

Philadelphia Board of Ethics

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Contact: Shane Creamer: 215-686-9450
shane.creamer@phila.gov

Ethics Board Acts to Enforce City Campaign Finance Law *Reaches Settlement Agreement and Issues Compliance Report; Approves Motion with Additional Investigations Pending*

PHILADELPHIA – At today’s public meeting, the independent Philadelphia Board of Ethics announced the settlement of campaign finance law violations with one of the mayoral candidates, issued a compliance report on nine potential violations that have been resolved, and signaled it would take the subject of pending campaign finance investigations to court if need be to ensure compliance with the law.

The Board has authority to enforce the campaign finance law, either in court or administratively. At today’s meeting, the Board approved proposed enforcement regulations and a motion to exercise its enforcement powers in court until the regulations take effect. The proposed enforcement regulations will be posted for public comment.

“The vast majority of candidates and committees have cooperated with the Board, but a few have not. Today’s action makes clear the Board will act swiftly to enforce the law, either in court or administratively,” said Richard Glazer, Esquire, Chair of the Ethics Board. The Board has multiple investigations pending.

The Board approved a settlement agreement with Congressman Chaka Fattah in which his mayoral campaign agreed to reimburse his exploratory committee for \$33,251.46 in expenses that should have been made by his mayoral campaign. In addition, his exploratory committee agreed to return a \$20,000 contribution received after he declared his candidacy and agreed to return all remaining funds in his exploratory committee to contributors on a *pro rata* basis.

The settlement agreement states that “candidate Fattah has provided full and complete cooperation with the Board, by providing prompt and highly detailed answers to all of the Board’s inquiries.” As part of the agreement, the Board agreed to waive any penalties.

The Board also released a campaign finance compliance report on inquiries that have not required investigations involving nine committees. In some cases, the committees took corrective action, at the Board’s request or on their own initiative, to avoid potential future violations of the law. In other cases, the Board asked committees to explain apparent discrepancies in their campaign finance reports to ensure compliance with the law.

The approved motion, settlement agreement, compliance reports and proposed Regulation No. 2 are available on request and will be posted on the Ethics Board's web site at:

<http://www.phila.gov/ethicsboard/>.

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The five-member, independent Philadelphia Board of Ethics was established by ordinance, approved by voters in May 2006 and installed on November 27, 2006. It is charged with providing ethics training for all city employees and enforcing city campaign finance, financial disclosure and conflict of interest laws, and has authority to render advice, investigate complaints and issue fines.