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STATE OF FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

# STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

In Re: Frank J. Meeker	Case No.: FEC 14-463
<u> </u>	F.O. No.: FOFEC 15-140 W

# CONSENT ORDER

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

## FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Respondent was a 2014 candidate for re-election to the Flagler County Commission, District 2.
- 2. On December 1, 2014, the Commission received a sworn complaint alleging that Respondent violated the following section of The Florida Election Code on one occasion:

Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes: As alleged in the complaint, Frank Meeker, a 2014 candidate for re-election to the Flagler County Commission, District 2, distributed a political advertisement that contained express advocacy but did not include a proper disclaimer.

- 3. No other legally sufficient violation of Chapter 104 or 106, Florida Statutes, was alleged in the complaint.
- 4. Respondent against whom the complaint was filed has not been notified of an allegation of the same violation before the conduct about which the complaint was filed.
  - 5. If the alleged violation occurred less than 14 days before the election in which the

Respondent is participating, the complainant did not allege that the political advertisement was either deceptive or influenced the outcome of the election.

6. Respondent used his name in the political advertisement.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 7. The Commission has jurisdiction over the parties to and subject matter of this cause, pursuant to Section 106.26, Florida Statutes.
- 8. The Commission considers the allegation contained in the complaint a minor violation, pursuant to Rule 2B-1.003, Florida Administrative Code.
- 9. Respondent neither admits nor denies that he violated Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes, on one occasion.

### ORDER

- 10. Respondent and the staff of the Commission have entered into this Consent Order voluntarily and upon advice of counsel.
- 11. Respondent shall bear his own attorney fees and costs that are in anyway associated with this case.
- 12. Respondent understands that before the Consent Order is final agency action, it must be approved by the Commission. The Commission will consider the Consent Order at its next available meeting.
- 13. Respondent voluntarily waives the right to any further proceedings under Chapters 106, and 120, Florida Statutes, and the right to appeal the Consent Order.
- 14. Respondent will carefully review Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, and avoid any future violation of the chapter.
  - 15. Respondent agrees to correct immediately, if feasible, the violations alleged in

the complaint.

16. If the Commission does not receive the signed Consent Order and payment by

the close of business on March 30, 2015, the staff withdraws this offer of settlement and will

proceed with an investigation of the allegations in the complaint.

Respondent shall remit to the Commission a civil penalty in the amount of \$250.

The civil penalty shall be paid by money order, cashier's check, or attorney trust account check

and be valid for 120 days from the date of its issuance. The civil penalty shall be made payable

to the Florida Elections Commission and sent to 107 West Gaines Street, Collins Building, Suite

224, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1050, as a condition precedent to the Commission's execution of

this Consent Order.

17.

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

3 - 27 2015

Frank J. Meeker

41 Cochise Court

Palm Coast, FL 32137

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

<u>400 5</u>, 2015.

Amy Mckeever Joman, Executive Director

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 on way 20, 2015.

resm Chairman

Florida Elections Commission

Copies furnished to: Amy McKeever Toman, Executive Director Lonnie Groot, Attorney for Respondent Mark Richter, Complainant OLD KINGS RD 0003 1 0109099

To The FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION Order Of

Remitter (Purchased By): FRANK I MEEKER

Bank of America, N.A. SAN ANTONIO, TX

THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT HAS A REFLECTIVE WATERMARK ON THE BACK. HOLD AT AN ANGLE TO VIEW WHEN CHECKING THE ENDORSEMENTS.