

**BEFORE THE GEORGIA GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY
AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE COMMISSION**

STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE MATTER OF: * **Ethics Case No. 2008-0067**
*
Sharon Barnes-Sutton *
*

CONSENT ORDER

This matter came before the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission, formerly the Georgia State Ethics Commission, ("Commission") pursuant to a complaint filed on August 1, 2008 alleging violations of the Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Act, O.C.G.A. § 21-5-et seq. (the "Act"). Following a continuance request from Respondent, a preliminary hearing was held on October 15, 2009, where the Commission found reasonable grounds to set the matter down for an Administrative Procedure Act ("APA") hearing. Prior to a hearing, Respondent and the Commission hereby agree and consent to resolve this matter by entering into this Consent Order under the terms and conditions described herein.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent Sharon Barnes-Sutton (hereinafter, "Respondent") was a 2006 candidate for election to the General Assembly and a 2008 candidate for election to the DeKalb County Commission at all times relevant to the matters asserted herein.

Respondent failed to file Campaign Contribution Disclosure Reports ("CCDRs") as a 2006 candidate for House District 87 pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 21-5-34. Specifically, Respondent failed to file CCDRs with the Commission due on June 30, 2006, September 30, 2006, October 25, 2006, and December 31, 2006. Respondent also failed to file local copies of the CCDRs with the local filing officer pursuant to former O.C.G.A. § 21-5-34 (a)(1)(A). The filing of local copies is no longer required under the current version of the Act. Following initiation of the instant investigation, Respondent late filed the aforementioned 2006 CCDRs with the Commission on December 9, 2008. In 2008, as a candidate for election to the DeKalb County Commission, District 4, Respondent also failed to file or timely file CCDRs due to the local filing officer on June 30, 2008, September 30, 2008, and October 25, 2008. Respondent maintains that she did not willfully intend to violate any of the provisions of the Act. Following the instant investigation, Respondent late filed the aforementioned 2008 CCDRs on December 3, 2008. Also, prior to entry of this Consent Order, Respondent paid all accrued late and non-filing fees for the above mentioned reports.

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In resolving this matter, Respondent hereby agrees to pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$2,500 in ten (10) monthly installments of \$250. All payments are due no later than the 5th day of each month and shall commence the first month after the date of this Order. Respondent may make larger payments towards the balance at any time during the prescribed payment periods. All payments shall be made using personal funds and not campaign funds. Respondent further agrees to cease and desist from any violations of the Act or any other laws, rules, or regulations of the Commission.

Respondent represents that the foregoing findings of fact are true, agrees to any conclusions of law, and further agrees to abide by all terms thereof. By signing this Consent Order Respondent waives any further findings of facts and conclusions of law, as well as any procedural requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act including an appeal pursuant to the procedures outlined in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-1 et seq. Respondent's failure to comply with the terms herein shall constitute a breach of this agreement and thereby authorizes the Commission to seek an enforcement action against the Respondent. All costs and attorney fees incurred by the Commission in such enforcement action shall be assessed against Respondent pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 21-5-6(b)(14)(C).

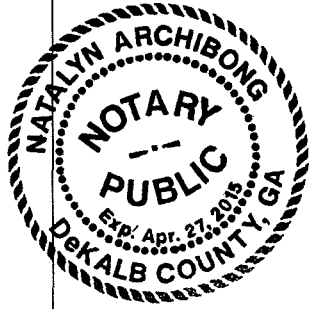
The Commission adopts the foregoing statements and conclusions as the Commission's findings of fact and conclusions of law, and orders the implementation of the terms of this Consent Order.

By: Sharon Barnes Sutton
Sharon Barnes-Sutton
Respondent

Signature attested to on
this 1st day of August, 2011

Natalyn Archibong
Notary Public
My commission expires:

Otanya M. Clarke, Esq.
Attorney for Respondent.



SO ORDERED this 5th day August, 2011.

By: Patrick N. Millsaps
PATRICK N. MILLSAPS, Chairman
Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission