

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION**FIRST GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT****MUR: 7821**

DATE COMPLAINT FILED: Oct. 16, 2020

DATE OF NOTIFICATIONS: Oct. 22, 2020

LAST RESPONSE RECEIVED: Dec. 21, 2020

DATE ACTIVATED: Mar. 11, 2021

EXPIRATION OF SOL: Oct. 29, 2025

ELECTION CYCLE: 2020

COMPLAINANTS:

Justin Riemer, Republican National Committee

Matthew Raymer, Republican National Committee

RESPONDENT:

Twitter, Inc.

MUR: 7827

DATE COMPLAINT FILED: Oct. 21, 2020

DATE OF NOTIFICATIONS: Oct. 23, 2020

LAST RESPONSE RECEIVED: Dec. 21, 2020

DATE ACTIVATED: Mar. 11, 2021

EXPIRATION OF SOL: Oct. 29, 2025

ELECTION CYCLE: 2020

COMPLAINANT:

Jenny Beth Martin, Tea Party Patriots Foundation

RESPONDENTS:

Twitter, Inc.

Jack Dorsey

Brandon Borrman

MUR: 7868

DATE COMPLAINT FILED: Jan. 12, 2021

DATE OF NOTIFICATIONS: Jan. 15, 2021

LAST RESPONSE RECEIVED: Mar. 5, 2021

DATE ACTIVATED: Mar. 11, 2021

EXPIRATION OF SOL: Oct. 14, 2025

ELECTION CYCLE: 2020

COMPLAINANT:

Tony K. McDonald

1	RESPONDENTS:	Twitter, Inc.
2		Biden for President and Andrea Wise in her official
3		capacity as treasurer
4		
5	RELEVANT STATUTES	52 U.S.C. § 30104(b)(3)(A)
6	AND REGULATIONS:	52 U.S.C. § 30118(a)
7		11 C.F.R. § 104.3(a)
8		11 C.F.R. § 114.2
9		
10	INTERNAL REPORTS CHECKED:	Disclosure Reports
11		
12	FEDERAL AGENCIES CHECKED:	None

13 I. INTRODUCTION

14 These matters arise from three Complaints alleging that, by suppressing negative
 15 information regarding 2020 presidential candidate Joseph R. Biden, Twitter, Inc. (“Twitter”),
 16 made a prohibited corporate in-kind contribution to Biden and his authorized committee, Biden
 17 for President and Andrea Wise in her official capacity as treasurer (the “Biden Committee”), in
 18 violation of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (the “Act”). Specifically,
 19 the Complaints allege that Twitter made an in-kind contribution when it blocked users from
 20 tweeting links to or certain information derived from a series of October 2020 *New York Post*
 21 articles that published materials discovered on a laptop allegedly belonging to Biden’s son,
 22 Hunter Biden.

23 The Complaint in MUR 7868 further alleges that Twitter made in-kind contributions to
 24 the Biden Committee by limiting the visibility of, or “shadow banning,” Republican users on its
 25 platform; suppressing distribution of an interview of an alleged former business associate of
 26 Hunter Biden; blocking coverage of post-2020 election lawsuits; and labeling pre- and post-
 27 election tweets from Biden’s general election opponent, Donald J. Trump, regarding supposed
 28 election fraud and the election results. The MUR 7868 Complaint also alleges that, by virtue of
 29 an individual who worked for Twitter later joining the Biden team, the Biden Committee

1 coordinated with Twitter and therefore knowingly accepted the prohibited corporate
2 contributions.

3 Respondents deny the allegations. Twitter states that it (1) blocked users from sharing
4 links to and posting certain information from the *New York Post* articles relating to hacked and
5 personal information and (2) labeled Trump's tweets regarding election fraud and election
6 results. It argues that it did not make a contribution because these actions were undertaken for
7 *bona fide* commercial reasons and not for the purpose of influencing a federal election. Twitter
8 denies the remaining allegations that it limited visibility of Republican users, suppressed
9 distribution of an interview, or limited coverage of election lawsuits, asserting that the Complaint
10 does not submit any reliable evidence that such actions occurred. The Biden Committee states in

11 1

12 MUR 7868, that it did not coordinate with Twitter.

13 As discussed below, Twitter has credibly explained that it acted with a commercial
14 motivation in response to the *New York Post* articles rather than with an electoral purpose. With
15 respect to its actions concerning Trump's tweets, there is no evidence that Twitter coordinated its
16 actions with the Biden Committee, and as such, the actions did not constitute contributions.
17 Finally, the remaining allegations that Twitter limited the visibility of Republican users,
18 suppressed distribution of an interview, and limited coverage of election lawsuits are vague,
19 speculative, and unsupported by the available information. Therefore, we recommend that the
20 Commission find no reason to believe that Twitter violated 52 U.S.C. § 30118(a) and 11 C.F.R.
21 § 114.2(b) by making prohibited in-kind corporate contributions; find no reason to believe that
22 Jack Dorsey, Twitter's CEO, and Brandon Borrman, Twitter's Vice President, Global

¹ See MUR 7869

1 Communications, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30118(a) and 11 C.F.R. § 114.2(b) by consenting to
2 prohibited corporate contributions; and find no reason to believe that the Biden Committee
3 knowingly accepted or received and failed to report such contributions in violation of 52 U.S.C.
4 §§ 30104(b)(3)(A), 30118(a) and 11 C.F.R. §§ 104.3(a), 114.2.

5 **II. FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

6 Twitter is a social media platform and public Delaware corporation; it states that it
7 derives the majority of its revenue from advertising.² The platform allows users to publish
8 tweets, which are 280-character-or-less posts, which may include pictures, videos, or links.³
9 Jack Dorsey is Twitter's CEO, and Brandon Borman is Twitter's Vice President of Global
10 Communications.⁴ Biden for President is 2020 presidential candidate Joe Biden's authorized
11 committee, and Andrea Wise is its treasurer.⁵ The Complaints allege that Twitter, by
12 suppressing negative information regarding Biden and taking certain actions directed against
13 Trump and his supporters, all of which are detailed below, did so "for the clear purpose of
14 supporting the Biden campaign."⁶

² Resp. at 2 (Dec. 21, 2020), MUR 7821 [hereinafter MUR 7821 Twitter Resp.].

³ *See generally* TWITTER, <https://twitter.com> (last visited June 2, 2021); *About*, TWITTER, <https://about.twitter.com/en/who-we-are/our-company> (last visited June 2, 2021) ("Twitter is an open service that's home to a world of diverse people, perspectives, ideas, and information.").

⁴ Compl. at 1 (Oct. 21, 2020), MUR 7827 [hereinafter MUR 7827 Compl.]; MUR 7821 Twitter Resp. at 2; *About*, TWITTER, <https://about.twitter.com/en/who-we-are/our-company> (last visited June 2, 2021). Borman and Dorsey submitted a joint Response with Twitter in MUR 7827. Resp. (Dec. 21, 2020), MUR 7827 [hereinafter MUR 7827 Twitter Resp.].

⁵ Biden for President, Statement of Organization (Jan. 12, 2021), <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/224/202101129398457224/202101129398457224.pdf>.

⁶ Compl. at 1 (Oct. 16, 2020), MUR 7821 [hereinafter MUR 7821 Compl.]; *accord* MUR 7827 Compl. at 2; Compl. at 1 (Jan. 12, 2021), MUR 7868 [hereinafter MUR 7868 Compl.].

1 **A. Twitter's Content Policies**

2 Twitter asserts that it has enacted a number of content policies, which are enforced by its
 3 Site Integrity Team, part of Twitter's larger Trust & Safety Team.⁷ Twitter states that, "as a core
 4 commercial objective," it enacted these policies as part of its efforts to concentrate on the
 5 "reduction of abuse, harassment, spam, manipulation and malicious automation on the
 6 platform."⁸ In its public securities filings, Twitter has identified that "a decrease in the
 7 perceived quality, usefulness, trustworthiness or relevance of the content generated by people on
 8 Twitter or content partners" may have a "potentially negative" effect on its business.⁹

9 As relevant here, Twitter's policies include the following:

- 10 • **Distribution of Hacked Materials Policy.** Prohibits users from
 11 distributing hacked materials, including by posting hacked content directly
 12 or by linking to hacked content hosted on other websites, but provides that
 13 users "can discuss a hack that has taken place."¹⁰
 14
 15

⁷ MUR 7821 Twitter Resp. at 3; *id.*, Ex. A (Decl. of Yoel Roth, Head of Site Integrity, Twitter) [hereinafter Roth Decl.]; Twitter Resp. at 4 (Mar. 5, 2021), MUR 7868 [hereinafter MUR 7868 Twitter Resp.]. Twitter's Terms of Service specify that Twitter has the authority to "remove or refuse to distribute any Content, . . . limit distribution or visibility of any Content, . . . suspend or terminate users, and reclaim usernames." *Twitter Terms of Service*, TWITTER (June 18, 2020), <https://twitter.com/en/tos>; MUR 7821 Twitter Resp. at 2.

⁸ MUR 7821 Twitter Resp. at 3 (quoting TWITTER, INC., 2020 OCTOBER QUARTERLY REPORT at 46 (Oct. 30, 2020)).

⁹ TWITTER, INC., 2020 OCTOBER QUARTERLY REPORT at 46 (Oct. 30, 2020), <https://d18rn0p25nwr6d.cloudfront.net/CIK-0001418091/cb1d93d5-13d2-4d03-96b4-c90efe5ac5fc.pdf>; *see also* TWITTER, INC., 2020 JULY QUARTERLY REPORT at 46 (July 31, 2020), <https://d18rn0p25nwr6d.cloudfront.net/CIK-0001418091/51caa042-6314-4604-92ce-98dfb080ac5b.pdf>, MUR 7821 Twitter Resp. at 2.

¹⁰ TWITTER, DISTRIBUTION OF HACKED MATERIALS POLICY (Mar. 2019) [hereinafter Twitter Hacked Materials Policy], <https://help.twitter.com/en/rules-and-policies/hacked-materials> [<https://web.archive.org/web/20200930214928/https://help.twitter.com/en/rules-and-policies/hacked-materials>]. Twitter has subsequently revised its policy to limit blocking hacked materials shared directly by the hacker; with respect to hacked materials shared by others, it may append labels providing context regarding the source of the material. *See* TWITTER, DISTRIBUTION OF HACKED MATERIALS POLICY (Oct. 2020), <https://help.twitter.com/en/rules-and-policies/hacked-materials> ("As such, we don't permit the use of our services to directly distribute content obtained through hacking by the people or groups associated with a hack. In addition, we may label Tweets containing or linking to hacked materials to help people understand the authenticity or source of these materials and provide additional context."). References to the policy throughout this Report are to the version in effect at the time Twitter took the actions at issue in these matters, dated March 2019.

- 1 • **Private Information Policy.** Prohibits Twitter users from sharing certain
 2 information about others without permission, including contact
 3 information; physical location; identity documents; financial account
 4 information; and medical records.¹¹
 5
- 6 • **Civic Integrity Policy.** Prohibits users from using Twitter to
 7 “manipulat[e] or interfere[e] in elections or other civic processes.”¹²
 8 Twitter enforces this policy by labeling or removing information deemed
 9 false or misleading and “intended to undermine public confidence in an
 10 election.”¹³ Prior to the 2020 election, Twitter publicly announced that
 11 candidates would not be permitted to “claim an election win before it is
 12 authoritatively called” by either one of a list of state election officials or
 13 two or more national news outlets.¹⁴ Twitter states that it enacted the
 14 Civil Integrity Policy to protect “the integrity of the election
 15 conversation.”¹⁵

16 **B. Twitter’s Response to the October 2020 *New York Post* Articles**

17 On October 14 and 15, 2020, the *New York Post* published three articles relating to
 18 emails purportedly obtained from a laptop belonging to Joe Biden’s son, Hunter.¹⁶ The emails

¹¹ TWITTER, PRIVATE INFORMATION POLICY (Mar. 2019) [hereinafter Twitter Private Information Policy], <https://help.twitter.com/en/rules-and-policies/personal-information>.

¹² TWITTER, CIVIC INTEGRITY POLICY (Oct. 2020) [hereinafter Twitter Civic Integrity Policy], <https://help.twitter.com/en/rules-and-policies/election-integrity-policy> [<https://web.archive.org/web/20201101021029/https://help.twitter.com/en/rules-and-policies/election-integrity-policy>]. Twitter has sense amended its policy. TWITTER, CIVIC INTEGRITY POLICY (Jan. 2021), <https://help.twitter.com/en/rules-and-policies/election-integrity-policy>. References to the policy throughout this report are to the prior version dated October 2020. The relevant portions of the Policy are substantively identical to that currently in effect.

¹³ MUR 7868 Twitter Resp. at 4.

¹⁴ Vijaya Gadde & Kayvon Beykpour, *Additional Steps We’re Taking Ahead of the 2020 US Election*, BLOG.TWITTER (Oct. 9, 2020), https://blog.twitter.com/en_us/topics/company/2020/2020-election-changes.html.

¹⁵ MUR 7868 Twitter Resp. at 4 & n.14; Twitter Safety, *Expanding Our Policies to Further Protect the Civic Conversation*, BLOG.TWITTER (Sept. 10, 2020), https://blog.twitter.com/en_us/topics/company/2020/civic-integrity-policy-update.html.

¹⁶ Emma-Jo Morris & Gabrielle Fonrouge, *Smoking-Gun Email Reveals How Hunter Biden Introduced Ukrainian Businessman to VP Dad*, N.Y. POST (Oct. 14, 2020), <https://nypost.com/2020/10/14/email-reveals-how-hunter-biden-introduced-ukrainian-biz-man-to-dad/> (cited in Compls., *passim*); Emma-Jo Morris & Gabrielle Fonrouge, *Hunter Biden Emails Show Leveraging Connections with his Father to Boost Burisma Pay*, N.Y. POST (Oct. 14, 2020), <https://nypost.com/2020/10/14/hunter-biden-emails-show-leveraging-connections-with-dad-to-boost-burisma-pay/> (cited in Compls., *passim*); Emma-Jo Morris & Gabrielle Fonrouge, *Emails Reveal How Hunter Biden Tried to Cash In Big on Behalf of Family with Chinese Firm*, N.Y. POST (Oct. 15, 2020), <https://nypost.com/2020/10/15/emails-reveal-how-hunter-biden-tried-to-cash-in-big-with-chinese-firm/> (cited in Compls., *passim*) (collectively, the “*New York Post* articles”).

1 allegedly suggested that Hunter Biden used his relationship with his father to further his business
2 dealings in Ukraine, and other materials included a video appearing to show Hunter Biden
3 engaging in illegal activity.¹⁷ The *New York Post* articles republished some of these materials.¹⁸
4 Twitter states that, on October 14, its Site Integrity Team, part of its Trust & Safety
5 department, reviewed the first of the *New York Post* articles for compliance with Twitter's
6 policies and determined that the materials were potentially obtained through hacking and that the
7 materials contained private email addresses and phone numbers.¹⁹ Twitter states that the Site
8 Integrity Team escalated the issues to leadership within Twitter's Trust & Safety department, and
9 that, pursuant to its Hacked Materials and Private Information policies, Twitter's Trust & Safety
10 leadership team determined to block users from sharing links to the *New York Post* articles and
11 prevent users who had previously shared the articles from sending new tweets until they deleted
12 their previous tweets sharing the articles.²⁰ Twitter states that all users were permitted to discuss
13 the content of the *New York Post* articles so long as they did not link to or share the articles
14 containing the hacked and private information.²¹ In a declaration submitted with Twitter's
15 Response, the head of Twitter's Site Integrity Team attests that Twitter received official
16 warnings throughout 2020 from federal law enforcement that "malign state actors" might hack

¹⁷ See MUR 7821 Compl. at 2; MUR 7821 Compl. at 2-3; MUR 7868 Compl. at 1.

¹⁸ *New York Post* articles, *supra* note 16

¹⁹ MUR 7821 Twitter Resp. at 6; Roth Decl. at 3.

²⁰ MUR 7821 Twitter Resp. at 5-7; Roth Decl. at 3. Twitter states that it does not delete users' tweets, but instead restricts them from posting additional content until they delete any tweets in violation of Twitter's policies. MUR 7821 Twitter Resp. at 7.

²¹ MUR 7821 Twitter Resp. at 7.

1 and release materials associated with political campaigns and that Hunter Biden might be a target
2 of one such operation.²²

3 C. Other Alleged Twitter Actions

4 Aside from the main allegation among the three Complaints that Twitter made an in-kind
5 contribution to the Biden campaign through its response to the *New York Post* articles, the MUR
6 7868 Complaint alleges that Twitter made contributions to the Biden Committee in several other
7 ways. First, the MUR 7868 Complaint points to labels that Twitter placed on certain of Donald
8 Trump's tweets leading up to and following the 2020 election concerning alleged voter fraud and
9 that he had won the 2020 presidential election, which stated that "claims about election fraud are
10 disputed," and that "the [Associated Press] has called the race differently."²³ Neither the MUR
11 7868 Complaint nor the Responses provide examples of Trump's tweets, which are currently
12 unavailable on the Twitter platform, or of the labels applied to these tweets. Twitter states that,
13 in addition to Trump, it similarly labeled approximately 300,000 tweets, and 456 tweets also
14 received warning messages,²⁴ including a number of tweets by Trump.²⁵ Twitter asserts that it
15 labeled tweets and issued warning messages to enforce its Civic Integrity Policy.²⁶ As discussed
16 above, prior to the election, Twitter publicly announced that candidates would not be permitted

²² *Id.* at 5-6; Roth Decl. at 2-3. The head of Twitter's Site Integrity Team, Yoel Roth, attests that: "[F]ederal law enforcement agencies communicated that they expected 'hack-and-leak operations' by state actors might occur in the period shortly before the 2020 presidential election I also learned in these meetings that there were rumors that a hack-and-leak operation would involve Hunter Biden." Roth Decl. at 2-3.

²³ MUR 7868 Compl. at 2.

²⁴ MUR 7868 Twitter Resp. at 5; Vijaya Gadde & Kayvon Beykpour, *An Update On Our Work Around the 2020 US Elections*, BLOG.TWITTER (Nov. 12, 2020), https://blog.twitter.com/en_us/topics/company/2020/2020-election-update.html.

²⁵ MUR 7868 Compl. at 2. Neither the Complaint nor the Response indicate how many of Trump's tweets were so labeled.

²⁶ MUR 7868 Twitter Resp. at 12.

1 to “claim an election win before it is authoritatively called” by either state election officials or
2 two or more national news outlets.²⁷

3 Second, the MUR 7868 Complaint alleges that Twitter “filter[ed] out, and limit[ed] the
4 reach and visibility of conservative, [R]epublican, and pro-Trump voices,”²⁸ a practice known as
5 “shadow banning.” The Complaint points to a news article covering an issue on Twitter’s
6 platform regarding auto-population of the search field, which appeared to exclude prominent
7 conservative accounts from appearing as suggested results to user searches.²⁹ Twitter
8 spokespersons contended at the time that the issue occurred due to a technological error that was
9 “not limited to a certain political affiliation or geography.”³⁰ News reports reflect that the issue
10 was resolved within a day of media outlets reporting on it.³¹ Twitter argues that the Complaint
11 has failed to present any evidence to support the allegation that it shadow banned Republican
12 accounts.³²

13 Third, the MUR 7868 Complaint alleges that Twitter suppressed coverage of an October
14 2020 Tucker Carlson interview of Tony Bobulinski, an alleged former business associate of
15 Hunter Biden, who claimed that Joe Biden had been involved in his son’s foreign business

²⁷ Gadde & Beykpour, *supra* note 14.

²⁸ MUR 7868 Compl. at 2.

²⁹ Alex Thompson, *Twitter Appears to Have Fixed “Shadow Ban” of Prominent Republicans Like the RNC Chair and Trump Jr.’s Spokesman*, VICE NEWS (July 25, 2018), <https://www.vice.com/en/article/43paqg/twitter-is-shadow-banning-prominent-republicans-like-the-rnc-chair-and-trump-jrs-spokesman> (cited in MUR 7868 Comp. at 2 n.4) (“Twitter is limiting the visibility of prominent Republicans in search results — a technique known as “shadow banning” — in what it says is a side effect of its attempts to improve the quality of discourse on the platform.”).

³⁰ Vijaya Gadde & Kayvon Beykpour, *Setting the Record Straight on Shadow Banning*, BLOG.TWITTER (July 26, 2018), https://blog.twitter.com/en_us/topics/company/2018/Setting-the-record-straight-on-shadow-banning.html; *see also* MUR 7868 Twitter Resp. at 8.

³¹ Thompson, *supra* note 29 (“**UPDATE: July 26, 10:00 AM:** Twitter appears to have adjusted its platform overnight to no longer limit the visibility of some prominent Republicans in its search results.” (emphasis in original)).

³² MUR 7868 Twitter Resp. at 7-8.

1 ventures.³³ According to a news report cited by the Complaint, Twitter users shared the video
2 over 65,000 times and the video collected “more than 115,000 likes.”³⁴ However, the interview
3 did not “trend” — *i.e.*, appear on Twitter’s list of most active topics.³⁵ The Complaint appears to
4 allege that, given the video’s popularity, Twitter must have taken action to prevent it from
5 trending on the platform.³⁶ Twitter denies that it in any way “undertook to suppress the
6 Bobulinski story” and asserts that the interview was viewed over 2.5 million times on Twitter as
7 support for its contention that it did not suppress the story.³⁷

8 Fourth, the MUR 7868 Complaint further alleges that Twitter suppressed coverage of
9 lawsuits regarding election fraud in the 2020 election,³⁸ pointing to the fact that, in November
10 2020, Twitter blocked users from linking to a lawsuit filed in Georgia challenging the state’s
11 election results, marking the link as “unsafe.”³⁹ Twitter states that this was an error, and that the
12 issue was “quickly resolved upon discovery.”⁴⁰

13 Finally, the MUR 7868 Complaint also alleges that Twitter coordinated its activities with
14 the Biden Committee, based on the fact that Twitter’s former director of public policy joined the

³³ Tucker Carlson (@TuckerCarlson), TWITTER (Oct. 27, 2020, 9:30 PM), <https://twitter.com/TuckerCarlson/status/1321263064319217665> (tweeting video of Bobulinski interview).

³⁴ Mili Godio, *Tucker Carlson’s Tony Bobulinski Interview Viewed Over 2.5 Million Times on Twitter, as Trump Says Big Tech Is Suppressing the “Biden Corruption” Story*, NEWSWEEK (Oct. 28, 2020), <https://www.newsweek.com/tucker-carlsons-tony-bobulinski-interview-viewed-over-25-million-times-twitter-trump-says-big-1543001> (cited in MUR 7868 Compl. at 2 n.2).

³⁵ *Id.*

³⁶ MUR 7868 Compl. at 2 & n.2.

³⁷ MUR 7868 Twitter Resp. at 9.

³⁸ MUR 7868 Compl. at 2 & n.3.

³⁹ *Id.* at 2; MUR 7868 Twitter Resp. at 9; Jonathan Garber, *Twitter Claims It Has Reversed Ban of Link to Sidney Powell’s Georgia Election Lawsuit*, FOX BUS. (Nov. 26, 2020), <https://www.foxbusiness.com/markets/twitter-claims-reversed-censorship-of-link-to-attorney-sidney-powells-lawsuit-seeking-to-decertify-overturn-georgia-election-results> (cited in MUR 7868 Compl. at 2 n.3).

⁴⁰ MUR 7868 Twitter Resp. at 9; *see also* Garber, *supra* note 39 (quoting Twitter spokesperson as stating, “The URL referenced was mistakenly marked under our unsafe links policy — this action has now been reversed”).

1 Biden transition team.⁴¹ Twitter and the Biden Committee both deny that they ever discussed
2 Twitter's enforcement of its policies, both generally and with respect to the actions at issue
3 here.⁴² In a sworn declaration, Twitter's Head of U.S. Public Policy states that neither she nor
4 any Twitter employees of which she is aware were contacted by the Biden Committee prior to
5 Twitter's policy enforcement determinations.⁴³ The Biden Committee states that the Biden
6 transition team, which hired a former Twitter Public Policy Director, and which the Complaint
7 alleges shows a relationship between Twitter and the Biden Committee, is a separate entity from
8 the Biden Committee.⁴⁴

9 **III. LEGAL ANALYSIS**

10 **A. Relevant Law Concerning Contributions**

11 The Act prohibits corporations from making contributions to federal candidates, and
12 likewise bars candidates, political committees (other than independent expenditure-only political
13 committees and committees with hybrid accounts), and other persons from knowingly accepting
14 or receiving corporate contributions.⁴⁵

15 Under the Act, a "contribution" includes "any gift, subscription, loan, advance, or deposit
16 of money or anything of value made by any person for the purpose of influencing any election

⁴¹ MUR 7868 Compl. at 2; *see also* MUR 7821 Compl. at 3 (observing that "there appears to be a revolving door between the Biden campaign and the company" and pointing to the same director of public policy mentioned in the MUR 7868 Complaint as well as the fact that the former press secretary for Kamala Harris, Biden's running-mate, now works for Twitter). The MUR 7821 Complaint does not explicitly allege that Biden or the Biden Committee coordinated with Twitter.

⁴² MUR 7821 Twitter Resp. at 1, 11-12; Resp. at 3, 7, 17-18 (Dec. 21, 2020), MUR 7827 [hereinafter MUR 7827 Twitter Resp.]; MUR 7868 Twitter Resp. at 1, 13-14; MUR 7868 Biden Committee Resp. at 3-5.

⁴³ MUR 7821 Resp, Ex. B (Decl. of Lauren Culbertson, Head of U.S. Public Policy, Twitter) [hereinafter Culbertson Decl.] (identifying her team as the point of contact for political campaigns).

⁴⁴ MUR 7868 Biden Committee Resp. at 4 ("Mr. Monje and Ms. Hertz are not now, and were not at the time of their hiring, employees of the Committee.")

⁴⁵ 52 U.S.C. § 30118(a); *accord* 11 C.F.R. § 114.2(a), (d).

1 for Federal office.⁴⁶ The term “anything of value” includes “all in-kind contributions.”⁴⁷ In-
2 kind contributions include “coordinated expenditures,” that is, expenditures “made by any person
3 in cooperation, consultation or in concert, with, or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate,
4 his [or her] authorized committees, or their agents.”⁴⁸ A communication is coordinated and thus
5 treated as an in-kind contribution when it is: (1) paid for by a third-party; (2) satisfies one of five
6 content standards; and (3) satisfies one of five conduct standards.⁴⁹ All three prongs are required
7 in order for the communication to be considered a coordinated communication and treated as an
8 in-kind contribution.⁵⁰ In-kind contributions also include “provision of any goods or services
9 without charge or at a charge that is less than the usual and normal charge for such goods or
10 services.”⁵¹

11 The Commission has concluded that a commercial vendor providing services to political
12 committees will not make a contribution for the purpose of influencing an election when its
13 business activity “reflects commercial considerations and does not reflect considerations outside
14 of a business relationship.”⁵² A commercial vendor need not make its services available to
15 committees representing all political ideologies, but rather may establish objective business

⁴⁶ 52 U.S.C. § 30101(8)(A); *accord* 11 C.F.R. § 100.52.

⁴⁷ 11 C.F.R. § 100.52(d).

⁴⁸ 52 U.S.C. § 30116(a)(7)(B); 11 C.F.R. § 109.20.

⁴⁹ 11 C.F.R. § 109.21(a).

⁵⁰ *See id.*

⁵¹ *Id.* § 100.52(d) (listing examples of goods or services, such as securities, facilities, equipment, supplies, personnel, advertising services, membership lists, and mailing lists).

⁵² Advisory Opinion 2012-31 at 4 (AT&T).

1 criteria to protect commercial viability of its business without making contributions to the
 2 committees that meet those criteria.⁵³

3 The Commission has long considered activity engaged in for *bona fide* commercial
 4 reasons not to be “for the purpose of influencing an election,” and thus, not a contribution or
 5 expenditure under section 30118(a).⁵⁴ This is true even if a candidate benefitted from the
 6 commercial activity.⁵⁵

7 **B. The Commission Should Find No Reason to Believe That Twitter Made and**
 8 **the Biden Committee Knowingly Accepted and Failed to Report Prohibited**
 9 **In-Kind Corporate Contributions**

10 As explained below, the actions taken by Twitter in response to the October 2020 *New*
 11 *York Post* articles, *i.e.*, blocking users from tweeting hacked or personal information, and in

⁵³ Advisory Opinion 2017-06 (Stein & Gottlieb) at 6 (“[A] commercial vendor, providing services to political committees . . . need not make its services available to committees representing all political ideologies, but rather may establish objective business criteria to protect the commercial viability of its business without making contributions to the committees that meet those criteria.”); Advisory Opinion 2004-06 at 1 (Meetup) (explaining that a corporation may provide goods and services to political committees without being considered to have made an in-kind contribution so long as it does so “on the same terms and conditions available to all similarly situated persons in the general public”); Advisory Opinion 2012-26 at 10 (Cooper for Congress, *et al.*) (concluding that no contribution to committee resulted where its participation in a text message fundraising program was subject to “objective and . . . commercially reasonable” criteria).

⁵⁴ *See, e.g.*, Factual & Legal Analysis at 4, MUR 6586 (World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc.) (finding that WWE acted with the “sole intent to defend its business reputation” and not for the purpose of influencing an election when WWE’s senior vice president sent a letter to a newspaper seeking a retraction of a negative article about Senate candidate Linda McMahon, who owned and served as CEO of WWE); First Gen. Counsel’s Rpt. at 13 & Cert. ¶ 1 (June 7, 2005), MUR 5474 (Dog Eat Dog Films, *et al.*) (approving no reason to believe recommendation) (determining that distributors and marketers of *Fahrenheit 9/11* film did so “in connection with *bona fide* commercial activity and not for the purpose of influencing an election”); Advisory Opinion 2018-11 at 4 (Microsoft Corp.) (concluding that commercially reasonable efforts “to protect [Microsoft’s] brand reputation” by providing election-sensitive customers with free account security services are not an in-kind contribution).

⁵⁵ *See* First Gen. Counsel’s Rpt. at 16 & Cert. ¶ 5 (June 6, 1994), MUR 3622 (The Clinton/Gore ‘92 Committee) (approving no reason to believe recommendation); First Gen. Counsel’s Rpt. at 16, MUR 3622 (The Clinton/Gore ‘92 Committee) (“[T]he fact that any of these candidates . . . may have received an indirect benefit (dissemination of their political positions) as a result of the sale of these tapes does not convert commercial activity into a corporate contribution.”); Factual & Legal Analysis at 6, MUR 7024 (Van Hollen for Senate, *et al.*) (opining that the “question under the Act is whether the legal services were provided for the purpose of influencing a federal election, not whether they provided a benefit to Van Hollen’s campaign,” and concluding there was no contribution given the “absence of any objective or subjective indication” respondents acted for the purpose of influencing the election).

1 response to Trump's tweets regarding alleged voter fraud and the election results, *i.e.*, labeling
2 these tweets as disputed, appear to reflect *bona fide* commercial considerations rather than an
3 effort to influence a federal election. It appears that both of these actions were in accordance
4 with Twitter's pre-existing content policies, and that Twitter enacted these policies for
5 commercial reasons ultimately relating to the protection of its brand and its ability to attract
6 advertisers — *i.e.*, its "commercial viability."⁵⁶ The remaining actions alleged by the MUR
7 7868 Complaint, relating to "shadow banning," suppressing video of the Bobulinski interview,
8 and limiting coverage of post-election lawsuits, are vague, speculative, and otherwise not
9 supported by the available information. Finally, there is no information in the current record to
10 suggest that Twitter coordinated any of its activities with the Biden Committee.

11 1. Blocking Sharing of the *New York Post* Articles

12 Twitter acknowledges that, following the October 2020 publication of the *New York Post*
13 articles at issue, Twitter blocked users from sharing links to the articles. But Twitter states that
14 this was because its Site Integrity Team assessed that the *New York Post* articles likely contained
15 hacked and personal information, the sharing of which violated both Twitter's Distribution of
16 Hacked Materials and Private Information Policies. Twitter points out that although sharing
17 links to the articles was blocked, users were still permitted to otherwise discuss the content of the
18 *New York Post* articles because doing so did not directly involve spreading any hacked or
19 personal information.⁵⁷ Based on the information available to Twitter at the time, these actions

⁵⁶ MUR 7821 Twitter Resp. at 2-3; *see also* MUR 7827 Twitter Resp. at 1 ("Twitter blocked potentially hacked content that contained private information such as email addresses, phone numbers, and personal photographs for bona fide commercial reasons and to enforce preexisting Rules and policies intended to protect the safety, integrity, and commercial viability of its social media platform.").

⁵⁷ MUR 7821 Twitter Resp. at 2-7; Roth Decl. at 3; MUR 7827 Twitter Resp. at 1-3; MUR 7868 Twitter Resp. at 11-12; Twitter Hacked Materials Policy; Twitter Private Information Policy.

1 appear to reflect Twitter's stated commercial purpose of removing misinformation and other
2 abusive content from its platform, not a purpose of influencing an election.⁵⁸ Federal law
3 enforcement agencies apparently communicated to Twitter that they expected hack-and-leak
4 operations by state actors might occur in the period shortly before the 2020 presidential election
5 and warned that such a hack-and-leak operation might involve Hunter Biden.⁵⁹ Moreover,
6 images of the materials plainly show unredacted email addresses and phone numbers.⁶⁰ These
7 circumstances appear to reflect a commercial, not electoral, basis for Twitter to have blocked
8 users from sharing this information on its platform.

9 Two of the Complaints argue that the materials at issue were not "hacked" and therefore
10 were not in violation of Twitter's Distribution of Hacked Materials policy.⁶¹ It remains unclear
11 whether the materials were hacked under the meaning of Twitter's policy, but what is relevant
12 here is that Twitter's contemporaneous assessment that these materials were hacked, based on
13 warnings from federal intelligence agencies, was done in accordance with its existing content
14 policies, which were adopted for commercial reasons.⁶² In any event, because the materials
15 contained personal information, which was apparent on their face, Twitter could have separately

⁵⁸ Twitter has identified that "a decrease in the perceived quality, usefulness, trustworthiness or relevance of the content generated by people on Twitter or content partners" may have a "potentially negative" effect on its business. *See supra* note 9 and accompanying text.

⁵⁹ Roth Decl. ¶¶ 10-11.

⁶⁰ *New York Post* articles, *supra* note 16.

⁶¹ MUR 7821 Compl. at 3; MUR 7827 Compl. at 3-4.

⁶² Roth Decl. ¶¶ 10-11 ("I have had regular meetings with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, and industry peers regarding election security. . . . During these weekly meetings, the federal law enforcement agencies communicated that they expected 'hack-and-leak' operations by state actors might occur in the period shortly before the 2020 presidential election . . . [and] that there were rumors that a hack-and-leak operation would involve Hunter Biden.").

1 blocked users from sharing the materials, given the apparent violation of Twitter's Private
2 Information Policy.⁶³

3 Two of the Complaints allege that, even if Twitter did follow its policies, Twitter has
4 been inconsistent in the enforcement of its policies, reflecting an ideological bias.⁶⁴ However,
5 the Complaints do not provide convincing information to support their claim. Their main
6 argument is to present a contrast between Twitter's treatment of the *New York Post* articles and
7 its treatment of a *New York Times* story on Trump's leaked tax returns that Twitter did not block
8 or suppress. However, as Twitter's Response points out, unlike the *New York Post* articles, the
9 *New York Times* article only *discussed* but did not *republish* the tax returns at issue, and thus did
10 not contain any hacked or private information.⁶⁵ Accordingly, it does not appear there was a
11 basis for Twitter to have identified a violation of its rules that would have justified blocking
12 users from sharing the *New York Times* articles. In short, the allegedly differing treatment
13 identified by the MUR 7821 and 7827 Complaints does not show that Twitter's actions were
14 inconsistent.

⁶³ Twitter Private Information Policy (“Under this policy, you can’t share the following types of private information, without the permission of the person who it belongs to: . . . contact information, including non-public personal phone numbers or email addresses . . .”).

⁶⁴ MUR 7821 Compl. at 3-4; MUR 7827 Compl. at 5-6.

⁶⁵ MUR 7821 Twitter Resp. at 10 n.51; MUR 7827 Twitter Resp. at 3; *see* Twitter Hacked Materials Policy (“[T]his policy only addresses instances in which the materials themselves are being distributed — not discussions of or reporting about hacking which refer to but do not embed or link to the materials themselves. Tweets referring to a hack or discussing hacked materials would not be considered a violation of this policy unless materials associated with the hack are directly distributed in the text of a Tweet, in an image shared on Twitter, or in links to hacked content hosted on other websites.”); Twitter Private Information Policy (listing only categories of personal information such as “home address or physical location information,” “identity documents, including . . . social security or other national identity numbers,” and “biometric data or medical records” as “in violation of this policy”).

1 In sum, Twitter has credibly explained that its actions to block uses from sharing links to
2 the *New York Post* articles were undertaken for commercial reasons and thus did not constitute a
3 contribution within the meaning of the Act.

4 2. Labeling Trump's Tweets

5 Leading up to and following the 2020 election, Twitter placed labels on certain of
6 Trump's tweets concerning alleged voter fraud (informing readers that his claims of voters fraud
7 were disputed) and tweets in which Trump claimed that he had won the election (informing
8 readers that the Associated Press had called the race for Joe Biden).⁶⁶ The MUR 7868
9 Complaint alleges that these labels constituted "an in-kind contribution, and [were] equivalent to
10 offering free advertising [to] the Biden campaign."⁶⁷

11 Although the available information suggests that Twitter may have met the payment
12 prong of the coordinated communications test by expending corporate resources to add the labels
13 to Trump's tweets, neither the "content" or the "conduct" prongs appear to be satisfied.

14 First, the content standards in the regulation all require a communication to be either an
15 "electioneering communication" or a "public communication," neither of which appears to apply
16 to Twitter's activities.⁶⁸ An electioneering communication is "any broadcast, cable, or satellite
17 communication" that refers to a "clearly identified candidate for Federal office," is publicly
18 distributed within a certain time before the election, depending on the office, and meets certain
19 requirements regarding the audience, depending on the office.⁶⁹ Twitter's labeling of Trump's
20 tweets was published on the internet, not distributed on broadcast, cable, or satellite, and

⁶⁶ MUR 7868 Compl. at 2.

⁶⁷ *Id.*

⁶⁸ *See* 11 C.F.R. § 109.21(c) (content standards).

⁶⁹ 52 U.S.C. § 30104(f)(3) (definition of electioneering communication); 11 C.F.R. § 100.29 (same).

1 therefore does not legally qualify as an electioneering communication. Alternatively, a public
2 communication is “a communication by means of any broadcast, cable, or satellite
3 communication, newspaper, magazine, outdoor advertising facility, mass mailing, or telephone
4 bank to the general public, or any other form of general public political advertising.”⁷⁰ The
5 Commission’s implementing regulation provides that public communications “shall not include
6 communications over the Internet, except for communications placed for a fee on another
7 person’s Web site.”⁷¹ While Twitter’s labels are internet communications, the available
8 information indicates that Twitter did not place them for a fee on another person’s website, but
9 rather on its own. As such, these posts do not appear to be public communications.

10 Second, each of the conduct standards requires some interaction with the allegedly
11 coordinating candidate or campaign regarding the communication, such as a request or
12 suggestion, substantial discussions, or use of a common vendor, but there is no indication of any
13 such interaction between Twitter and the Biden Committee.⁷² The MUR 7868 Complaint does
14 not allege, and there is no other information to suggest, that Twitter added the labels to Trump’s
15 tweets in coordination with the Biden Committee. Moreover, it appears that Twitter’s actions
16 can be explained by its Civic Integrity Policy.⁷³ Prior to the election, Twitter announced that it
17 would not permit candidates to “claim an election win before it is authoritatively called” by
18 either state election officials or two or more national news outlets.⁷⁴ Trump’s claims that he had
19 won the 2020 presidential election were in violation of Twitter’s Civic Integrity Policy, as

⁷⁰ 52 U.S.C. § 30101(22) (definition of public communication); 11 C.F.R. § 100.26 (same).

⁷¹ 11 C.F.R. § 100.26.

⁷² *See id.* § 109.21(d) (content standards); *see also id.* 109.21(e) (stating that an agreement or formal collaboration “is not required for a communication to be a coordinated communication”).

⁷³ MUR 7868 Twitter Resp. at 4.

⁷⁴ Gadde & Beykpour, *supra* note 14.

1 neither state election authorities nor two or more authoritative national news outlets had called
2 the race in his favor.⁷⁵ Further, Twitter's Civic Integrity Policy forbade "disputed claims that
3 could undermine faith in the process itself, such as unverified information about election rigging,
4 ballot tampering, vote tallying, or certification of election results; and misleading claims about
5 the results or outcome of a civic process which calls for or could lead to interference with the
6 implementation of the results of the process."⁷⁶ In sum, the content and conduct prongs of the
7 three-part test are not satisfied, and thus no basis to conclude that there was a coordinated
8 communication.

9 The available information likewise does not indicate that Twitter's costs in labeling
10 Trump's tweets satisfy the definition of coordinated expenditure — the analysis here focuses on
11 any payments by Twitter that were "not made for communications."⁷⁷ To the extent that Twitter
12 incurred any costs unrelated to communications, there is still nothing to suggest that Twitter
13 made the payments "in cooperation, consultation or concert with, or at the request or suggestion
14 of" any candidate, for the reasons stated above with respect to the conduct prong of the
15 coordinated communication test.⁷⁸ Again, there is no information from which to infer that
16 Twitter had such contact with the Biden Committee. Accordingly, there is no basis to infer that
17 any payments by Twitter were coordinated expenditures.⁷⁹

⁷⁵ See *Gadde & Beykpour, supra* note 14; MUR 7868 Twitter Resp. at 12-13. [information about Twitter enforcing against Democrats who did the same thing, called their race early].

⁷⁶ Twitter Civic Integrity Policy.

⁷⁷ Coordinated and Independent Expenditures, 68 Fed. Reg. at 425; *see* Advisory Opinion 2011-14 at 4 (Utah Bankers Ass'n).

⁷⁸ 52 U.S.C. § 30116(a)(7)(B)(i); 11 C.F.R. § 109.20(a).

⁷⁹ An in-kind contribution may also come in the form of a "good or service," *see* 11 C.F.R. § 100.52(d), but we do not provide a separate analysis under this theory. The available information does not suggest any direct or indirect contact between Twitter and the Biden Committee about the labeling of Trump's tweets, such that Twitter might have provided anything of value to the Biden Committee.

1 In conclusion, there is no information to suggest that Twitter and the Biden Committee
2 coordinated Twitter's labeling of Trump's tweets concerning alleged voter fraud and claims that
3 he had won the 2020 election. Moreover, Twitter has presented information to suggest that its
4 actions were undertaken to advance its commercial interest and not made for the purpose of
5 influencing a federal election. Therefore, it does not appear that Twitter's labeling of Trump's
6 tweets resulted in an in-kind contribution from Twitter to the Trump campaign.

7 3. Alleged Shadow Banning, Suppression of the Bobulinski Interview, and
8 Limiting of Coverage of Lawsuits Regarding Election Fraud

9 With respect to Twitter's other alleged activities, including "shadow banning" prominent
10 Republican Twitter users, suppressing Tucker Carlson's interview of Tony Bobulinski, and
11 suppressing coverage of election fraud lawsuits, Twitter has credibly denied that the alleged
12 activity occurred, or explained that the events alleged were the result of inadvertent technological
13 errors rather than intentional determinations.⁸¹

14 First, the MUR 7868 Complaint claims that Twitter took actions to limit the "reach and
15 visibility" of conservative voices on its platform.⁸² But the very news article cited by the
16 Complaint does not support the Complaint's conclusion that suppression occurred: The article
17 instead describes an error regarding Twitter's search feature that was "not limited to a certain
18 political affiliation" and which was quickly remedied after it was identified.⁸³

⁸¹ See Part II.C, *supra*.

⁸² MUR 7868 Compl. at 2.

⁸³ Thompson, *supra* note 29 ("UPDATE: July 26, 10:00 AM: Twitter appears to have adjusted its platform overnight to no longer limit the visibility of some prominent Republicans in its search results." (emphasis in original)).

1 Second, the MUR 7868 Complaint provides statistics about the popularity of a video
2 showing a Tucker Carlson interview and claims that it should have “trended” on Twitter but did
3 not, arguing that Twitter must have “suppressed” the interview to prevent it from doing so.⁸⁴
4 However, the Complaint does not provide any specific allegations as to how Twitter may have
5 suppressed the interview, or why it would have allowed it to be shared but not allow it to trend.⁸⁵
6 Twitter denies that it took any action to manipulate whether the interview would trend, but it also
7 does not explain why the apparently popular video did not trend despite users sharing it 2.5
8 million times.⁸⁶ Nonetheless, we are aware of no information that contradicts Twitter’s denial,
9 and the MUR 7868 Complaint itself presents only a theory that the popularity of the video should
10 have made it trend in the way that was apparently expected without any supporting information
11 or statistics.

12 Third, the MUR 7868 Complaint claims that Twitter suppressed coverage of lawsuits
13 filed regarding the 2020 election.⁸⁷ As an initial matter, this activity post-dated the election, and
14 thus it is unclear whether Twitter could have been acting to influence votes that had already been
15 cast (though the results of the election had not been definitively called at the time). In any event,
16 the Complaint again cites to information that does not appear to support its claim. It points to a
17 news article that reported how Twitter blocked users from linking to a lawsuit filed in Georgia,
18 but which also quotes a Twitter spokesperson as stating that this was an error and that it was
19 quickly resolved.⁸⁸ The Complaint does not identify any other instances of alleged suppression

⁸⁴ MUR 7868 Compl. at 2 & n.2.

⁸⁵ *See id.* at 2.

⁸⁶ MUR 7868 Twitter Resp. at 8-9.

⁸⁷ MUR 7868 Compl. at 2.

⁸⁸ Garber, *supra* note 39 (quoting Twitter spokesperson as stating, “The URL referenced was mistakenly marked under our unsafe links policy—this action has now been reversed”).

1 of election lawsuits other than this apparently isolated and inadvertent instance. The MUR 7868
2 Complaint presents no information contradicting Twitter's explanations, and cites only to press
3 articles, many of which in fact support Twitter's claims that the alleged activity was done in
4 error and quickly remedied.⁸⁹

5 4. Alleged Coordination

6 Finally, there is no basis to reasonably conclude that Twitter coordinated any of its
7 actions with Biden or his campaign — *i.e.*, that Twitter undertook these actions “in cooperation,
8 consultation or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of” Biden or the Biden Committee.⁹⁰
9 The Complaint relies upon the fact that a former Twitter employee was hired by the Biden
10 transition team following the 2020 election.⁹¹ Without more, this fact does not plausibly suggest
11 that, during the election, prior to this individual's hiring by the transition team, Twitter
12 coordinated its response to the *New York Post* articles or labeling of Trump's tweets with Biden
13 or the Biden Committee. Both Twitter and the Biden Committee expressly deny that Twitter's
14 policy enforcement determinations were ever discussed with or influenced by the Biden
15 Committee.⁹² Twitter submitted a sworn declaration by its Head of U.S. Public Policy attesting
16 that neither she nor any other Twitter employee “received any communications from or had any
17 communications with representatives of [the Biden Committee] . . . before Twitter implemented
18 the enforcement actions on October 14, 2020.”⁹³

19 * * *

⁸⁹ *See, e.g., id.*; Thompson, *supra* note 29.

⁹⁰ 11 C.F.R. § 109.20 (definition of coordinated expenditure).

⁹¹ MUR 7868 Compl. at 2.

⁹² MUR 7868 Twitter Resp. at 13-14; MUR 7868 Biden Committee Resp. at 4.

⁹³ Culbertson Decl. at ¶ 9.

1 As discussed above, the information before the Commission indicates that Twitter's
2 actions in response to the *New York Post* articles (blocking apparently hacked and personal
3 information) were undertaken for commercial reasons and not for the purpose of influencing an
4 election. Consequently, because Twitter's actions reflect a commercial, rather than electoral,
5 purpose, they were not contributions. Further, the information available indicates that Twitter's
6 actions regarding Trump's tweets (labeling apparent misinformation about the election) were not
7 coordinated with the Biden Committee, and as such also did not constitute contributions.
8 Regarding Twitter's alleged shadow banning, limiting the visibility of the Bobulinski interview,
9 and suppression of election lawsuits, the allegations as a whole are vague, speculative, and
10 unsupported.⁹⁴ Finally, not only does the available information indicate that Twitter acted with a
11 *bona fide* commercial purpose and not an electoral one, but there is also no information
12 indicating that Twitter coordinated its activities with the Biden Committee.

13 Therefore, we recommend the Commission find no reason to believe that Twitter made
14 prohibited in-kind corporate contributions in violation of 52 U.S.C. § 30118(a) and 11 C.F.R.
15 §§ 109.21, 114.2(b); find no reason to believe that Biden for President knowingly accepted or
16 received and failed to report contributions in violation of 52 U.S.C. § 30104(b)(3)(A), 30118(a)
17 and 11 C.F.R. §§ 104.3(a), 114.2; and find no reason to believe that Jack Dorsey, Twitter's CEO,
18 and Brandon Borman, Twitter's Vice President, Global Communications, violated 52 U.S.C. §
19 30118(a) and 11 C.F.R. § 114.2(b) by consenting to prohibited corporate contributions.

20 **IV. RECOMMENDATIONS**

21 1. Find no reason to believe that Twitter, Inc., violated 52 U.S.C. § 30118(a) and
22 11 C.F.R. §§ 109.21, 114.2(b) by making corporate in-kind contributions;

⁹⁴ Statement of Reasons at 1, Comm'rs Mason, Sandstrom, Smith & Thomas, MUR 4960 (Hillary Rodham Clinton for U.S. Senate Exploratory Comm., *et al.*).

- 1 2. Find no reason to believe that Jack Dorsey and Brandon Borrman violated
- 2 52 U.S.C. § 30118(a) and 11 C.F.R. § 114.2(b) by consenting to corporate
- 3 contributions;

- 4 3. Find no reason to believe that Biden for President and Andrea Wise in her official
- 5 capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30104(b)(3)(A), 30118(a) and 11
- 6 C.F.R. §§ 104.3(a), 114.2 by receiving and failing to report corporate in-kind
- 7 contributions;

- 8 4. Approve the attached Factual and Legal Analysis;

- 9 5. Approve the appropriate letters; and

- 10 6. Close the file.

Lisa J. Stevenson
Acting General Counsel

16 July 8, 2021
17 _____
18 Date

Charles Kitcher

Charles Kitcher
Acting Associate General Counsel
for Enforcement

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