

State of Nebraska

Accountability and Disclosure Commission

P.O. BOX 95086
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
www.nadc.nebraska.gov



Centre Terrace, 1225 L St. #400
Phone (402) 471-2522
Fax (402) 471-6599

Synopsis Case #17-17

Action Taken on March 9, 2018

Respondents: Friends of Patrick Bonnett and Patrick Bonnett

Patrick Bonnett was a candidate in 2016 for director of the Pappio-Missouri Natural Resources District. Friends of Patrick Bonnett was his candidate committee. Candidate committees are required to file a Statement of Organization with the Commission within 10 days after raising, receiving or expending more than \$5,000.00 in a calendar year. Filings with the Commission indicated that the candidate exceeded the \$5,000.00 threshold on or about October 3, 2016. The Statement of Organization was due on October 5, 2016 and remained unfiled until October 5, 2017.

The Commission's Executive Director commenced a preliminary investigation on June 13, 2017 alleging that the Respondents violated §49-1449 of the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act (NPADA) in that they failed to file a Statement of Organization with the Commission upon raising, receiving or expending more than \$5,000 in a calendar year.

The parties entered into a settlement agreement by the terms of which the Commission could find a violation of §49-1449 for failing to timely file a Statement of Organization. Noting the assessment of a late filing fee by operation of law, the agreement provides that the Commission will assess no civil penalty. The Commission approved the Settlement Agreement with eight Commissioners concurring, no Commissioners dissenting, and no Commissioners abstaining.

Violation: Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, the Commission found that the Respondents had failed to timely file a Statement of Organization in violation of §49-14,103.01 of the NPADA.

Civil Penalty: None assessed.

Other: A late filing of \$1,000.00 was assessed by operation of law.

Attorney for Commission: Neil Danberg

Synopsis Prepared by:

Frank Daley, Executive Director
Nebraska Accountability & Disclosure Commission
P.O. Box 95086
Lincoln, NE 68509
402-471-2522

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

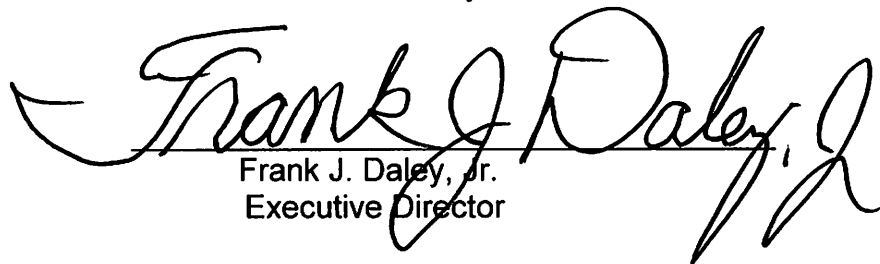
In the Matter of The Friends of)
Patrick Bonnett and Patrick Bonnett) Case #17-17
As Candidate and Treasurer,)
Respondent) ORDER

Now on this 9th day of March, 2018, this matter comes before the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission. Commissioners Callahan, Carlson, Davis, Enenbach, Gale, Hegarty, Loudon and Sullivan are present with Commissioner Loudon presiding. Commissioner Peetz is excused. The Respondent is not present. The Commission notes the submission of a proposed Settlement Agreement.

Whereupon, the Commission, with eight Commissioners concurring, no Commissioners dissenting, and no Commissioners abstaining, finds that the attached Settlement Agreement should be and hereby is approved and incorporated into this Order. Pursuant to that Agreement, the Commission finds that the Respondent has committed a violation of Nebraska Revised Statutes, Section 49-1449, as more fully set forth in the attached Settlement Agreement. Pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement, the Commission elects to impose no civil penalty in this case.

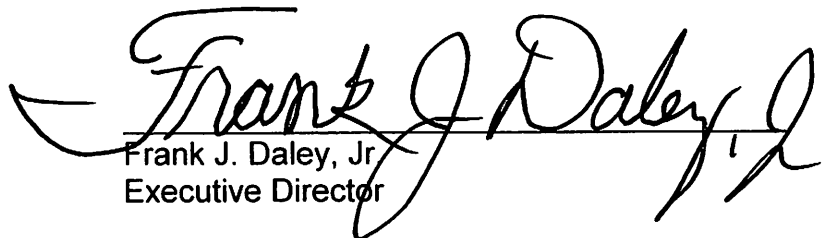
Issued this 9th day of March, 2018

Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission


Frank J. Daley, Jr.
Executive Director

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a copy of this Order ~~was~~ sent by certified U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested on this 9th day of March, 2018, to the following person at the following address Patrick Bonnett, 5175 South 150th Plaza, Omaha, NE 68137.


Frank J. Daley, Jr.
Executive Director

1/25/18

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

CASE No. 17-17

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NE. ACCOUNTABILITY &
DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

In the Matter of The Friends of Patrick)
Bonnett and Patrick Bonnett as)
Candidate and Treasurer)

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

- 1) Parties: The parties to this Settlement Agreement (hereinafter "Agreement") are the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission, hereafter referred to as the "Commission" and The Friends of Patrick Bonnett, and Patrick Bonnett as Candidate and Treasurer, hereafter referred to collectively as the "Respondent".
- 2) Jurisdiction: The Respondent acknowledges the jurisdiction of the Commission pursuant to the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act ("NPADA").
- 3) Intention: The parties hereby agree and intend that this Agreement shall constitute a waiver of an investigation or a formal hearing on the alleged violation as described in Paragraph 4 of this Agreement, thereby resolving the matter without further delay and expense to the parties.
- 4) The Alleged Violation: In its Notice of Preliminary Investigation in this case, the Commission alleged the Respondent committed a violation of the NPADA, Section 49-1449, as follows: In the 2016 general election, the Respondent was required to file a Statement of Organization, but failed to do so.
- 5) The Alleged Violation: Stipulations and Agreements. The Respondent and the Commission stipulate and agree that at the time of the alleged violation, Patrick Bonnett was a candidate for the office of Board member of the Papio-Missouri Natural Resources District, and that, given the level of contributions to his campaign, the Respondent was required to file a Statement of Organization pursuant to Section 49-1449 of the NPADA.
- 6) The Alleged Violation: Findings. With respect to the Violation, as described above in Paragraphs 4 and 5, the Respondent agrees and stipulates that if this matter proceeded to a hearing, there is sufficient evidence from which the Commission could make a finding that there has been a violation as alleged, and the Commission may enter an order that there has been a violation as alleged, and that he would not contest such a finding or order.
- 7) Waiver of Civil Penalty: The parties have agreed that, upon acceptance of this Agreement by the Commission, and in view of a possible late filing fee, which is currently outstanding, the Commission will not impose a civil penalty in this matter.

The parties further agree that the resolution of the matter of the late filing fee will be considered and decided upon by the Executive Director of the Commission, within the discretion granted him by statute, rule, and this Agreement.

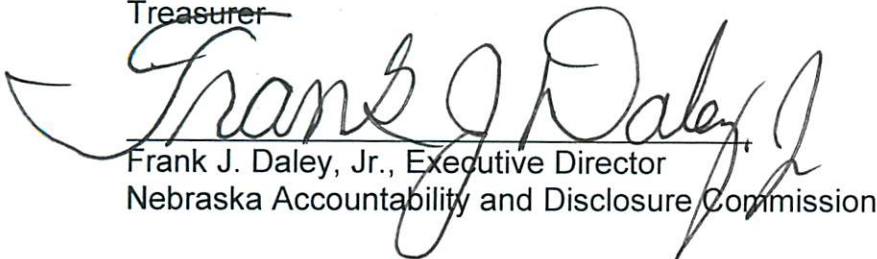
- 8) The Commission must approve this Agreement in order for it to be effective: The parties agree that in order for this Agreement to become effective, the Commission must approve it and shall, if it approves the Settlement, enter an Order in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.
- 9) Effective Date of Agreement: This Agreement shall not be binding upon the parties until the date it is approved by the Commission and the Commission issues an order in accordance with the terms of this Agreement. The date upon which the Commission enters its Order approving this Agreement shall be deemed its effective date. If this Agreement is not approved in whole by the Commission, this Settlement Agreement shall be void and may not be used in this or any other proceeding. The parties acknowledge that this Settlement Agreement and any subsequent Order shall be announced at an open public meeting of the Commission. The parties further acknowledge that, upon adoption, this Settlement Agreement, the Order, and the Commission's file pertaining to this matter shall become open and public.
- 10) Right to Address the Commission: Patrick Bonnett has a right to address the Commission on the matter of the amount of civil penalty and approval of this Settlement Agreement.
- 11) Advice of Counsel: The Respondent acknowledges that he has had an opportunity to seek the advice of his attorney in connection with the terms of this agreement.



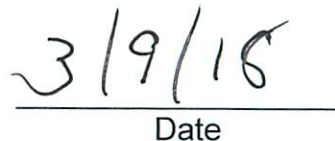
Patrick Bonnett on behalf of The
Friends of Patrick Bonnett and
Patrick Bonnett as Candidate and
Treasurer



Date



Frank J. Daley, Jr., Executive Director
Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission



Date