

TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION

P.O. Box 12070, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711-2070

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August 14, 2015

Ms. Mary Tipps

**RE: Notice of Reporting Error
SC-31407147**

Dear Ms. Tipps:

The Texas Ethics Commission (Commission) met on August 7, 2015, to consider SC-31407147. A quorum of the Commission was present. **The Commission determined that there is credible evidence of a reporting error that does not materially defeat the purpose of disclosure.** To resolve and settle this case without further proceedings, the Commission proposed this Notice of Reporting Error Agreement (agreement).

The Commission **found credible evidence** that the respondent:

1. did not disclose on her 2014 lobby registration form the full name and address of a person who reimbursed or compensated her using political contributions, as required by section 305.005(m) of the Government Code.

Credible evidence available to the Commission supports the following findings of fact and conclusions of law:

1. It was contended that the respondent, a registered lobbyist, did not include on her 2014 lobby registration form the full name and address of a person that used political contributions to compensate the respondent.
2. An online query of the Commission's database showed that Texans for Lawsuit Reform PAC (TLR PAC) made 12 expenditures in 2014 from political funds to the respondent totaling \$12,000 for "PAC staff salary."

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The Texas Ethics Commission does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

3. The respondent filed her original 2014 lobby registration on February 7, 2014. At the time the complaint was filed, TLR PAC was not disclosed on the respondent's 2014 registration form as a person from whom the respondent received reimbursement or compensation from political funds. TLR PAC reported its first 2014 political expenditure to the respondent on January 23, 2014, for \$1,000. The respondent's amended 2013 registration form listed TLR PAC as a person who compensated the respondent using political funds, so it is clear that the respondent was aware of the legal requirement to include the information required by section 305.005(m) of the Government Code at the time she filed her original 2014 lobby registration form.
4. In response to the complaint, the respondent admitted that she received compensation from TLR PAC and stated the omission on her 2014 lobby registration form was an oversight. On July 9, 2014, in response to the complaint, the respondent amended her 2014 lobby registration form to include TLR PAC as a person who provides her with compensation from political funds. TLR PAC disclosed six political expenditures to the respondent in 2014 totaling \$6,000 before the respondent disclosed TLR PAC on her 2014 lobby registration form.

By signing this agreement and returning it to the Commission:

1. You consent to this agreement.
2. You accept the determinations made by the Commission in this agreement.
3. You waive any right to further proceedings in this matter.
4. You understand and agree that the Commission will consider this agreement in any future proceedings against you regarding similar allegations.
5. You acknowledge that each lobby registration form must include the full name and address of each person who compensates or reimburses the registrant or person acting as an agent for the registrant for services, including political consulting services, rendered by the registrant from a political contribution, interest received from a political contribution, or an asset purchased with political contributions.

You agree to comply with this requirement of the law.

This agreement describes a reporting error that the Commission has determined is neither technical nor *de minimis*. Accordingly, this agreement is not confidential under section 571.140 of the Government Code.

The respondent agrees to tender a \$100 assessment fee to the Commission.

This agreement is a final and complete resolution of SC-31407147.

Mary Tipps, Respondent

Date signed by Respondent

Executed original agreement received by the Commission on: _____.

Texas Ethics Commission

By: _____
Natalia Luna Ashley, Executive Director