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INVESTIGATOR

County of Ventura Elections Division - COMPLAINANTS

BEFORE THE COUNTY OF VENTURA CAMPAIGN FINANCE
ETHICS COMMISSION

In the Matter of:)	Case No. P2012-11
)	
Citizens for a Better Ventura County,)	
Lysa Ray - Treasurer)	
)	STIPULATION, DECISION AND ORDER
)	
RESPONDENTS)	

The appointed outside Investigator for the County of Ventura Campaign Finance Ethics Commission (the "Commission") in this matter, Craig Steele, and the Citizens for a Better Ventura County and its treasurer Lysa Ray (collectively, "Respondents") hereby agree that this Stipulation will be submitted for consideration by the Commission at its next scheduled meeting, and that the agreements herein are contingent upon the approval of this Stipulation and the accompanying Decision and Order by the Commission.

The parties agree to enter into this Stipulation to finally resolve all factual and legal issues raised by the Complaint in Case No. P2012-11, and to reach a final disposition without the necessity of holding an administrative hearing to determine the liability (or lack thereof) of the Respondents. Upon approval of the Decision and Order by the Commission and compliance with the terms of this Stipulation by Respondents, the Commission shall take no further enforcement action against Respondents (either jointly or severally) relating to complaints or allegations regarding the facts and circumstances underlying Case No. P2012-11.

Contingent upon the Commission's approval of this Stipulation and accompanying Decision and Order, Respondents understand, and hereby knowingly and voluntarily waive, any and all procedural rights under the Ventura County Code, the Procedural Rules of the Commission and applicable State law including, without limitation, the issuance and receipt of an accusation, the right to personally appear at any administrative hearing held in this matter, to confront and cross-examine all witnesses testifying at the hearing, to subpoena witnesses to testify at the hearing, and to have the Commission or an impartial administrative law judge hear the matter.

Complaint No. P2012-11 alleges that Respondents violated Section 1278(a) of the Ventura County Code ("the Ordinance") when Respondents failed to file electronic campaign statements after the Respondents raised over \$10,000. On October 5, 2012, Respondents properly and timely filed a California Fair Political Practices Commission Form 460 ("Form 460"), listing contributions of \$22,699.00. This filing triggered the local online filing requirement found in Section 1278(a) of the Ordinance. Respondents were notified of the online filing requirement when a complaint was filed by the Elections Division on November 30, 2012. Respondents submitted forms for filing electronically that same day. Respondents' Form 410 was filed electronically on December 5, 2012 and Form 460 was filed electronically on December 6, 2012.

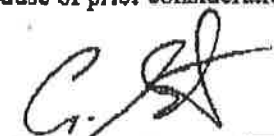
Respondents' treasurer has been cooperative in the investigation. She does not contest the timeline above but indicated she was not aware of the County's electronic filing requirement until the complaint was issued. Committee activity was timely and properly filed on paper forms. Technical questions delayed the actual electronic upload of documents between November 30, 2012 and December 5 and 6, 2012.

As the full and final stipulated resolution of Case No. P2012-11, Respondents hereby agree to pay an administrative fine of \$100.00 to the County of Ventura. While less than the maximum possible fine that could be levied in this matters, the amount is justified by the following facts:

1. Respondents did not attempt to conceal the identity of its donors;
2. Respondents contend there is no mechanism to obtain technical assistance from the County of Ventura; and
3. Respondents cooperated in the investigation and admitted the violation.

Respondents hereby agree that if further consideration of these matters by the Commission becomes necessary, no Commission board members or staff, nor the Executive Director, shall be disqualified because of prior consideration of this Stipulation.

DATED: February 14, 2013



Craig A. Steele, Investigator
COUNTY OF VENTURA CAMPAIGN
FINANCE ETHICS COMMISSION

DATED: 2/20/13

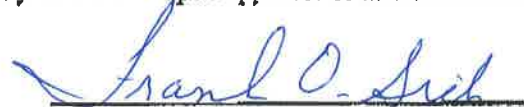


Lysa Ray, Treasurer
Respondents

DECISION AND ORDER
Case No. P2012-11

The County of Ventura Campaign Finance Ethics Commission ("Commission") has considered the above Stipulation and a report from its investigator at its meeting on February 22, 2013. The Commission hereby approves the Stipulation and orders that, in accordance with the Stipulation, Respondents shall pay a stipulated fine of \$100.00 to the General Fund of the County of Ventura upon approval of this Decision and Order.

DATED: 2-22-13


Frank O. Sieh, Chair
COUNTY OF VENTURA CAMPAIGN
FINANCE ETHICS COMMISSION