

OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

DOCKET NUMBER 2011-60	:	
	:	
IN THE MATTER OF A	:	18-20 TRINITY STREET
	:	
COMPLAINT AGAINST	:	HARTFORD, CT 06106
	:	
CIRA ROMANN	:	JULY 13, 2012

STIPULATION AND CONSENT ORDER

Pursuant to the Code of Ethics, General Statutes § 1-79, et seq., Thomas K. Jones, Ethics Enforcement Officer of the Office of State Ethics (“OSE”), issued a Complaint against the Respondent Cira Romann (“Romann” or “Respondent”) alleging violations of the Code of Ethics, Connecticut General Statutes § 1-84 (q). Based upon the investigation by the Enforcement Division of the OSE, the Ethics Enforcement Officer finds there is probable cause to believe that the Respondent, while acting as a state employee, counseled, authorized and/or sanctioned actions by another person that violated the Code of Ethics, in violation of General Statutes § 1-84 (q).

The Parties have entered into this Stipulation and Consent Order following the issuance of the Complaint, but without any adjudication of any issue of fact or law herein.

I. STIPULATION

The Ethics Enforcement Officer and the Respondent stipulate to the following facts:

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was employed as a Human Rights and Opportunities Representative for the CHRO.
2. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was a “State Employee” as that term is defined in General Statutes § 1-79 (m).
3. On or about October 31, 2009, a CHRO employee known to Respondent (the “former state employee”) departed state employment and, within one year of his departure,

represented someone other than the state, for compensation, before the CHRO in violation of General Statutes § 1-84b (b).

4. Between October 31, 2009 and October 31, 2010, Respondent knowingly counseled, authorized and/or otherwise sanctioned the former state employee's representation before the CHRO in one or more of the following ways:
 - a. encouraging the former state employee to represent a person with a pending matter before CHRO;
 - b. providing the former state employee with confidential information regarding the CHRO matter in which the former state employee represented individuals;
 - c. providing the former state employee with updates regarding the CHRO's strategy with respect to the matter in which the former state employee represented someone other than the state.

5. General Statutes §1-84 (q) states in pertinent part:

No public official or state employee shall counsel, authorize or otherwise sanction action that violates any provision of this part.

6. The Respondent, by counseling, authorizing or otherwise sanctioning a former state employee to violate the Section 1-84b (b) of the Code of Ethics, the Respondent violated Section 1-84 (q).
7. The Respondent admits to all facts set forth above, and admits that, by engaging in such conduct, she violated the Code of Ethics for Public Officials.

II. JURISDICTION

1. The Ethics Enforcement Officer is authorized to investigate the Respondent's acts as set forth herein, to issue a Complaint against the Respondent, and to enter into this Stipulation and Consent Order.
2. The provisions of this Stipulation and Consent Order apply to and are binding upon the Respondent.
3. The Respondent hereby waives all objections and defenses to the jurisdiction of the Ethics Enforcement Officer over matters addressed in this Stipulation and Consent Order.
4. The Respondent waives any rights she may have under General Statutes §§ 1-80, 1-82, 1-82a, 1-87 and 1-88, including the right to a hearing or appeal in this case, and agrees with the Ethics Enforcement Officer to an informal disposition of this matter as authorized by General Statutes § 4-177 (c).

5. The Respondent consents to jurisdiction and venue in the Connecticut Superior Court, Judicial District of Hartford, in the event that the State of Connecticut seeks to enforce this Stipulation and Consent Order. The Respondent recognizes that the Connecticut Superior Court has the authority to specifically enforce the provisions of this Stipulation and Consent Order, including the authority to award equitable relief.
6. The terms set forth herein are in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other existing or future statutory, regulatory, or other legal obligation that may be applicable to the Respondent.
7. The Respondent has been advised of her right to be represented by counsel throughout the investigation of this matter and the negotiation of this Stipulation and Consent Order and has waived this right.

III. ORDER

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to General Statutes § 4-177 (c), the Office of State Ethics hereby **ORDERS**, and the Respondent agrees, that:

1. Pursuant to General Statutes § 1-88 (a) (1), the Respondent will heretofore cease and desist from any future violation of General Statutes § 1-84 (q).
2. Pursuant to General Statutes § 1-88 (a) (3), the Respondent agrees to pay civil penalties to the State in the amount of \$6,000.00 for her violations of General Statutes § 1-84 (q) as set forth in the Complaint.

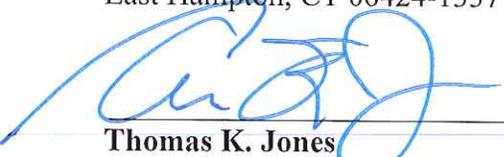
WHEREFORE, the Ethics Enforcement Officer and the Respondent hereby execute this Stipulation and Consent Order dated July 13, 2012.

Dated: Sept. 1, 2012


Cira Romann

14 Candlewood Drive
East Hampton, CT 06424-1337

Dated: Sept 12, 2012


Thomas K. Jones

Ethics Enforcement Officer
Connecticut Office of State Ethics
18-20 Trinity Street
Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 263-2390

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**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTIES TO SUSPEND PAYMENT OF PENALTIES
PURSUANT TO THE STIPULATION AND CONSENT ORDER**

WHEREAS, the Respondent Cira Romann (hereafter "Romann" or "Respondent") was the subject of an investigation by the Enforcement Division of the Office of State Ethics, Docket No. 2011-60;

WHEREAS, the Respondent and the Enforcement Division executed a Stipulation and Consent Order dated July 13, 2012, whereby the Respondent agreed to pay \$6,000 in settlement of the claims made against her by the Enforcement Division in that matter;

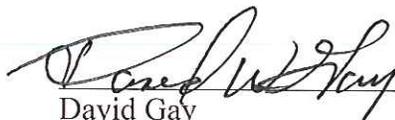
WHEREAS, the Respondent has provided documentation to the Office of State Ethics that demonstrates, to the satisfaction of the Office of State Ethics, a financial inability to make complete payment pursuant to the Stipulation and Consent Order.

WHEREAS, the Respondent has agreed to resign from the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, thereby obviating the need for the OSE to monitor Respondent's compliance with the Code of Ethics;

WHEREFORE, the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board ("Board") agrees to suspend collection of \$4,000 of the \$6,000 penalty imposed by the OSE pursuant to the Stipulation and Consent Order.

The Office of State Ethics relies on the documents provided by the Respondent. If any of the documents prove to be false, fraudulent, or otherwise untruthful, the Board has the right and full discretion to seek full enforcement of the Stipulation and Consent Order, including up to the full amount of the \$6,000. Nothing herein shall be interpreted to relieve Respondent of any obligation set forth in the Stipulation and Consent Order except as expressly set forth herein.


Cira Romann
Respondent
9/01/12
Date


David Gay
Chairman, Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board
20 Sept, 2012
Date