



**AGENDA DOCUMENT NO. 16-09-A**  
**APPROVED APRIL 14, 2016**

**MINUTES OF AN OPEN MEETING**

**OF THE**

**FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2016**

**PRESENT:**                    **Matthew S. Petersen, Chairman, presiding**

**Steven T. Walther, Vice Chairman**

**Lee E. Goodman, Commissioner**

**Caroline C. Hunter, Commissioner**

**Ann M. Ravel, Commissioner**

**Ellen L. Weintraub, Commissioner**

**Alec Palmer, Staff Director**

**Daniel Petalas, Acting General Counsel**

**Shawn Woodhead Werth, Secretary and Clerk**

**Chairman Matthew S. Petersen called the Federal Election Commission to order in an open meeting at 10:12 A.M. on Thursday, February 25, 2016 with a quorum present.**

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**I. DRAFT ADVISORY OPINION 2015-16**

**Niger Innis for Congress by Dan Backer, Esq.**

**Agenda Document No. 16-07-A (Draft A)**

**Agenda Document No. 16-07-B (Draft B)**

**(Held over from the February 11, 2016 meeting)**

**Chairman Petersen recognized Mr. Backer, requestor's counsel, who was available to answer Commissioners' questions.**

**Chairman Petersen recognized Ms. Jessica Selinkoff of the General Counsel's Office who introduced the draft advisory opinion concerning the application of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, and the Commission regulations to the request.**

**Chairman Petersen recognized Vice Chairman Walther who**

**MOVED to approve Agenda Document No. 16-07-B, Draft B, except for the response to Question 2.**

**The motion carried by a vote of 5-1 with Commissioners Hunter, Petersen, Ravel, Walther, and Weintraub voting affirmatively for the decision. Commissioner Goodman dissented.**

**Chairman Petersen recognized Vice Chairman Walther who**

**MOVED to approve the response to Question 2 in Agenda  
Document No. 16-07-A, Draft A.**

**The motion failed by a vote of 3-3 with Commissioners Ravel, Walther, and  
Weintraub voting affirmatively for the motion. Commissioners Goodman, Hunter,  
and Petersen dissented.**

**Chairman Petersen recognized Commissioner Hunter who**

**MOVED to approve the response to Question 2 in Agenda  
Document No. 16-07-B, Draft B.**

**The motion failed by a vote of 3-3 with Commissioners Goodman, Hunter,  
and Petersen voting affirmatively for the motion. Commissioners Ravel, Walther,  
and Weintraub dissented.**

**Mr. Backer and Mr. Adav Noti of the General Counsel's Office participated in  
the discussion that followed.**

**II. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**There being no further business to come before the Commission,  
the meeting adjourned at 10:17 A.M.**

**Signed:**



**Matthew S. Petersen**

**Chairman of the Commission**

**Attest:**



**Shawn Woodhead Werth**

**Secretary and Clerk of the Commission**