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STATE OF FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

# STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

In Re: Linda C. Hyatt	Case No.: FEC 14-347
	F.O. No.: FOFEC 15-137W

## **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 8, 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 palm cards, which contained express advocacy, but failed to include a political disclaimer.
    - c. During Respondent's campaign, Respondent distributed palms cards that did not contain the word "for" between Respondent's name and the office for which she was running when she was not the incumbent candidate.
    - d. Respondent failed to report the expense of her palm cards as an expenditure or an in-kind contribution

## **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 provisions of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes,

and imposes the following fines:

A. Respondent has violated Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes, when she

failed to include a political disclaimer on her palm card political advertisements, which

contained express advocacy. Respondent is fined \$125.00 for the violation.

B. 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 palm card political advertisements when she was not the incumbent

candidate. Respondent is fined \$125.00 for the violation.

C. Respondent has violated Section 106.19(1)(b), Florida Statutes, when she

failed to report one or more contributions required to be reported by Chapter 106, Florida

Statutes. Respondent is fined \$50 for the violation.

Therefore it is

**ORDERED** that the Respondent shall remit to the Commission a civil penalty in the

amount of \$300.00, 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.

Consent Order – Pre PC docx (07/14) FEC Case # 14-347

Respondent hereby agrees and	consents to the terms of this Order on
MARCH 15, 2015.	
	Linda Hyatt 446 East Halifax Avenue Oak Hill, FL 32759
Commission staff hereby agrees and	consents to the terms of this Consent Order on
March 20, 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 Co.	mmission at its regularly scheduled meeting held
on May 20 = 21, 2015 in Tallahassee, Florida.  Aug Cl	natrman orida Elections Comprission
Copies furnished to: Jaakan A. Williams, Assistant General Counsel Linda Hyatt, Respondent Eugene A. Haun, Complainant	

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