of State of Maryland.

General	
Account Name	Sagamore Whiskey LLC
BID ID:	14001222
Date Established	6/29/21
Date Waiver Requested	7/11/23
Account Type	Title 14-Person Doing Public Business

Waiver Request Information Page-Late Fees

Officers

Current Filer	Amy Schreiber	Start Date: 6/29/21
Principal Officer	Brian Treacy	Start Date: 6/29/21

Waiver Request Dates

Late Report	Date Received	Fees	Total Fees
5/31/23	7/06/23	\$1000	\$1000
		\$	\$
			Total: \$1000.00

All required notices were sent to this campaign account for the above listed report(s).

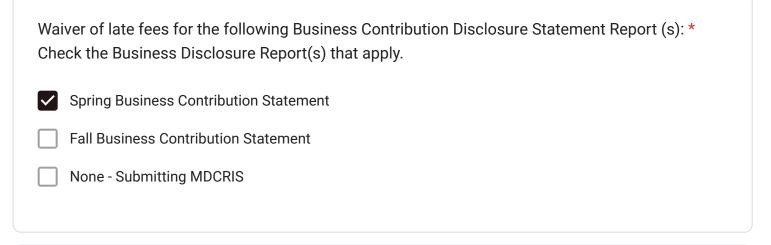
Prior Waiver and Fees

Report	Late Fee	Waiver/payment	Referred OSP
N/A	\$		

Reason for Waiver

The business states the principal officer and the filer were both fired in March of 2023 they were the only ones who had access or knowledge of the filing.

Agency Comments



Total Amount of late fee(s) \$ *

1000

The basis for the request

The request must provide just cause for the waiver of the late fee(s).

Our President (Officer) Brian Treacy and his Filer (Amy Schreiber) were simultaneously terminated from our business in March. They were the only two members of our organization with access to the filing system or awareness of the filing requirement. It subsequently came to my attention this was a requirement in July and I was able to get into the system and file and add myself to handle this requirement moving forward. I am requesting forgiveness of this fine this one time, as we had \$0 contributions and were managing through a substantial organizational transition.

Print Name and Date: By printing your name below, you certify that the information provided is true and accurate to the best of your knowledge and under the penalties of perjury.

Andrew Thorn

This form was created inside of State of Maryland.