



**CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
BOARD OF ETHICS**

Contact: J. Shane Creamer, Jr., Executive Director, 215-686-9450

For Immediate Release: July 23, 2019

PHILADELPHIA – On July 22, 2019, the Board of Ethics approved a settlement agreement with **Campaign to Elect Hena Veit and Salvatore Adamo (Treasurer of the Campaign to Elect Hena Veit)** resolving a violation of the City’s Campaign Finance Law for making material omissions and misstatements in a campaign finance report filed with the Board. A copy of the settlement agreement is attached hereto. Campaign to Elect Hena Veit has amended its 2019 sixth Tuesday pre-primary campaign finance report with the Board to disclose and amend the relevant transactions. A listing of the material omissions and misstatements is attached to the settlement agreement. Campaign to Elect Hena Veit has agreed to pay a \$2,000 civil monetary penalty that is due within 30 days of the execution of the agreement.

The Philadelphia Board of Ethics is charged with interpreting, administering, enforcing and providing advice and training on Philadelphia's Public Integrity Laws. The Board was established as an independent, five-member City board in June 2006 through voter approval of an amendment to the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter. The Board has jurisdiction over City laws pertaining to conflicts of interest, representation and post-employment restrictions, gifts and gratuities, financial disclosure, interests in certain City contracts, prohibited political activities, campaign finance and lobbying. The Board has authority to issue regulations and advisory opinions, provide informal guidance and trainings, engage in administrative and judicial enforcement actions and impose civil penalties.

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SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) is made and entered into by the Board of Ethics of the City of Philadelphia, J. Shane Creamer, Jr., the Executive Director of the Board, Campaign to Elect Hena Veit, and Salvatore Adamo, the Treasurer of Campaign to Elect Hena Veit, jointly referred to as “the Parties.”

RECITALS

- A. The Board of Ethics of the City of Philadelphia is an independent, five-member City board established in 2006 through voter approval of an amendment to the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter. Pursuant to Section 4-1100 of the Home Rule Charter, the Board is charged with administering and enforcing the City’s Campaign Finance Law.
- B. Hena Veit was a candidate for City Council At-Large in the May 21, 2019 Democratic Primary Election. Ms. Veit registered and authorized Campaign to Elect Hena Veit as the candidate political committee to receive contributions and make expenditures on behalf of her candidacy. Salvatore Adamo is the Treasurer of Campaign to Elect Hena Veit.
- C. Pursuant to the City’s Campaign Finance Law, at various points candidate political committees must file with the Board campaign finance reports, which disclose details of their financial transactions for the relevant reporting period. Pursuant to Philadelphia Code § 20-1006(4) and Regulation No. 1, Paragraph 1.24, the making of a material misstatement or omission in a report filed with the Board is a violation of the City’s Campaign Finance Law.
- D. In April of 2019, Board Enforcement Staff received information alleging potential violations of the City’s Campaign Finance Law by Campaign to Elect Hena Veit. Accordingly, the Executive Director opened an investigation during which Enforcement Staff obtained records and spoke with individuals associated with the Veit campaign.
- E. On April 9, 2019, Campaign to Elect Hena Veit filed a 2019 sixth Tuesday pre-primary (cycle 1) campaign finance report with the Board, but that report failed to disclose and inaccurately disclosed numerous contributions and expenditures. The incorrectly disclosed transactions are listed in Exhibit A, which is attached hereto.
- F. The Campaign to Elect Hena Veit fully cooperated with the Board’s investigation. It has filed an amended cycle 1 campaign finance report in order to correct the misstatements and omissions described in Paragraph E.
- G. The Parties desire to enter into this Agreement in order to resolve the issues described herein.

AGREEMENT

The Parties agree that:

1. By making material misstatements and omissions from the 2019 Cycle 1 campaign finance report that it filed with the Board, Campaign to Elect Hena Veit and Salvatore Adamo violated Philadelphia Code § 20-1006(4), for which they are jointly and severally liable for a civil monetary penalty of \$2,000, which shall be due within 30 days of the effective date of the Agreement.

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

2. The Campaign to Elect Hena Veit and Mr. Adamo 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 the Agreement.
3. In consideration of the above and in exchange for the compliance of the Campaign to Elect Hena Veit and Mr. Adamo with all of the terms of the Agreement, the Board waives any further penalties or fines against them for the conduct described in the Agreement.
4. The Parties will not make any public statements that are inconsistent with the terms of the Agreement.
5. If the City is forced to seek judicial enforcement of this Agreement, and prevails, the Campaign to Elect Hena Veit and Mr. Adamo 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.
6. The Agreement contains the entire agreement between the Parties.
7. The Executive Director, or his designee, will submit a signed copy of the Agreement to the Board for approval. The Agreement shall become effective upon approval by the Board.
8. 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.

By the Executive Director of the Board of Ethics:

Dated: _____

7/11/19



J. Shane Creamer, Jr.
Executive Director

By Campaign to Elect Hena Veit:

Dated: 7-5-19

Salvatore C. Adamo
Salvatore Adamo, Treasurer

By Salvatore Adamo:

Salvatore C. Adamo

Approved by the Board of Ethics on 7/22/2019:

Michael H. Reed
Michael H. Reed
Chair

EXHIBIT A

Campaign to Elect Hena Veit- 2019 Cycle 1 Material Omissions and Misstatements

	Date	Amount	Notes
Contributions Omitted from Report			
James Montell	1/10/19	\$800	
James Greco	2/19/19	\$1,500	
Valentino Forti	2/19/19	\$1,000	
Hena Veit	3/18/19	\$260	
Hena Veit	3/27/19	\$550	
Expenditures Omitted from Report			
James Montell	1/15/19	\$84.80	
James Montell	1/17/19	\$50	
PNC Bank	1/24/19	\$72.77	
Staples	1/28/19	\$42.38	
Parking- 12 th and Filbert	1/28/19	\$32	
MetroPCS	1/29/19	\$30	
Friends of 61 st Ward	2/6/19	\$125	
53 rd Ward	2/19/19	\$150	
UPS Store	2/19/19	\$64.80	
Shedrick Felton	2/21/19	\$250	
Friends of the 58 th Ward	2/21/19	\$100	
Omar Sabir	2/23/19	\$240	
Arthur Barlow	2/25/19	\$880	
Friends of the 56 th Ward	2/26/19	\$150	
MetroPCS	2/27/19	\$30	
Philly United	3/2/19	\$100	
James Montell	3/19/19	\$470	
PNC Bank	3/20/19	\$5.83	
Kellee Ruffin	3/26/19	\$200	
Harland Clarke Checks	3/29/19	\$32.05	
Cheltenham Printing	3/29/19	\$551.20	
Misstatements in Report			
Frank Yannone Contribution	2/19/19 and 2/27/19	\$3,000 and \$872	Correct disclosure was \$2,500 on 2/19/19.