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STATE OF FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

## STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

In Re: Linda C. Hyatt	Case No.: FEC 14-375
/	F.O. No.: FOFEC 15-138W

## **CONSENT FINAL ORDER**

Respondent, Linda C. Hyatt, and the Florida Elections Commission (Commission) agree that this Consent Order resolves all of the issues between the parties in this case. The parties jointly stipulate to the following facts, conclusions of law, and order:

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. On October 17, 2014, a complaint was filed with the Commission alleging that Respondent violated Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.
- 2. Respondent expressed a desire to enter into negotiations directed toward reaching a consent agreement.
  - 3. Respondent and the staff stipulate to the following facts:
    - a. Respondent was a candidate for the Oak Hill City Commission, Seat 1, in the November 4, 2014 election.
    - b. During Respondent's campaign, Respondent distributed campaign signs that did not include the word "for" between Respondent's name and the office for which she was running when she was not the incumbent candidate.

## **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

4. The Commission has jurisdiction over the parties to and subject matter of this cause, pursuant to Section 106.26, Florida Statutes.

5. Section 106.25(4)(i)3., Florida Statutes, allows the Commission to approve a consent agreement with a Respondent prior to the Commission finding probable cause that a violation of the election laws occurred. The consent agreement has the same force and effect as a consent agreement reached after the Commission finds probable cause.

### **ORDER**

- 6. The Respondent and the staff of the Commission have entered into this Consent Order voluntarily and upon advice of counsel.
- 7. The parties shall each bear their own attorney's fees and costs that are in any way associated with this case.
  - 8. The Commission will consider the Consent Order at its next available meeting.
- 9. The Respondent voluntarily waives the right to any further proceedings under Chapters 104, 106, and 120, Florida Statutes, and the right to appeal the Consent Order.
- 10. This Consent Order is enforceable under Sections 106.265 and 120.69, Florida Statutes. Respondent expressly waives any venue privileges and agrees that if enforcement of this Consent Order is necessary, venue shall be in Leon County, Florida, and Respondent shall be responsible for all fees and costs associated with enforcement.
- 11. If the Commission does not receive the signed Consent Order by the close of business on March 31, 2015, the staff withdraws this offer of settlement and will proceed with the case.
- 12. Payment of the civil penalty by cashier's check, money order, and good for at least 120 days, or attorney trust account check is a condition precedent to the Commission's consideration of the Consent Order.

## **PENALTY**

WHEREFORE, based upon the foregoing facts and conclusions of law, the Commission finds that the Respondent has violated the following provision of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, and imposes the following fine:

A. Respondent has violated Section 106.143(6), Florida Statutes, when she failed to include the word "for" between her name and the office for which she was running on her campaign signs when she was not the incumbent candidate. Respondent is fined \$125.00 for the violation.

Therefore it is

**ORDERED** that the Respondent shall remit to the Commission a civil penalty in the amount of \$125.00, inclusive of fees and costs. The civil penalty shall be paid by cashier's check, money order, good for at least 120 days, or attorney trust account check. The civil penalty should be made payable to the Florida Elections Commission and sent to 107 West Gaines Street, Collins Building, Suite 224, Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-1050.

Respondent hereby agrees and consents to the terms of this Order on March 15, 2015.

Auda Hyuth

446 East Halifax Avenue Oak Hill, FL 32759

Commission staff hereby agrees and consents to the terms of this Consent Order on , 2015.

Jaakan A. Williams
Assistant General Counsel
Florida Elections Commission

107 West Gaines Street Collins Building, Suite 224

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1050

Approved by the Florida Elections Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting held

on May 20 21, 2015 in Tallahassee, Florida.

Asm Chairman

Florida Elections Compaission

Copies furnished to:

Jaakan A. Williams, Assistant General Counsel

Linda Hyatt, Respondent

Eugene A. Haun, Complainant

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