

OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

DOCKET NUMBER 2007-21	:	
	:	
IN THE MATTER OF A	:	18-20 TRINITY STREET
	:	
COMPLAINT AGAINST	:	HARTFORD, CT 06106
	:	
WARREN GODBOLT	:	DECEMBER 14, 2009

STIPULATION AND CONSENT ORDER

Pursuant to the Code of Ethics, General Statutes sections 1-79, et seq., Thomas K. Jones, Ethics Enforcement Officer for the Office of State Ethics (“OSE”), issued a Complaint against the Respondent Warren Godbolt (“Godbolt” or “Respondent”) for violations of the Code of Ethics, Connecticut General Statutes sections 1-84(f), 1-94 and 1-96(b). Based on the investigation by the Enforcement Division of the OSE, the Ethics Enforcement Officer finds there is probable cause to believe that the Respondent offered and/or gave money to a state legislator based on the understanding that the state legislator would support the awarding of state monies to a non-profit organization run by the Respondent. Consequently, the Ethics Enforcement Officer finds there is probable cause to believe that the Respondent offered and gave items of value to a state legislator based on the understanding that his official action or judgment had been influenced thereby, in violation of General Statutes section 1-84(f).

The Parties have entered into this Stipulation and Consent Order following the issuance of the Complaint, but without any adjudication of any issue of fact or law herein.

I. STIPULATION

1. At all times relevant hereto, Progressive Training Associates, Inc., (hereinafter "Progressive Training") of Bridgeport, Connecticut, was a non-profit organization assisting lower-income people in the City of Bridgeport and surrounding areas by providing vocational training and other services.
2. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was the Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of Progressive Training.
3. Between in or about 2003 and continuing until in or about September of 2005, Ernest E. Newton II ("Newton") was a member of the Senate in the General Assembly, and a "Public Official" as that term is defined in General Statutes §1-79(k).
4. On or about May of 2004, the Respondent learned that one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) in State of Connecticut Bond Commission (hereinafter the "Bond Commission") monies would be allocated to finance proposals relating to capital projects in Connecticut.
5. In or about May or June of 2004, the Respondent made an agreement with Newton that, if the Respondent paid \$5,000 to the state legislator, the legislator would secure the \$100,000 for the Respondent.
6. In or about June of 2004 and July of 2004, the Respondent paid Newton \$5,000 based on the understanding that Newton would assist the Respondent in securing Bond monies for Progressive Training.
7. On or about August 6, 2004, the Bond Commission approved \$100,000 in funding for building improvements and renovations to the Progressive Training facility located at 1027 Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

8. Pursuant to General Statutes §1-84(f):

No person shall offer or give to a public official or state employee ... anything of value, including but not limited to, a gift, loan, political contribution, reward or promise of future employment based on any understanding that the vote, official action or judgment of the public official, state employee ... would be or had been influenced thereby.

9. By offering to give and/or giving money to Newton based on the understanding that Newton would assist the Respondent in securing Bond monies for Progressive Training, the Respondent violated General Statutes §1-84(f).

10. The Respondent admits that he violated General Statutes §1-84(f), as his conduct is described above.

II. JURISDICTION

1. The Ethics Enforcement Officer is authorized to investigate the Respondent's employment practices, to issue a Complaint against the Respondent, and to enter into this Stipulation and Consent Order.

2. The provisions of this Stipulation and Consent Order apply to and are binding upon the undersigned Parties.

3. The Respondent hereby waives all objections and defenses to the jurisdiction of the Ethics Enforcement Officer over matters addressed in this Stipulation and Consent Order.

4. The Respondent waives any rights she may have under General Statutes sections 1-80, 1-82, 1-82a, 1-87 and 1-88, including the right to a hearing or appeal in this case, and agrees with the Ethics Enforcement Officer to an informal disposition of this matter as authorized by General Statutes section 4-177(c).

5. The Respondent consents to jurisdiction and venue in the Connecticut Superior Court, Judicial District of Hartford, in the event that the State of Connecticut seeks to enforce this Stipulation and Consent Order. The Respondent recognizes that the Connecticut Superior Court has the authority to specifically enforce the provisions of this Stipulation and Consent Order, including the authority to award equitable relief.

6. The terms set forth herein are in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other existing or future statutory, regulatory, or other legal obligation that may be applicable to the Respondent.

III. ORDER

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to General Statutes section 4-177(c), the Office of State Ethics hereby **ORDERS**, and the Respondent agrees, that:

1. Pursuant to General Statutes section 1-88(a)(1), the Respondent will heretofore cease and desist from any future violation of General Statutes § 1-84(f).
2. Pursuant to General Statutes section 1-88(a)(3), the Respondent will pay civil penalties to the State in the amount of \$1,000 for his violation of General Statutes sections 1-84(f).
3. If, prior to January 1, 2012, Respondent or a business with which he is associated accepts, enters into, applies for, or substantially participates in the completion of, any state contract, Respondent shall provide written notice to the Office of State Ethics within thirty (30) days of such acceptance, entrance into, application, or participation. Such notice shall be sent to "Office of State Ethics, 18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford CT 06106; Attn: Ethics Enforcement Officer" and shall include: (a) the name and number of such contract or Request for Proposal; (b) the nature of Respondent's (or

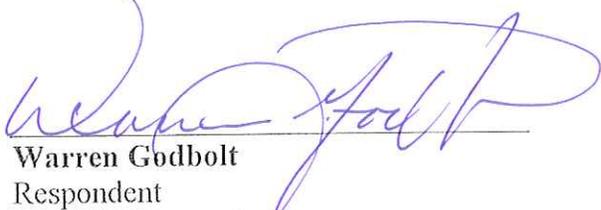
his associated business') participation in such contract; (c) the value or dollar amount of the contract; (d) the value or dollar amount to be received by Respondent (or the business with which he is associated); and, (e) the name and business telephone number of the state employee or official most responsible for oversight of the contract.

4. The Respondent agrees that he shall not seek or enter into any state employment until after two years from the date of the execution of this agreement.

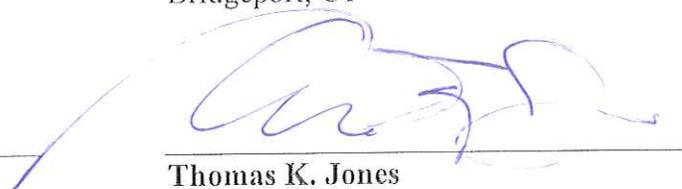
5. The Respondent agrees that he shall comply with the terms and conditions of any existing agreements with the State of Connecticut Attorney General, and that, should he fail to comply with the terms and conditions of any such agreements, the Enforcement Division reserves the right to re-open this matter.

WHEREFORE, the Ethics Enforcement Officer and the Respondent hereby execute this Stipulation and Consent Order dated December 14, 2009.

Dated: 12/21/09


Warren Godbolt
Respondent
180 Frenchtown Road
Bridgeport, CT

Dated: 2/8/10


Thomas K. Jones
Ethics Enforcement Officer
Connecticut Office of State Ethics
18-20 Trinity Street
Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 263-2390