

Philadelphia Board of Ethics

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

For Immediate Release: December 6, 2010

Philadelphia Board of Ethics Approves Settlement Agreement with Former Deputy City Commissioner Renee Tartaglione

PHILADELPHIA – The Philadelphia Board of Ethics approved a Settlement Agreement with former Deputy City Commissioner Renee Tartaglione, who retired from her position four days after the Board’s Executive Director notified her that he had found probable cause to believe that she had committed multiple violations of subsections 10-107(3) & (4) of the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter.

Those subsections of the Charter generally prohibit City officers and employees from collecting or receiving any contribution for any political purpose and from taking any part in the management or affairs of any political party or in any political campaign.

City officers or employees who violate section 10-107 of the Charter are subject to a \$300 fine for each violation and removal from office. They are also ineligible for any City office or position for one year.

The Executive Director’s finding of probable cause consists of allegations that violations occurred, but does not establish those violations. However, Tartaglione admitted to nine violations of section 10-107 of the Charter in the Settlement Agreement.

In addition to her prompt, voluntary retirement after receiving notice of the probable cause finding, Tartaglione has agreed to neither seek nor hold City office or employment for one year, beginning December 3, 2010, and to pay a \$2,700 aggregate civil penalty for the nine admitted violations of section 10-107 of the Charter.

As described in the Settlement Agreement, Tartaglione took part in the affairs of the 2008 campaign of a candidate for State Representative by personally placing seven orders with Kennedy Printing for campaign materials. In total, Tartaglione ordered 4,500 campaign posters, 20,000 palm cards, and 64,000 bullet ballots that promoted the candidate. She also ordered 2,000 bullet ballots with the candidate’s opponent’s name but the wrong ballot button number for the opponent.

more

The candidate's campaign and the 19th Democratic ward distributed the campaign posters, palm cards, and the 64,000 bullet ballots that promoted the candidate on and about the day of the April 2008 primary election in order to promote the candidate. Ramos paid for four of the orders. Tartaglione paid for the other three orders with a check drawn on her personal checking account.

The Settlement Agreement also describes how Tartaglione took part in the affairs of the campaigns of 32 challenger candidates for Judge of Election and Machine Inspector in the 7th ward by placing an order with Kennedy Printing on May 14, 2009 for 5,100 bullet ballots promoting those candidates. The bullet ballots were distributed in the 7th ward on the day of the May 2009 primary. Tartaglione paid for the sample ballots with a check drawn on her business checking account.

The Settlement Agreement also explains how Tartaglione took part in the affairs of the 19th Democratic ward by:

- i. Placing an order with Kennedy Printing on May 15, 2009 for 6,000 copies of the "Official 19th Ward Democratic Ballot." Tartaglione later paid for the "Official 19th Ward Democratic Ballot" with a check drawn on her business checking account;
- ii. Organizing and running an October 27, 2009 meeting of the 19th ward, the purpose of which was to tell committee people about their assignments for the upcoming election; and
- iii. Arranging and attending a November 2, 2009 meeting of the 19th ward, the purpose of which was to distribute campaign literature to committee people.

Finally, the Settlement Agreement details how Tartaglione collected \$56,000 in political contributions used to fund election-day "street money" for the 19th and 62nd Democratic wards over six separate elections in 2007, 2008 and 2009. Tartaglione also personally cashed the political contribution checks used to fund election-day "street money" for the 19th and 62nd Democratic wards for the 2008 general election and for the 2009 primary and general elections.

The Philadelphia Board of Ethics is a five-member independent board established by ordinance, approved by Philadelphia 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. The Ethics Board has authority to render advice, investigate complaints and issue fines.

###