THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT is entered into between the Philadelphia Board of Ethics ("the Board"), and Officer Michael Trask ("Officer Trask").

## **RECITALS**

- A. Officer Trask is on an approved leave of absence from City employment with the Philadelphia Police Department to be an officer of the Fraternal Order of Police ("the FOP"). He has been on a leave of absence since September 2007 and serves as Vice President for the FOP. Prior to that, he served as a Philadelphia Police Officer beginning on September 23, 1991.
- B. Approximately three or four weeks ago, Officer Trask agreed to appear in a political advertisement for the John Dougherty for State Senate Campaign Committee ("the Dougherty Campaign"). In the advertisement, Officer Trask appears in uniform, but is not identified. He also states "John Dougherty knows what it takes to keep our neighborhoods safe."
- C. When Officer Trask was filmed for the political advertisement, he signed a release or waiver form, acknowledging his consent to have his image and recording used by the Dougherty Campaign in political advertisements.
- D. Images of Officer Trask also appear on the Dougherty Campaign's website and in at least one political brochure mailed by the Dougherty Campaign to residents of Philadelphia.
- E. According to Opinions issued by the City Solicitor, it is their position Section 10-107(4) of the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter prohibits appointed officers and employees of the City from engaging in certain political activities, including engaging in campaign activities on behalf of a candidate in any political campaign or office.
- F. It is the position of the Ethics Board that, according to City Solicitor Formal Opinion No. 325, dated May 10, 1971, Section 10-107(4) of the Home Rule Charter applies to any City employee, including those on leave of absence to serve as full-time officers of a union representing City employees.
- G. Officer Trask was unaware that Section 10-107(4) applied to employees on leave of absence to serve as full-time officers of a union representing City employees, but both he and the FOP have provided full and complete cooperation with the Board's inquiry.
- H. The parties desire to enter into this Settlement Agreement in order to resolve the issues raised by Officer Trask's appearance in political campaign advertisements and promotions.

## **AGREEMENT**

The parties hereto agree as follows:

- 1. Officer Trask will write a letter to the Dougherty Campaign, advising the Dougherty Campaign that he is formally withdrawing his consent for the Dougherty Campaign to use his images and recordings for any purpose, prospectively, from the date of the letter. Officer Trask will also request that the Dougherty Campaign remove his images and recording from the Campaign's website.
- 2. Officer Trask will attend an ethics training session provided by Ethics Board staff within six months of the date of this agreement.
- 3. In consideration of the above, the Board agrees to waive any possible penalties or fines against Officer Trask for engaging in the activities described in this Settlement Agreement.
- 4. This Settlement Agreement contains the entire agreement between the Board and Officer Trask with regard to the matters set forth herein.
- 5. This Settlement Agreement shall become effective on execution.

Dated: 4/14/2008

Dated: 41408

By the Board:

Richard Glazer, Esquire, Chair

J. Shane Creamer, Jr., Esquire

**Executive Director** 

By Officer Trask:

James J. Binns,

Dated: 4/10/08

Officer Michael Trask

Dated: APRI 10, 2008