

Mr. Joseph Sandler Sandler, Reiff, Lamb, Rosenstein & Birkenstock, P.C 1090 Vermont Ave. NW Suite 750 Washington, DC 20005 VIA EMAIL (sandler@sandlerreiff.com)

November 5, 2021

**Re: Secure Democracy** 

Dear Joe:

In response to communications and emails that we have received from Heather Smith, President of Secure Democracy, and Sarah Walker, Executive Director of Secure Democracy, I want to confirm the steps New Venture Fund has taken to respond to specific concerns raised. This is not intended to be a comprehensive response, and is largely confined to addressing emails received on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> regarding access to Secure Democracy's email and related accounts.

- 1. As of November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Sarah's access to her Secure Democracy email account, Google drive and corporate credit card has been restored. We regret any inconvenience caused and have worked promptly to address these requests as soon as they were received. If there are any similar requests that have not been resolved, I would ask that you please direct them to my attention and we will review them promptly.
- 2. As of November 4th, Voting Rights Lab staff have been instructed to take all reasonable steps to cease communications with Secure Democracy staff and consultants and to refrain from interactions with Secure Democracy generally. Given the historical relationship between Voting Rights Lab and Secure Democracy, we cannot ensure that there will be no communications between and among staff. Further, to the extent that an individual is employed by both Secure Democracy and Voting Rights Lab, Voting Rights Lab staff may, of course, communicate with Voting Rights Lab staff about Voting Rights Lab and other matters not related to Secure Democracy. In the short term, we look forward to working together to institute additional procedures if necessary.
- 3. To this end, again in the short term, we ask that individual staff and consultants (in their capacity with Secure Democracy) similarly refrain from contacting New Venture Fund/Voting Rights Lab staff and that any contacts are made through counsel.
- 4. With respect to other issues and concerns raised in emails and communications, New Venture Fund has undertaken an internal process with counsel to review them. Again, we are committed to a constructive and collaborative process for moving forward to address these issues to allow both Voting Rights Lab and Secure Democracy to advance their important work and missions.

Sincerely

Andrew Schulz, General Counsel