

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

STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE MATTER OF: * Ethics Case No. 2008-0045
 *
STAN WATSON *
 *

CONSENT ORDER

This matter came before the Georgia Government Transparency and Finance Commission, formerly the Georgia State Ethics Commission, ("Commission") pursuant to a verified complaint filed on May 14, 2008, alleging violations of the Ethics in Government Act, O.C.G.A. § 21-5-et seq. (the "Act"). Respondent waived the preliminary hearing held on December 4, 2008, and 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 Stan Watson (hereinafter, "Respondent") was a member of the General Assembly and a candidate for DeKalb County CEO at all times relevant to the matters asserted herein. The Act prohibits members of the General Assembly or holders of statewide office from seeking or accepting contributions during the legislative session. O.C.G.A. §21-5-35(a). Respondent sought contributions during the legislative session by distributing flyers advertising a March 30, 2008 fundraiser for his DeKalb County CEO campaign. The minimum attendance fee and donation for the fundraiser was \$25. Respondent disclosed the receipt of an aggregated total of \$331 in contributions from the fundraiser on his March 31, 2008 Campaign Contribution Disclosure Report (CCDR). Respondent's March 31, 2008 CCDR also reported five (5) contributions received on January 14, 2008, during the first day of the legislative session.

In resolving this matter, Respondent hereby agrees to pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$1,500 to the Commission in ten (10) monthly installments of \$150. 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. The payments must be made from personal funds and not campaign funds. Respondent agrees to cease and desist

from any future violations of the Ethics in Government Act or any other laws, rules, or regulations of the Commission.

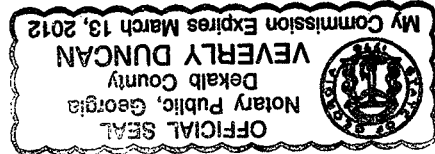
Respondent represents that the foregoing findings of fact are true, agrees to any conclusions of law, and further agrees to abide by all terms thereof. By signing this Consent Order Respondent waives any further findings of facts and conclusions of law, as well as any procedural requirements of the Administrative 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: Stan Watson
Stan Watson
Respondent

Signature attested to on
this 13th day of May, 2011

Jerry Dunea
Notary Public
My commission expires: March 13, 2012



SO ORDERED this 5th day of August, 2011.

By: [Signature]
PATRICK N. MILLSAPS, Chairman
Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission