



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20463

SENSITIVE

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of)	
)	MUR 5843
Association of Community Organizations)	
For Reform Now (ACORN))	
Give Missouriians a Raise, Inc. and)	
Sherwin Carroll in his official)	
capacity as treasurer)	

Statement of Reasons
Chairman Robert D. Lenhard and
Commissioner Ellen L. Weintraub

On October 10, 2007, the Commission voted to dismiss the allegations that the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now and Give Missouriians a Raise, Inc. and Sherwin Carroll, in his official capacity as Treasurer, failed to register as political committees and failed to file disclosure reports, in violation of 2 U.S.C. §§ 433 and 434(a). The complaint, filed by the Missouri Republican State Committee, alleged, based on an Internet video featuring a disgruntled former employee of ACORN and a related news story, that three people had directed ACORN workers to solicit votes for Senate candidate Claire McCaskill. ACORN provided sworn statements denying the allegations. Accordingly, the Office of General Counsel (OGC) recommended that the Commission find no reason to believe (NO RTB) that a violation occurred. However, some commissioners felt that because ACORN had not submitted a statement from one individual identified in the video that dismissal was more appropriate.¹

¹ Although ACORN submitted sworn statements from the disgruntled former employee's supervisor and two individuals from the St. Louis office who conducted the training at which the instruction was allegedly given, ACORN did not submit an affidavit from the Kansas City individual who was named in the internet video.

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While we would have supported a NO RTB finding, as recommended by OGC, we agreed to dismiss this matter because it comported with our belief that a finding of RTB was unwarranted.

Robert D. Lenhard (ATD)

Robert D. Lenhard
Chairman

12/20/07

Date

Ellen L. Weintraub

Ellen L. Weintraub
Commissioner

12/20/07

Date

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