

NEW JERSEY ELECTION LAW  
ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

MICHAEL RUSSO,  
Candidate for Municipal Office,  
Hoboken,  
Hudson County,

and

JOHN CASTELLANO,  
Treasurer,

Respondents

CONSENT ORDER AND FINAL  
DECISION

C-9 0905 04 04-M2009

The Election Law Enforcement Commission (**Commission**) having brought a Complaint on April 13, 2016, against Michael Russo (**Respondent Russo**), and John Castellano (**Respondent Castellano**) for late filing and non filing of contribution and expenditure information in the 2009 municipal election, as required by the New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act, N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1, *et seq.* (**Campaign Act**) and N.J.A.C. 19:25-1 *et seq.* (**Commission Regulations**);

And the Complaint issued by the Commission and described above being incorporated by reference in this Consent Order and Final Decision, after being modified to reflect that Respondents filed a Certificate of Organization and Designation of Campaign Treasurer and Depository (Form D-1) and Reports of Contributions and Expenditures (Forms R-1) on May 26, 2016;

And Respondents being represented in this matter by David F. Corrigan, Esq. of The Corrigan Law Firm, consenting to the form and substance of this Consent Order and Final Decision;

And the Commission adopting the Proposed Findings of Fact and Proposed Conclusions of Law, as set forth in the Complaint, as the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in its Final Decision in this matter;

And the Commission having considered other penalty factors as required by N.J.A.C. 19:25-17.3A, B, and C;

The Commission therefore, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-22; N.J.A.C. 19:25-17.1 *et seq.*; and N.J.A.C. 19:25-17.3C(e), REPRIMANDS Respondents Russo and Castellano and

imposes a penalty upon Respondent Russo on Count One in the amount of \$300.00, reduced to \$240.00 for payment prior to Final Decision action, and a joint penalty on Respondents Russo and Castellano on Counts Two through Thirteen in the amount of \$3,384.40, reduced to \$2,707.52 for payment prior to Final Decision action. The Commission received payment in the amount of \$2,947.52 on July 5, 2016.

Respondent Russo and Respondent Castellano hereby enter into this Consent Order, which if authorized and executed by the Commission, will be the Final Decision in this case.

CONSENT TO SETTLE ON BEHALF OF:  
Michael Russo and John Castellano

On behalf of Michael Russo and John Castellano, the undersigned hereby consents to the form and substance of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and penalty set forth in this Consent Order, and therefore to entry of this Consent Order as the Final Decision in ELEC v. Russo and Castellano, C-9 0905 04 04-M2009. However, should the Commission decline to adopt and execute this Consent Order, the Respondents retain their right to a hearing pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq., and the penalty payment in the amount of \$2,947.52 will be refunded.

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

BY \_\_\_\_\_  
David F. Corrigan, Esq.  
The Corrigan Law Firm  
On behalf of:  
Michael Russo and John Castellano

CONSENT OF COMMISSION'S PROSECUTION STAFF:

The Commission having received payment in the amount of \$2,947.52 in ELEC v. Russo and Castellano, C-9 0905 04 04-M2009, as set forth in this Consent Order, the undersigned hereby consents to the submission of this Consent Order to the Commission for the Commission's Final Decision consideration. In the event that the Commission does not adopt and execute this Consent Order as its Final Decision, I hereby acknowledge that the Respondents retain their right to a hearing pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq., and the payment in the amount of \$2,947.52 will be refunded.

NEW JERSEY ELECTION LAW  
ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Tia Dinh, Esq.  
Assistant Legal Counsel

COMMISSION'S FINAL DECISION:

The New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, by a vote of 3-0, at its meeting of March 20, 2018, consented to and adopted the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and total \$2,947.52 penalty set forth in this Consent Order as its Final Decision in ELEC v. Russo and Castellano, C-9 0905 04 04-M2009, and acknowledges receipt of payment of the penalty amount of \$2, 947.52. No further payment is required.

NEW JERSEY ELECTION LAW  
ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

Date of Mailing: March 28, 2018

BY: \_\_\_\_\_ /s/

Eric H. Jaso  
Chairman