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STATE OF FLORIDA  
ELECTIONS COMMISSION

**STATE OF FLORIDA  
FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

**In Re: Martin County Leadership  
Council Inc., and Ron Wardell,  
President**

**Case No.: FEC 14-330  
F.O. No.: FOFEC 15-0366d**

**CONSENT FINAL ORDER**

Respondent, Martin County Leadership Council, Inc., and Ron Wardell, President, 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 September 30, 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 for the purposes of this proceeding only:
  - a. Respondent, Martin County Leadership Council, Inc., and its President, Ron Wardell, organized a political committee that received contributions or made expenditures in a calendar year in an aggregate amount exceeding \$500.
  - b. Respondent, Martin County Leadership Council, Inc., and its President, Ron Wardell failed to file a Statement of Organization within 10 days of

organizing its political committee, pursuant to Section 106.03(1)(a), Florida Statutes.

- c. Respondent, Martin County Leadership Council, Inc., and its President, Ron Wardell, acted as an unregistered political committee that falsely reported or deliberately failed to include information in one or more campaign reports required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.

### **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 its 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 February 6, 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 106.03(1)(a), Florida Statutes, when he organized a political committee that received contributions or made expenditures in a calendar year in an aggregate amount exceeding \$500, but failed to file a Statement of Organization within 10 days of organizing the committee.

B. Respondent has violated Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes, when the committee acted as an unregistered political committee that falsely reported or deliberately failed to include information in one or more campaign reports required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.

Therefore it is

**ORDERED** that the Respondent shall remit to the Commission a civil penalty in the amount of \$400.00, 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

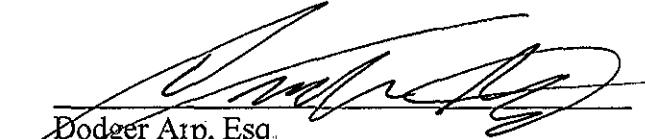
Building, Suite 224, Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-1050.

**Respondent** hereby agrees and consents to the terms of this Order on

2 FEB, 2015



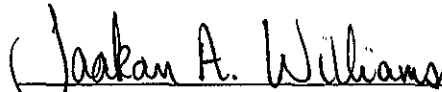
Ron Wardell, President  
Martin County Leadership Council, Inc.  
901 S.W. Martin Downs Boulevard  
Palm City, FL 34990



Dodger Arp, Esq.  
Law Offices of Dodger Arp  
550 Quadrille Blvd., Suite 224  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

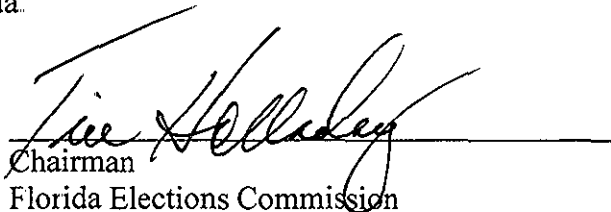
**Commission staff** hereby agrees and consents to the terms of this Consent Order on

Feb 9, 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  
February 24 -25, 2015 in Tallahassee, Florida.



Chairman  
Florida Elections Commission

Copies furnished to:  
Jaakan A. Williams, Assistant General Counsel

Dodger Arp, Respondent's Attorney  
Donna Melzer, Complainant

# WELLS FARGO BANK

DOWNTOWN WEST PALM BEACH 303 BANYAN BLVD WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33401

DATE 2 FEB 15

1001

63-751/631

PAY TO THE ORDER OF FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION \$ 400.00

From Handbook

DOLLARS

THE LAW OFFICE OF DODGER ARP, P  
DODGER L ARP  
650 S QUADRILLE BLVD STE 200  
WEST PALM BEACH FL 33401-585

CASE: 14-330



*[Handwritten signature]*