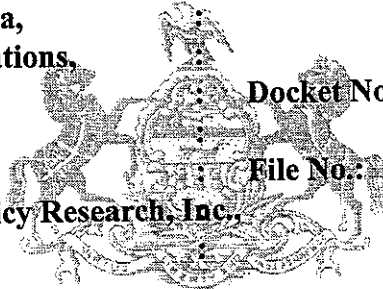


COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,
Bureau of Charitable Organizations,

VS.

National Center for Public Policy Research, Inc.,
Respondent.



Docket No.: 0007-98-00

File No.: 00-
99-98-01991

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BUREAU OF CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS
Department of State

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Bureau of Charitable Organizations ("Bureau") and National Center for Public Policy Research, Inc. ("Respondent") stipulate as follows in settlement of the above-captioned case:

JURISDICTION

1. This matter is before the Secretary of the Commonwealth ("Secretary") pursuant to the Solicitation of Funds for Charitable Purposes Act, Act of December 19, 1990, P.L. 1200, No. 202, *as amended* ("Act"), 10 P.S. §§ 162.1-162.24.

2. At all relevant times, Respondent did not hold a registration to solicit charitable contributions within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

STIPULATED FACTS

3. The Respondent admits that the following allegations are true:

a. Respondent's last known business address, as on file with the Department of State is: 777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 803, Washington, DC 20002.

b. On December 10, 1995, Respondent submitted its initial Registration Statement (BCO-10, REV. 898) to the Bureau for its fiscal year end December 31, 1993.

c. Respondent was registered for its fiscal years ending December 31, 1994, December 31, 1995, December 31, 1996 and December 31, 1997.

d. The Respondent's registration for its fiscal year ending December 31, 1998 expired May 15, 1999.

e. Respondent continued to solicit contributions in Pennsylvania after May 15, 1999 without applying to renew its registration.

f. On or about December 22, 1999, Respondent applied to renew its registration in Pennsylvania for its fiscal year ending December 31, 1998.

g. Respondent solicited contributions in Pennsylvania from May 15, 1999 through December 22, 1999 while not properly registered.

ALLEGED VIOLATIONS

4. The Commonwealth alleges that by engaging in the foregoing activities Respondent violated the Act at 10 P.S. § 162.15(a)(1) by soliciting contributions without properly registering with the Bureau and 10 P.S. §162.15(a)(2) by printing the disclosure statement on solicitations implying that it was registered in Pennsylvania, when in fact it was not registered with the Bureau.

PROPOSED ORDER

5. To address the concerns raised by the Commonwealth and to resolve this matter on a compromise basis, the Commonwealth and the Respondent agree to the issuance of the following Order in settlement of this matter:

a. Based upon the above referenced facts, the Secretary could find that the Respondent violated the Act at 10 P.S. §162.15(a)(1), and 10 P.S. §162.15(a)(2).

b. Respondent shall maintain its registration with the Bureau and insure its registration is current prior to the commencement of any charitable solicitations and otherwise comply with the requirements of the Charities Act.

c. Respondent shall not represent directly or indirectly that by this Consent Agreement the Attorney General or Bureau of Charitable Organizations has sanctioned, condoned or approved any part or aspect of Respondent's activities. Respondent is jointly and severally liable to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Bureau of Charitable Organizations, for payment of the total sum of twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000), upon the signing of this Consent Agreement, in the manner described below.

d. Respondent is permanently enjoined from directly or indirectly participating in any activities within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in violation of the Charities Act.

ADMINISTRATIVE FINE

e. An **ADMINISTRATIVE FINE** of twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000) is levied upon Respondent. Respondent shall tender the sum of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) with this executed Consent Agreement which shall be paid by **certified check, cashier's check, attorney's check, or U.S. Postal money order made payable to the "Commonwealth of Pennsylvania."** The remainder of this administrative fine will be paid as follows, \$3,000 no later than 90 days after the

execution of the Order by the Secretary in the matter, \$3,000 no later than 180 days after the execution of the Order by the Secretary in the matter, \$3,000 no later than 270 days after the execution of the Order by the Secretary in the matter.

OTHER PENALTIES

f. Respondent will submit with this executed Consent Agreement registration statements for fiscal years ending December 31, 1998 and December 31, 1999, with the correct information contained therein.

g. Upon receipt of the first installment of \$3,000 of the administrative fine and completed, corrected registrations statements, the Bureau will approve Respondent's registration to solicit charitable contributions in Pennsylvania.

h. Upon the Secretary's adoption of this Consent Agreement into an Order, this case shall be deemed settled only with regard to Respondent's Solicitation of charitable contributions while not being properly registered. Nothing in this Order shall preclude the Prosecuting Attorney for the Bureau from filing charges or the Secretary from imposing disciplinary or corrective measures for violations or facts not contained in this Consent Agreement; provided, however, the Bureau agrees to not re-open its investigation with regard to any Registration Statements on file with the Secretary as of the date of this Consent agreement and Order unless the Bureau becomes aware of material facts or omission of material facts which have previously not been disclosed to it and would give it probable cause that other violations existed during such period of time which it failed to uncover in its previous investigation.

VIOLATION OF THE SECRETARY'S ORDER

i. Notification of a violation of the terms or conditions of this Consent Agreement and Order shall result in the imposition of additional penalties as follows:

(1) The prosecuting attorney for the Bureau shall file with the Secretary a Petition which indicates that Respondent has violated the terms or conditions of this Consent Agreement and Order.

(2) Upon a probable cause determination that Respondent has violated the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement and Order, the Secretary, or her designee, shall, without holding a formal hearing, issue a Preliminary Order, effective thirty (30) days after its mailing, which imposes a sixty (60) day period of suspension on Respondent's registration to solicit charitable contributions.

(3) Respondent shall be notified of the Preliminary Order within three (3) days of its issuance by certified mail and first class mail postage prepaid, sent to the last registered address on file with the Bureau, together with a copy to Respondent's attorneys by facsimile or first class mail.

(4) Within fifteen (15) days of mailing of the notification of the Preliminary Order, Respondent may answer the Commonwealth's petition, request that a formal hearing be convened concerning Respondent's alleged violation of the Consent Agreement and move that the period of suspension be stayed until the Secretary

or her designee issues a final order. Respondent shall file all answers and subsequent filings with the Prothonotary for the Bureau of Charitable Organizations, 124 Pine Street, Suite 200, Harrisburg, PA 17101. Respondent shall serve the prosecuting attorney for the Bureau with a copy of the answer and all subsequent filings in this matter.

(5) If the Respondent moves for a stay of the period of suspension, Respondent shall set forth properly verified facts and/or state concisely the matter of law which the Respondent believes justifies a stay of the period of suspension. The Secretary or her designee shall issue a ruling on the Respondent's motion within fifteen (15) days from the date of the mailing of the notification of the Preliminary Order. If the Secretary or her designee makes no ruling on the Respondent's motion within the fifteen (15) days from mailing of the notification of the Preliminary Order, the Respondent's motion shall be deemed denied.

(6) If a request for a formal hearing is received from Respondent a formal hearing shall be convened within forty-five (45) days from the date of filing of Respondent's request for a formal hearing.

(7) The facts and averments in this Consent Agreement and Order shall be deemed admitted and uncontested at this hearing.

(8) If the Secretary, or her designee, after such hearing makes a determination adverse to Respondent, the Secretary or her designee will issue a Final Order imposing any disciplinary measures she deems appropriate. The Secretary or her designee may, but is not required to, take into account any period of active suspension already served by the Respondent pursuant to the Preliminary Order.

(9) If a request for a formal hearing is not received from Respondent within the prescribed fifteen (15) day period, the Preliminary Order shall become a Final Order.

j. This case shall be deemed settled and discontinued upon the Secretary issuing an Order adopting of this Consent Agreement and the Respondent's successful completion of any ordered discipline.

6. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed to constitute an admission by any party of any guilt or liability on the part of Respondent, nor any lack thereof, with regard to the merits of the allegations contained herein. This Consent Agreement represent a compromised settlement of a disputed claim. This Consent Agreement has been entered into by all parties for settlement purposes only.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF NOTICE AND WAIVER OF HEARING

7. Respondent waives the filing of an Order to Show Cause in this matter. Respondent knowingly and voluntarily waives the right to an administrative hearing in this matter, and to the following rights related to that hearing: to be represented by counsel at the hearing; the right to present witnesses and testimony in defense or in mitigation of any sanction that may be imposed for

a violation; to cross-examine witnesses and to challenge evidence presented by the Bureau; to present legal arguments by means of a brief; and to take an appeal from any final adverse decision.

AGREEMENT NOT BINDING ON OTHER PARTIES

8. This Consent Agreement is between the Bureau and Respondent only. It does not bind any other administrative entity of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including any other bureau within the Department of State. Except as otherwise noted, this Agreement is to have no legal effect if *a)* the Office of General Counsel expresses an objection to the Agreement's form or legality and/or *b)* unless and until the Secretary issues the stipulated Order.

EFFECT OF SECRETARY'S REJECTION

9. Should the Secretary not approve this Consent Agreement, presentation to and consideration of this Consent Agreement and other documents and matters by the Secretary shall not prejudice the Secretary from further participation in the adjudication of this matter. This paragraph is binding on the participants even if the Secretary does not approve this Consent Agreement.

ENTIRE AGREEMENT

10. This agreement contains the whole agreement between the parties; provided however, that the captions printed in the various provisions of this agreement are for ease of reading only and are not to be interpreted as forming any part of this agreement. There are no other terms, obligations, covenants, representations, statements or conditions, or otherwise, of any kind whatsoever concerning this agreement.

AGREEMENT DOES NOT PREVENT REFERRAL TO OTHER AGENCIES.

11. The parties acknowledge that other federal, state, and/or local agencies may have jurisdiction over the activities of, or representations made by, Respondent and its officers, directors,

agents, employees or independent contractors. Nothing in this Consent Agreement or the Order based upon this Consent Agreement shall preclude representatives of the Bureau from referring any information or data produced as a result of this matter to any federal, state, or local agency or governmental unit having jurisdiction over the activities of Respondent or any officer, director, agent, employee or independent contractor of the Respondent.

VERIFICATION OF FACTS AND STATEMENTS

12. Respondent verifies that the facts and statements set forth in this Agreement are true and correct to the best of Respondent's knowledge, information and belief. Respondent understands that statements in this Agreement are made subject to the criminal penalties of 18 Pa.C.S.A. §4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.



Andrew B. Kramer

Prosecuting Attorney
Bureau of Charitable Organizations

DATED:

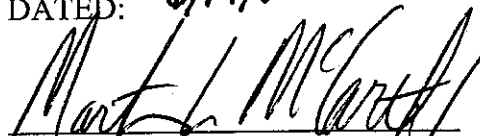
6/27/00



for National Center for Public Policy
Research, Inc.,
Respondent

DATED:

6/14/00



Attorney for National Center for Public Policy
Research, Inc.

DATED:

6-21-00

ABK/tmr

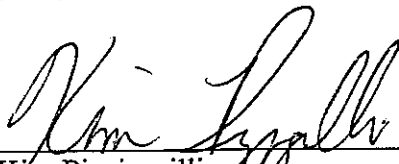


**IN THE MATTER OF THE SOLICITATION OF
FUNDS FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES BY
NATIONAL CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH, INC.,
FILE NO.: 99-98-01991**

ORDER

AND NOW, to wit, on this 5th day of July 2000, the terms of paragraph 5 of the foregoing Consent Agreement are hereby adopted and incorporated as the Order of the Secretary of the Commonwealth in resolution of this matter. This Order shall take effect immediately.

BY ORDER



Kim Pizzigrilli
Secretary of the Commonwealth



**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS**

**LEGAL OFFICE
PROSECUTION DIVISION
(717) 783-7200
FAX: (717) 787-0251**

**116 PINE STREET
P.O. BOX 2649
HARRISBURG, PA
17105-2649**

July 6, 2000

Martin L. McCarthy, Esquire
Copilevitz & Canter, LLC
423 W. Eighth Street, Suite 400
Kansas City, MO 64105

Re: National Center for Public Policy Research, Inc.
File No. 99-98-01991

Dear Mr. McCarthy:

You will find enclosed a copy of the Consent Agreement and the Order signed by the Secretary on July 5, 2000. National Center for Public Policy Research, Inc. must properly register with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations before the commencement of any charitable solicitations in Pennsylvania.

The payments of \$3,000 each remaining on the agreement are due to be received in our office on or before October 3, 2000, January 2, 2001 and April 2, 2001.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Kramer".

Andrew B. Kramer
Senior Prosecutor in Charge
Special Prosecutions
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Bureau of Charitable Organizations

ABK/tmr
Enclosures