

STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

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FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

In Re: Christopher Dorworth

Case No.: FEC 10-210

F.O. No.: FOFEC 11-010W

CONSENT FINAL ORDER

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On September 8, 2010, a complaint was filed with the Commission alleging that the Respondent violated Florida election laws.

2. The Respondent has expressed a desire to enter into negotiations to resolve the issues in this case.

3. The Respondent and the staff jointly stipulate to the following facts:

A. The Respondent was the incumbent candidate for the Florida House of Representatives, District 34, in the general election held on November 2, 2010.

B. During the campaign, the Respondent filed regular reports of contributions received, and expenditures made, by his campaign. The Respondent and the Respondent's campaign treasurer certified that these reports were true, correct, and complete.

C. Respondent's 2008 Q4, 2009 Q1, 2009 Q2, 2009 Q3, 2009 Q4, 2010 Q1, and 2010 F1 campaign reports failed to disclose reimbursement information required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.

D. However, the *Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook* does not

address Other Distributions and the use of the DS-DE 14A form.¹

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 Respondent shall bear his own attorney 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 regarding any issue arising out of the complaint filed in this case.

10. If the Commission does not receive the signed Consent Order within 7 days of the date Respondent or his attorney received this order, the staff withdraws this offer of settlement and will proceed with the case.

¹ Erin NeSmith at the Division of Elections, stated that “[t]he Division will have information about reporting distributions in future publications – the next updates will be in 2011. The candidates will have access to this information by reviewing the Candidate Handbook and EFS Manuel.”

PENALTY

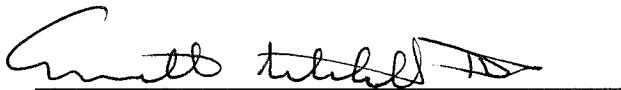
WHEREFORE, based upon the foregoing facts and conclusions of law, the Commission finds that the Respondent has not violated Sections 106.07(5), or 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes.

Therefore it is

ORDERED that the case against Respondent is hereby **DISMISSED**.

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

December 22, 2010.



Christopher Dorworth

by and through

Emmett Mitchell, IV

Florida Bar Number 0976687

Coates Law Firm, PL

115 East Park Avenue, Suite 1

Tallahassee, Florida 32301

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

December 22, 2010.



Joshua B. Moye

Assistant General Counsel


Florida Elections Commission

107 W. Gaines Streets

Collins Building, Suite 224

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1050

Approved by the Florida Elections Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting held on February 8 & 9, 2011, in Tallahassee, Florida.



Jose Luis Rodriguez, Vice-Chair
Acting Interim Chair
Florida Elections Commission

Copies furnished to:

Joshua B. Moyer, Assistant General Counsel
Bucky Mitchell, Attorney for Respondent