## **SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

Pursuant to section 4-1100 of the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter, the Board of Ethics is responsible for enforcing the Philadelphia's Campaign Finance Law, which is found at Chapter 20-1000 of the Philadelphia Code.

- 1. Cohen for Council is the authorized candidate political committee of Sherrie Cohen, a former candidate for a City Council At-Large seat in the May 2015 Philadelphia primary election.
- 2. Pursuant to the City's Campaign Finance Law, from May 5 through May 19, 2015, within 24 hours of accepting a contribution of \$500 or more, Cohen for Council was required to electronically file a campaign finance report with the Board disclosing that contribution.
- 3. During the 24 hour reporting period, Cohen for Council should have electronically filed eight separate campaign finance reports with the Board, but failed to do so. On June 17, 2015, Sherrie Cohen contacted Board enforcement staff to self-report that her committee had failed to timely file these reports with the Board, although the committee did file the reports with the City Commissioners. On June 19, 2015, Cohen for Council electronically filed the required reports with the Board.
- 4. In addition to self-reporting the failure to file and taking prompt corrective action, Ms. Cohen and Cohen for Council have fully cooperated with Board enforcement staff in the resolution of this mater.
- 5. Cohen for Council's late filing of eight 24 hour reports with the Board violated the City's Campaign Finance Law, for which Ms. Cohen will pay a civil monetary penalty of \$3,000 on the following schedule:
  - i. \$500 within two weeks of the effective date of the agreement;
  - ii. \$500 by September 30, 2015;
  - iii. \$1,000 by November 30, 2015; and
  - iv. \$1,000 by January 31, 2016.

Payment shall be by check made payable to the City of Philadelphia and delivered to the offices of the Board.

- 6. Cohen for Council and Sherrie Cohen release and hold harmless the Board and its staff from any potential claims, liabilities, and causes of action arising from the Board's investigation, enforcement, and settlement of the matters described in this Agreement.
- 7. In consideration of the above and in exchange for the compliance of Cohen for Council and Sherrie Cohen with all of the terms of the Agreement, the Board waives any further penalties or fines against them for the violations described in this Agreement.
- 8. If the Board or the City is forced to seek judicial enforcement of this Agreement, and prevails, Sherrie Cohen shall be liable for attorneys' fees and costs reasonably expended in enforcing compliance with the Agreement. Fees for time spent by Board or City attorneys shall be calculated based upon standard and customary billing rates in Philadelphia for attorneys with similar experience.

- 9. The Executive Director will submit a signed copy of the Agreement to the Board for approval. The Agreement shall become effective upon approval by the Board. The effective date of the Agreement shall be the date the Board Chair signs the Agreement.
- 10. If the Board rejects the proposed Agreement, presentation to and consideration of the Agreement by the Board shall not preclude the Board or its staff from participating in, considering, or resolving an administrative adjudication of the matters described in the Agreement. If the Board rejects the proposed Agreement, nothing in the proposed Agreement shall be considered an admission by either party and, except for this paragraph, nothing in the Agreement shall be effective.

Dated: 7 30 15	By the Executive Director of the Board of Ethics:  J. Shane Creamer, Jr.
Dated: 7/30/15	By Cohen for Council:  Cathy Sin, Treasurer
Dated: 7/30/16	By Sherrie Cohen:
Approved by the Board of Ethics:	
Dated: 8 20 2015	Michael H. Reed Chair