



CNBC
900 Sylvan Avenue
Englewood, Cliffs, New Jersey 07632

**RE: Complaint “The Deed”
Sidney Torres, IV**

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a formal complaint to CNBC regarding the improper political activities of Sidney Torres, IV, who is the primary and recurring lead personality of the reality television series, “The Deed.” This series is carried on your cable network. The improper political activities of Mr. Torres and his Political PAC, “Voice PAC” violate the terms and provisions of CNBC’s license with the FCC and the guidelines established by the League of Women voters for fair and impartial debates. And on information and beliefs, Mr. Torres has also violated provisions of his contract with CNBC.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The televised debate sponsored by Sidney Torres, IV and his “Voice PAC” was held on Wednesday, September 27, 2017. Four candidates in the Primary Election scheduled for October 14, 2017 were invited to participate in the debate. The candidates are Desiree Charbonnet, LaToya Cantrell, Michael Bagneris and Troy Henry.

Desiree Charbonnet agreed to participate in the debate after representatives of her campaign agreed in writing to the debate format and members of a panel of journalists who would ask questions of the candidates.

Within 24 hours of the scheduled debate, two of the mutually agreed upon journalists dropped out the debate. One was a journalist from WVUE-TV, the local FOX affiliate station and the other journalist was from WDSU-TV, the local NBC affiliate station. Both stations had “ethical concerns” about Mr. Torres’ personal

participation in the debate and misleading and contradictory statements he made to the stations about the debate.

When Ms. Charbonnet learned of the withdrawal of the two respected journalists from the debate, she also withdrew. (See attached statement.)

The debate proceeded with three candidates and an empty podium reserved for Ms. Charbonnet. During the debate, Mr. Torres personally asked questions which prompted the remaining three candidates to criticize Ms. Charbonnet during the debate.

After the debate, Mr. Torres threatened to spend \$200,000 on television ads targeting Ms. Charbonnet. His first anti-Charbonnet attack aired twice Sunday, October 1, 2017 during a NFL football game. More ads are scheduled to air during the election.

Mr. Sidney Torres' actions during and following, the debate of September 27, 2017 constitute prohibited political activity and improper electioneering in violation of FCC rules and regulations governing cable and TV broadcasting. His use of the empty podium during the debate and in his anti-Charbonnet attack ads violate the guidelines established by the League of Women Voters for "empty chair" debates.

Because of Mr. Torres' improper and retaliatory political activities, his reality TV show "The Deed" should be immediately cancelled and not aired on CNBC.

Sincerely,

Kevin E. Stuart, Ph.D.
President, Teddlie Stuart Media Partners, Inc.
Senior Media Advisors to the Charbonnet for Mayor Campaign Committee

cc: Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Attachments