

RECEIVED
2008 MAR 31 P 12:37
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

LOBBYIST FILING AGREEMENT

This Agreement, made this 24th day of March, 2008, by and between Thomas Saquella, lobbyist for Maryland Retail Merchants Association, Inc. and William J. Colquhoun, Staff Counsel to the Maryland State Ethics Commission (hereinafter "Staff Counsel").

RECITALS

The State Ethics Commission ("the Commission") is the executive agency of the State of Maryland established by Chapter 513, Acts of 1979 for the purpose of enforcing the Maryland Public Ethics Law (State Government Article, Title 15, Annotated Code of Maryland, hereinafter the Ethics Law) including the provisions of Subtitle 7, the lobbying disclosure program.

Thomas Saquella ("the filer") is an individual whose lobbying activities on behalf of Maryland Retail Merchants Association, Inc. during the period of November 1, 2007 to October 31, 2008, required him to register as a lobbyist with the State Ethics Commission.

The filer did not timely register on behalf of the employer Maryland Retail Merchants Association, Inc., ("the employer") as required by the Md. Code. Ann., State Gov't. Art., §15-703(d)(1)(Supp.2007).

The filer subsequently registered on January 17, 2008 for the period of November 1, 2007 to October 31, 2008.

The filer is voluntarily entering into this agreement to admit his failure to timely file a lobbyist registration with the Commission and to pay a sum of money in lieu of potential late filing fees and other fines pursuant to Section 15-405 of the Ethics Law.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the submission of the required lobbyist registration form by the filer on January 17, 2008, and the admissions and agreements herein contained, the filer and Staff Counsel stipulate and agree as follows:

1. The filer did not timely file his lobbyist registration form on behalf of Maryland Retail Merchants Association, Inc. for the period of November 1, 2007 to October 31, 2008, as required by §15-703(d)(1) of the Ethics Law.

2. The filer reported his delinquency to the Commission on January 17, 2008. He filed his registration form (a copy of which has been attached hereto and made a part thereof) on January 17, 2008.

3. The filer understands that failure to comply with the lobbying disclosure provisions of the Ethics Law may subject him to a formal complaint by the Commission and, upon finding of a violation, late fees and the possibility of civil fines.

4. Based on the facts stated in this agreement the filer agrees to pay as settlement of the late filing matter, the amount of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) at the time of the execution of this agreement in lieu of a potential late fees and in lieu of civil fines for the above admitted late registration statement (paragraph 1).

5. The Staff Counsel will, upon execution of this Agreement by the filer, recommend that the Commission not institute any proceedings on his failure to timely register. The filer understands that the Commission is under no obligation to accept this agreement and may decide to take other action, including issuing a complaint.

6. The filer waives a formal hearing on this matter (if the agreement is accepted by the Commission) to which he would be entitled if a complaint were issued, and he understands that 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.

7. The filer understands a copy of this agreement will be mailed to his employer.

8. The filer and the Staff Counsel have entered into this Agreement for the sole purpose of resolving the late submission of a lobbyist registration statement and for the payment of late fees and other fines and for no other purpose.

9. Attachment A is part of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Thomas Saquella, and William J. Colquhoun, Staff Counsel, State Ethics Commission, have hereunto set their hands.

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

Thomas Saquella
Lobbyist
Maryland Retail Merchants Association,
Inc.

State of Maryland
County of: Queen Anne's, to wit:

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared Thomas Saquella, who made oath on this 25th day of March, 2008 in due form of law that the matters and facts hereinabove set forth are true to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, and are his voluntary act and that he executed this document for the purpose set forth herein.

No. SIGNATURE APPEARS ON ORIGINAL AGREEMENT

My Commission Expires: January 2001

State of Maryland,

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 MARCH, 2008 in due form of law that he executed this agreement for the purposes set forth herein.

SIGNATURE APPEARS ON ORIGINAL AGREEMENT

Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

DONALD M. STREET
Notary Public-Maryland
Anne Arundel County
My Commission Expires
November 09, 2010

Accepted by the Commission

SIGNATURE APPEARS ON ORIGINAL AGREEMENT

Robert F. Scholz, Chairman
for the Commission

Date: April 17, 2008



Maryland Retailers Association

171 Conduit Street, Annapolis, MD 21401
(410) 269-1440 • Fax (410) 269-0325 • www.mdra.org

January 28, 2008

Maryland State Ethics Commission
54 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

To Whom It May Concern:

The lobbying registration forms for Thomas Saquella and Jeffrie Zellmer were filed electronically November 1, 2008. Unbeknownst to us they were not received. We had no knowledge of this until we were contacted by the Commission. At that time, our computer server and our ISP were having difficulties with outgoing e-mail.

We filed all forms promptly after notification. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

SIGNATURE APPEARS ON
ORIGINAL AGREEMENT

Jeffrie Zellmer
Legislative Director