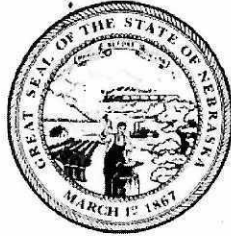


State of Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission

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



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

Synopsis Case #26-09

Action Taken on June 12, 2026

Respondent: Christopher Hartung

The Respondent is Christopher Hartung, who is a member of the City Council of Laurel, Nebraska. The Complainant is Alesia Barker, who is a resident of Laurel. The Complaint alleged that the Respondent voted to approve a building permit for a building lot which Respondent then purchased. The allegation was that at the time of the vote, the Respondent fully intended to acquire the lot in question.

After an investigation, it was determined that the Respondent had voted to approve a building permit for the property, and he did acquire the property and thereafter started building a home within nine (9) days of the permit's approval. The Notice of Preliminary Investigation alleged that the Respondent had utilized his public office for financial gain in approving the permit. This would have constituted a violation of Section 49-14,101.01(1) of the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act ("NPADA").

The Respondent was co-operative in the investigation. He stated that his motivation had not been financial gain for himself, but a desire to improve the tax base of Laurel. He further stated that he had a partner in the building of the home, and there was a question as to whether there would be a net loss on the transaction.

The Respondent entered into a Settlement Agreement. In view of his co-operation and comments, the Respondent was permitted to agree to violation of a lesser charge: 49-1499.03(2) of the NPADA—failure to file a Potential Conflict of Interest Statement prior to the date of the City Council meeting. He further agreed to pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$250.00.

The Commission adopted the Settlement Agreement with seven (7) Commissioners concurring, no Commissioners dissenting, and no Commissioners abstaining.

Violation: Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, the Commission found that the Respondent failed to file a Potential Conflict of Interest Statement prior to the matter coming before the City Council, found a violation of §49-1499.03(2), and assessed a civil penalty in the amount of \$250.00.

Civil Penalty: \$250.00.

Attorney for the Commission: Neil B. Danberg

Synopsis Prepared by: Scott Danigole, Executive Director, NADC.

P.O. Box 95086, Lincoln, NE 68509 (402)-471-2522

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

Alesia Barker v. Christopher Hartung

Case #26-09

ORDER

Now on this 12th day of June, 2026, this matter comes before the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission. Commissioners Christiansen, Chung, Evnen, Gloor, Reuss, Spray and Sullivan are present with Commissioner Reuss presiding. The Respondent is not present. The Commission notes the submission of a proposed Settlement Agreement.

Whereupon, the Commission with seven (7) 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 failed to file a required Potential Conflict of Interest Statement in August 2025, in violation of §49-1499.03(2) of Nebraska Revised Statutes, as recited in the attached Settlement Agreement.

In accordance with the Settlement Agreement, the Commission imposes a civil penalty of \$250.00 upon the Respondent.

Issued this 12th day of June, 2026.

Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission



Scott Danigole
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 12th day of June, 2026 to the following parties and at the following addresses: Christopher Hartung, 407 Maple Street, Laurel, NE 68745; Alesia Barker, 105 West 2nd Street, Laurel, NE 68745



Scott Danigole Executive Director

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:

CASE No. 26-09

CHRISTOPHER HARTUNG

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 Christopher Hartung, hereafter referred to as the "Respondent."
- 2) Jurisdiction: The Respondents acknowledge that the Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to the terms of Nebraska Statutes 49-1401 et seq., known as the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act ("NPADA").
- 3) Intention: The parties hereby agree and intend that this Agreement shall constitute a waiver of any further proceedings in this matter, thereby resolving the matter without further delay and expense to the parties.
- 4) The Violation: The Respondent is a member of the Laurel, Nebraska City Council. The Council, on or about August 12, 2025, was to consider a building permit application for a property in which the Respondent had a financial interest, and he did not file a required Potential Conflict of Interest Statement in violation of Section 49-1499.03(2) of the NPADA.
- 5) Stipulation: The Respondent and the Commission stipulate and agree that at the time of the alleged violation, the Respondent was a member of the Laurel City Council.
- 6) The Alleged Violation, Agreement: The Respondent states that it was not his intent to violate the NPADA as alleged, but he agrees and stipulates that there is sufficient evidence to support the Commission's findings of a violation of Section 49-1499.03(2) of the NPADA, as described in Paragraph 4, above. The Respondent further agrees that he will not contest the Commission's Order in this case, and he further agrees to file a Potential Conflict of Interest Statement, as required, in the future.
- 7) Civil Penalty and Agreement: The parties have agreed that, in view of the Respondent's willingness to resolve this matter and accept the finding of the Commission of a violation of Section 49-1499.03(2) in this case, the Commission will impose a civil penalty in this matter not to exceed \$250.00.

- 8) The Commission must approve this Agreement in order for it to be effective: The parties agree that for this Agreement to become effective, the Commission must approve it and enter an Order according to the terms of the 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 of the Order shall be deemed its effective date. If this Agreement is not approved by the Commission, this Agreement shall be void and may not be used in this or any other proceeding. The parties acknowledge that this Agreement and any subsequent Order shall be announced at an open public meeting of the Commission. The parties further acknowledge that, upon adoption, this Agreement, the Order, and the Commission's file pertaining to this matter shall become open and public.
- 10) Right to Address the Commission: The Respondent has a right to address the Commission on the matter of the approval of this Settlement Agreement.
- 11) Advice of Counsel: The Respondent acknowledges that he has had an opportunity to seek the advice of an attorney concerning this Agreement.

Christopher Hartung

Date



Scott Danigole, Executive Director

Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission

6-12-2026
Date