

In the Matter of:

HARFORD COUNTY CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

Respondent

Before the State Ethics Commission

Complaint No.: C-201-11

RECEIVED

JAN 31 2012

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

On the 27 day of January, 2012, between Harford County Chamber of Commerce, Respondent, and William J. Colquhoun, Staff Counsel, it is agreed as follows:

STIPULATIONS

1. The State Ethics Commission ("Commission") is an executive agency of the State of Maryland established for the purpose of enforcing the Maryland Public Ethics Law (Title 15, State Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, hereinafter "the Ethics Law").
2. The Respondent timely registered as a lobbyist with the State Ethics Commission for the period of November 3, 2010 through October 31, 2011 as required by § 15-703(d)(1) of the Ethics Law.
3. The Respondent was required to submit a Lobbying Activity Report by November 30, 2011, for the period May 1, 2011 through October 31, 2011, as required by § 15-704(a)(i) of the Ethics Law, and failed to submit the required report in a timely manner.
4. On January 5, 2012, the Respondent submitted the delinquent Lobbying Activity Report for the period May 1, 2011 through October 31, 2011.
5. On December 16, 2011, the Commission issued a complaint against the Respondent alleging the failure to file, by November 30, 2011, a Lobbying Activity Report for the period of May 1, 2011 through October 31, 2011.
6. The Respondent is voluntarily entering into this Stipulation of Settlement Agreement to admit its failure to timely file the Lobbying Activity Report for the period May 1, 2011 through October 31, 2011 and to pay a sum of money in lieu of potential late filing fees and fines that could be assessed pursuant to § 15-405 of the Ethics Law.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the agreements herein contained and effective on the Commission's acceptance of the terms of this Agreement, Harford County Chamber of Commerce, Respondent, and William J. Colquhoun, Staff Counsel agree as follows:

- A. Respondent admits that it did not timely file its Lobbying Activity Report for the period May 1, 2011 through October 31, 2011 by November 30, 2011, in violation of § 15-704(a)(ii) of the Ethics Law.
- B. Respondent subsequently filed the required Lobbying Activity Report with the Commission (a copy of which has been attached hereto and made a part hereof).
- C. Respondent understands that failure to comply with the lobbying disclosure provisions of the Ethics Law may subject it to the possibility of late fees, civil fines, reprimand, a suspension of its ability to lobby for compensation and other penalties. Respondent acknowledges that it has been advised that the filing deadlines for activity reports are May 31st for the period of November 1st to April 30th and November 30th for the period May 1st through October 31st if it is registered in those reporting periods. Respondent also acknowledges that future late filed activity reports could be viewed as knowing and willful violations of the Ethics Law.
- D. Based on the facts stated in this Stipulation of Settlement, the Respondent agrees to pay as settlement of the complaint, the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) at the time of the execution of this agreement in lieu of potential late fees and in lieu of civil fines for the above admitted late activity report (paragraph 1).
- E. Respondent waives a formal hearing on this matter and agrees that acceptance of the Stipulation of Settlement by the Commission would constitute, based on its admission of violations of the Ethics Law, a final action and finding of violation by the Commission, and, pursuant to § 15-407 of the Ethics Law, this Agreement and materials relating to this matter are not subject to the confidentiality provisions of the Ethics Law and will be public information unless otherwise protected.
- F. Staff Counsel, upon execution of this Agreement by the Respondent, will recommend that the Commission suspend further complaint proceedings against the Respondent and recommend further that the Commission issue a Final Order in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.
- G. Respondent and Staff Counsel have entered into this Agreement for the sole purpose of resolving the late submission of the Lobbying Activity Report, the payment in lieu of late fees and fines, to resolve the complaint now pending, and for no other purpose.

IN WITNESS WHEREFORE, Harford County Chamber of Commerce, Respondent and William J. Colquhoun, Staff Counsel for the State Ethics Commission, have signed below.

SIGNATURE APPEARS ON
ORIGINAL AGREEMENT

William J. Colquhoun, Staff Counsel
State Ethics Commission
45 Calvert Street, 3rd Floor
Annapolis, MD 21401
(410) 260-7770


SIGNATURE APPEARS ON
ORIGINAL AGREEMENT

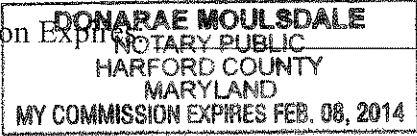
Harford County Chamber of Commerce
Lobbyist

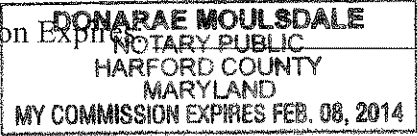
State of Maryland

County of: Harford County, to wit:

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared Vanessa R. Miko and acknowledged that he/she was an individual authorized to execute this document on behalf of Harford County Chamber of Commerce, and that he/she executed this document for the purpose set forth herein on behalf of Harford County Chamber of Commerce.

 **SIGNATURE APPEARS ON ORIGINAL AGREEMENT**
Notary Public

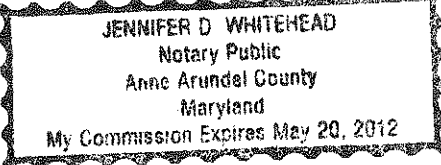

My Commission Expires: 

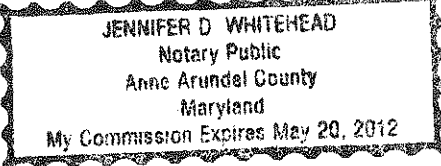


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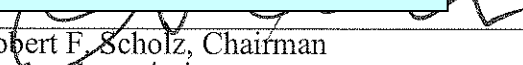
County of: Anne Arundel, to wit:

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared William J. Colquhoun, Staff Counsel to the State Ethics Commission, who made oath on this 31st day of January, 2012, in due form of law, and that he executed this agreement for the purposes set forth herein.

 **SIGNATURE APPEARS ON ORIGINAL AGREEMENT**
 Notary Public



My Commission Expires: _____

Accepted by the Commission 
SIGNATURE APPEARS ON ORIGINAL AGREEMENT

Robert F. Scholz, Chairman
for the Commission

Date: 3/15, 2012