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Megan C. Kelley, *Vice Chair*
Bruce E. Bailey
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OHIO ETHICS COMMISSION
William Green Building
30 West Spring Street, L3
Columbus, Ohio 43215-2256
Telephone: (614) 466-7090
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Paul M. Nick
Executive Director

www.ethics.ohio.gov

June 16, 2017

CONFIDENTIAL

[REDACTED]
Cincinnati, Ohio [REDACTED]

Re: **In the Matters of Tom Weidman, Cliff Bishop, Dennis Connor and Mike McKeown**
Inquiry Nos. 14-Q-1217-051, 14-Q-1217-052, 14-Q-1217-052 & 15-Q-0619-025


Dear [REDACTED]

As you know, the Ethics Commission has conducted an investigation to determine whether **Sycamore Township Trustees and employees violated any of the Ohio Ethics Laws**. Specifically, it was alleged that the Trustees allowed the Sycamore Township Republican Club (Club), where they served as officers, to be the alcohol vendor at the annual Sycamore Township summer festival known as "Festival in Sycamore" and allowed the Club to retain the proceeds of those sales.

Enclosed please find a copy of a settlement agreement entered into between Hamilton County Special Prosecutor Michael Tranter and public officials from Sycamore Township. Because the Hamilton County Special Prosecutor has resolved the matter, the Commission instructed staff to close these investigations and forward a copy of the settlement agreement to you on June 15, 2017.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (614) 466-7090.

Sincerely,


Julie M. Korte
Chief Investigative Attorney

Enclosure

Agreement

This Agreement is entered into by and among Tom Weidman, Cliff Bishop, Dennis Connor, Sycamore Township Trustees; Mike McKeown, Sycamore Township Parks and Recreation Director ("Parties"); and Michael L. Tranter, Special Prosecutor for Hamilton County, Ohio ("Special Prosecutor") to resolve an investigation by Hamilton County regarding possible violations of R.C. 2921.42(A) and R.C. 102.03(A) as it relates to the Sycamore Township Republican Club's (STRC) involvement as a vendor at the Sycamore Township's annual "Festival in Sycamore."

As a result of the Special Prosecutor's review and evaluation of the matter and information provided by counsel for the Parties, this investigation has been concluded and prosecution declined. Pursuant to the conclusion of the investigation, the Parties have agreed that the following measures have been taken:

- 1) Tom Weidman, Cliff Bishop, Dennis Connor, and Mike McKeown have resigned from their respective leadership positions and their membership in the Sycamore Township Republican Club (STRC).
- 2) In the event the STRC is selected to operate the beer booth at the Festival in Sycamore, the STRC shall pay for any sponsorship fee, and after payment of the expenses of the beer booth, the STRC shall donate all remaining profits from the beer booth sales to a local 501(c)(3) charity recognizable in the Sycamore Township community and/or to Township of Sycamore itself.
- 3) None of the profits from the beer booth shall benefit the STRC, Republican candidates, or any partisan cause with all profits being donated to a local 501(c)(3) charity recognizable in the Sycamore Township community and/or to Township of Sycamore itself.

The signors to this Agreement represent that they are aware of no other investigations relating to the Parties as of the signing this Agreement.

Should the Special Prosecutor determine that any of the Parties committed a willful and knowing breach of any material provisions of this Agreement; the Special Prosecutor reserves the right to reopen the investigation of this matter immediately. The Parties make a knowing, intelligent, and voluntary consent to the terms of this Agreement and in express reliance on the advice of counsel.

This Agreement sets forth all the terms between Tom Weidman, Cliff Bishop, Dennis Connor, Sycamore Township Trustees; Mike McKeown, Sycamore Township Parks and Recreation Director (Parties) and Michael L. Tranter, Special Prosecutor for Hamilton County, Ohio (Special Prosecutor). No modifications or additions to this Agreement shall be valid unless they are signed in writing and signed by the Parties and the Special Prosecutor.

ON BEHALF OF THE PARTIES:

Tom Weidman
Tom Weidman

5/28/17
Date

Cliff Bishop
Cliff Bishop

5/28/17
Date

Dennis W. Connor
Dennis Connor

5/29/17
Date

Mike McKeown
Mike McKeown

5/29/17
Date

Alex M. Triantafilou 5/29/17
Alex M. Triantafilou, #0066311
Attorney for Messrs. Weidman, Bishop, Connor, and McKeown

ON BEHALF OF THE HAMILTON COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE, STATE OF OHIO

Michael Tranter
Michael Tranter, Special Prosecutor, #75373

5/29/17
Date