

# AGENDA DOCUMENT NO. 08-06 APPROVED APRIL 17, 2008

#### MINUTES OF AN OPEN MEETING

OF THE

**FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION** 

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2008

PRESENT:

David M. Mason, Chairman, presiding

Ellen L. Weintraub, Vice Chair

Patrina M. Clark, Staff Director

Thomasenia P. Duncan, General Counsel

Mary W. Dove, Secretary

Chairman David M. Mason called the Federal Election

Commission to order in an open meeting at 10:05 A.M. on Thursday,

January 24, 2008, with an established quorum of two Commissioners

under the revised Directive 10. He noted the revised directive sets forth

the Commission's procedures for meetings and other procedures in the

absence of four Commissioners. There are certain actions under the Act

which require the vote of four Commissioners; however, there are other

actions the Commission can take and this revised internal directive

allows the Commission to continue to meet and conduct business with

only two Commissioners present. The revised Directive 10 will be

published in the Federal Register in the near future, and it is available

now to anyone who is interested.

#### I. CORRECTION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for December 14, 2007 Agenda Document No. 08-01

Chairman Mason recognized Commissioner Weintraub, who

MOVED to approve the minutes of the Open Meeting for December 14, 2007, as set forth in Agenda Document No. 08-01.

The motion carried on the vote of 2-0 with Commissioners

Mason and Weintraub voting affirmatively.

#### II. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Chairman Mason moved to elect Commissioner Weintraub as Vice Chair of the Commission.

The motion carried on the vote of 2-0 with Commissioners Mason and Weintraub voting affirmatively.

#### III. ADVISORY OPINIONS

A. <u>Draft Advisory Opinion 2007-32</u>
SpeechNow.org by counsel, Bradley A. Smith,
Stephen M. Hoersting, William H. "Chip" Mellor,
Steven Simpson, and Paul M. Sherman

Agenda Document No. 08-04 (submitted late)

Chairman Mason recognized Vice Chair Weintraub, who

MOVED to suspend the rules on the timely submission of agenda documents in order to consider Agenda Document No. 08-04.

The motion carried on the vote of 2-0.

Chairman Mason recognized Ms. Esa Sferra of the General

Counsel's Office who presented draft Advisory Opinion 2007-32

concerning the application of the Federal Election Campaign Act of

1971, as amended (the "Act" or "FECA"), and Commission regulations to

### III. <u>ADVISORY OPINIONS</u> (continued)

A. <u>Draft Advisory Opinion 2007-32</u> (continued)

SpeechNow's status as a political committee and funds received by SpeechNow.

A discussion was held, and prior to making a motion, the Vice

Chair noted that although they could not issue formal advisory opinions,

it was decided that motions would be made in order to reflect their

positions.

Vice Chair Weintraub moved to approve draft Advisory Opinion 2007-32, as set forth in Agenda Document No. 08-04.

The motion failed by a vote of 1-1 with Vice Chair Weintraub voting affirmatively and Chairman Mason dissenting.

The Chairman stated a letter would be prepared by the General Counsel's Office to be sent to the requester, stating the Commission was unable to render an opinion and that the revised draft, containing technical amendments, would be posted on the FEC Web site.

B. <u>Draft Advisory Opinion 2007-35</u>
FreeCause, Inc. by counsel, Joseph E. Sandler,
Neil P. Reiff, and Jonathan Zucker

Agenda Document No. 08-05 (submitted late)

## III. ADVISORY OPINIONS (continued)

B. <u>Draft Advisory Opinion 2007-35</u> (continued)

Chairman Mason recognized Vice Chair Weintraub, who

MOVED to suspend the rules on the timely submission of agenda documents in order to consider Agenda Document No. 08-05.

The motion carried on the vote of 2-0.

The Chairman recognized Mr. Eric Hallstrom of the General Counsel's Office who presented draft Advisory Opinion 2007-35 concerning the application of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (the "Act"), and Commission regulations to a proposed affinity program involving Internet browser toolbars.

The Chairman recognized Vice Chair Weintraub, who

MOVED to approve draft Advisory Opinion 2007-35, as set forth in Agenda Document No. 08-05.

The motion failed on the vote of 2-0.

The Chairman noted the General Counsel's Office would send an appropriate letter to the requester, and the draft Advisory Opinion would be posted on the FEC Web site.

III. ADVISORY OPINIONS (continued)

C. <u>Draft Advisory Opinion 2007-36</u>

People for Pete Domenici by counsel,
Donald F. McGahn II

Agenda Document No. 08-02

This request was withdrawn by the requester.

As there was no further business to come before the

Commission, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 A.M.

Signed:

David M. Mason

**Chairman of the Commission** 

Attest:

Mary W. Dove

Secretary of the Commission

Mary It. Dove