

1 GARY S. WINUK  
Chief of Enforcement  
2 GALENA WEST  
Commission Counsel IV  
3 FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION  
428 J Street, Suite 620  
4 Sacramento, CA 95814  
5 Telephone: (916) 322-5660

6 Attorneys for Complainant

7  
8 BEFORE THE FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

9 STATE OF CALIFORNIA

10  
11  
12 In the Matter of

Commission Counsel IV

) FPPC No. 10/973

13  
14 COMMON SENSE VOTERS, SF 2010; VOTE  
FOR MARK FARRELL FOR DISTRICT 2  
15 SUPERVISOR AND CHRIS LEE

) STIPULATION, DECISION and  
ORDER

16 Respondents.  
17

18  
19 Complainant Fair Political Practices Commission and Respondents Common Sense Voters, SF  
20 2010; Vote for Mark Farrell for District 2 Supervisor committee and Chris Lee agree that this  
21 Stipulation will be submitted for consideration by the Fair Political Practices Commission at its next  
22 regularly scheduled meeting.

23 The parties agree to enter into this Stipulation to resolve all factual and legal issues raised in this  
24 matter and to reach a final disposition without the necessity of holding an administrative hearing to  
25 determine the liability of Respondents, pursuant to Section 83116 of the Government Code.

26 Respondents understand, and hereby knowingly and voluntarily waive, any and all procedural  
27 rights set forth in Sections 83115.5, 11503 and 11523 of the Government Code, and in Sections 18361.1  
28 through 18361.9 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations. This includes, but is not limited to,  
the right to personally appear at any administrative hearing held in this matter, to be represented by an

1 attorney at Respondents' own expense, to confront and cross-examine all witnesses testifying at the  
2 hearing, to subpoena witnesses to testify at the hearing, to have an impartial administrative law judge  
3 preside over the hearing as a hearing officer, and to have the matter judicially reviewed.

4 It is further stipulated and agreed that Respondents Common Sense Voters, SF 2010; Vote for  
5 Mark Farrell for District 2 Supervisor committee and Chris Lee violated the Political Reform Act by  
6 failing to file an amended statement of organization within 10 days to disclose that Respondent  
7 Committee was controlled by a candidate, in violation of Sections 84102, subdivisions (e) and (g), and  
8 84103, subdivision (a), of the Government Code (1 count) and failing to use proper sender identification  
9 on mass mailers sent in support of Mark Farrell for District 2 Supervisor and against his opponent, Janet  
10 Reilly, which failed to display the name of the candidate controlling the committee, in violation of  
11 Section 84305 (4 counts). All counts are described in Exhibit 1, which is attached hereto and  
12 incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein. Exhibit 1 is a true and accurate summary of  
13 the facts in this matter.

14 Respondents agree to the issuance of the Decision and Order, which is attached hereto.  
15 Respondents also agree to the Commission imposing upon them an administrative penalty in the amount  
16 of Fourteen Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$14,500). A cashier's check from Respondents in said  
17 amount, made payable to the "General Fund of the State of California," is submitted with this  
18 Stipulation as full payment of the administrative penalty, to be held by the State of California until the  
19 Commission issues its decision and order regarding this matter. The parties agree that in the event the  
20 Commission refuses to accept this Stipulation, it shall become null and void, and within fifteen (15)  
21 business days after the Commission meeting at which the Stipulation is rejected, all payments tendered  
22 by Respondents in connection with this Stipulation shall be reimbursed to Respondents. Respondents  
23 further stipulate and agree that in the event the Commission rejects the Stipulation, and a full evidentiary  
24 hearing before the Commission becomes necessary, neither any member of the Commission, nor the  
25 Executive Director, shall be disqualified because of prior consideration of this Stipulation.

26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100  
101  
102  
103  
104  
105  
106  
107  
108  
109  
110  
111  
112  
113  
114  
115  
116  
117  
118  
119  
120  
121  
122  
123  
124  
125  
126  
127  
128  
129  
130  
131  
132  
133  
134  
135  
136  
137  
138  
139  
140  
141  
142  
143  
144  
145  
146  
147  
148  
149  
150  
151  
152  
153  
154  
155  
156  
157  
158  
159  
160  
161  
162  
163  
164  
165  
166  
167  
168  
169  
170  
171  
172  
173  
174  
175  
176  
177  
178  
179  
180  
181  
182  
183  
184  
185  
186  
187  
188  
189  
190  
191  
192  
193  
194  
195  
196  
197  
198  
199  
200  
201  
202  
203  
204  
205  
206  
207  
208  
209  
210  
211  
212  
213  
214  
215  
216  
217  
218  
219  
220  
221  
222  
223  
224  
225  
226  
227  
228  
229  
230  
231  
232  
233  
234  
235  
236  
237  
238  
239  
240  
241  
242  
243  
244  
245  
246  
247  
248  
249  
250  
251  
252  
253  
254  
255  
256  
257  
258  
259  
260  
261  
262  
263  
264  
265  
266  
267  
268  
269  
270  
271  
272  
273  
274  
275  
276  
277  
278  
279  
280  
281  
282  
283  
284  
285  
286  
287  
288  
289  
290  
291  
292  
293  
294  
295  
296  
297  
298  
299  
300  
301  
302  
303  
304  
305  
306  
307  
308  
309  
310  
311  
312  
313  
314  
315  
316  
317  
318  
319  
320  
321  
322  
323  
324  
325  
326  
327  
328  
329  
330  
331  
332  
333  
334  
335  
336  
337  
338  
339  
340  
341  
342  
343  
344  
345  
346  
347  
348  
349  
350  
351  
352  
353  
354  
355  
356  
357  
358  
359  
360  
361  
362  
363  
364  
365  
366  
367  
368  
369  
370  
371  
372  
373  
374  
375  
376  
377  
378  
379  
380  
381  
382  
383  
384  
385  
386  
387  
388  
389  
390  
391  
392  
393  
394  
395  
396  
397  
398  
399  
400  
401  
402  
403  
404  
405  
406  
407  
408  
409  
410  
411  
412  
413  
414  
415  
416  
417  
418  
419  
420  
421  
422  
423  
424  
425  
426  
427  
428  
429  
430  
431  
432  
433  
434  
435  
436  
437  
438  
439  
440  
441  
442  
443  
444  
445  
446  
447  
448  
449  
450  
451  
452  
453  
454  
455  
456  
457  
458  
459  
460  
461  
462  
463  
464  
465  
466  
467  
468  
469  
470  
471  
472  
473  
474  
475  
476  
477  
478  
479  
480  
481  
482  
483  
484  
485  
486  
487  
488  
489  
490  
491  
492  
493  
494  
495  
496  
497  
498  
499  
500  
501  
502  
503  
504  
505  
506  
507  
508  
509  
510  
511  
512  
513  
514  
515  
516  
517  
518  
519  
520  
521  
522  
523  
524  
525  
526  
527  
528  
529  
530  
531  
532  
533  
534  
535  
536  
537  
538  
539  
540  
541  
542  
543  
544  
545  
546  
547  
548  
549  
550  
551  
552  
553  
554  
555  
556  
557  
558  
559  
560  
561  
562  
563  
564  
565  
566  
567  
568  
569  
570  
571  
572  
573  
574  
575  
576  
577  
578  
579  
580  
581  
582  
583  
584  
585  
586  
587  
588  
589  
590  
591  
592  
593  
594  
595  
596  
597  
598  
599  
600  
601  
602  
603  
604  
605  
606  
607  
608  
609  
610  
611  
612  
613  
614  
615  
616  
617  
618  
619  
620  
621  
622  
623  
624  
625  
626  
627  
628  
629  
630  
631  
632  
633  
634  
635  
636  
637  
638  
639  
640  
641  
642  
643  
644  
645  
646  
647  
648  
649  
650  
651  
652  
653  
654  
655  
656  
657  
658  
659  
660  
661  
662  
663  
664  
665  
666  
667  
668  
669  
670  
671  
672  
673  
674  
675  
676  
677  
678  
679  
680  
681  
682  
683  
684  
685  
686  
687  
688  
689  
690  
691  
692  
693  
694  
695  
696  
697  
698  
699  
700  
701  
702  
703  
704  
705  
706  
707  
708  
709  
710  
711  
712  
713  
714  
715  
716  
717  
718  
719  
720  
721  
722  
723  
724  
725  
726  
727  
728  
729  
730  
731  
732  
733  
734  
735  
736  
737  
738  
739  
740  
741  
742  
743  
744  
745  
746  
747  
748  
749  
750  
751  
752  
753  
754  
755  
756  
757  
758  
759  
760  
761  
762  
763  
764  
765  
766  
767  
768  
769  
770  
771  
772  
773  
774  
775  
776  
777  
778  
779  
780  
781  
782  
783  
784  
785  
786  
787  
788  
789  
790  
791  
792  
793  
794  
795  
796  
797  
798  
799  
800  
801  
802  
803  
804  
805  
806  
807  
808  
809  
810  
811  
812  
813  
814  
815  
816  
817  
818  
819  
820  
821  
822  
823  
824  
825  
826  
827  
828  
829  
830  
831  
832  
833  
834  
835  
836  
837  
838  
839  
840  
841  
842  
843  
844  
845  
846  
847  
848  
849  
850  
851  
852  
853  
854  
855  
856  
857  
858  
859  
860  
861  
862  
863  
864  
865  
866  
867  
868  
869  
870  
871  
872  
873  
874  
875  
876  
877  
878  
879  
880  
881  
882  
883  
884  
885  
886  
887  
888  
889  
890  
891  
892  
893  
894  
895  
896  
897  
898  
899  
900  
901  
902  
903  
904  
905  
906  
907  
908  
909  
910  
911  
912  
913  
914  
915  
916  
917  
918  
919  
920  
921  
922  
923  
924  
925  
926  
927  
928  
929  
930  
931  
932  
933  
934  
935  
936  
937  
938  
939  
940  
941  
942  
943  
944  
945  
946  
947  
948  
949  
950  
951  
952  
953  
954  
955  
956  
957  
958  
959  
960  
961  
962  
963  
964  
965  
966  
967  
968  
969  
970  
971  
972  
973  
974  
975  
976  
977  
978  
979  
980  
981  
982  
983  
984  
985  
986  
987  
988  
989  
990  
991  
992  
993  
994  
995  
996  
997  
998  
999  
1000

1 Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

2 Gary Winuk, Enforcement Chief,  
3 on behalf of the  
4 Fair Political Practices Commission

5  
6 Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

7 Chris Lee, Respondent  
8 Individually and on behalf of Common Sense Voters,  
9 SF 2010; Vote for Mark Farrell for District 2 Supervisor

10  
11  
12 **DECISION AND ORDER**

13 The foregoing Stipulation of the parties "In the Matter of Respondents Common Sense Voters,  
14 SF 2010; Vote for Mark Farrell for District 2 Supervisor and Chris Lee," FPPC No. 10/973, including all  
15 attached exhibits, is hereby accepted as the final decision and order of the Fair Political Practices  
16 Commission, effective upon execution below by the Chairman.

17  
18 IT IS SO ORDERED.

19  
20 Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

21 Joann Remke, Chair  
22 Fair Political Practices Commission

## EXHIBIT 1

### INTRODUCTION

In November 2010, the City and County of San Francisco held a ranked-choice voting election to elect the representative for District 2 of the Board of Supervisors. Respondent Common Sense Voters, SF 2010; Vote for Mark Farrell for District 2 Supervisor ("Respondent CSV") qualified as a primarily formed committee on October 1, 2010, and registered on October 13, 2010. At all relevant times, Respondent Stacy Owens ("Respondent Owens") was the treasurer of the Respondent CSV and Henry C. Levy, was assistant treasurer. The principal officer for Respondent CSV was Jack Helfand ("Principal Officer Helfand").

In August 2009, Mark Farrell created a campaign committee for the November 2010 Supervisor race named the Mark Farrell for District 2 Supervisor 2010 committee ("Farrell Committee"). At all relevant times, Respondent Owens was the treasurer of the Respondent CSV and Henry C. Levy, was assistant treasurer. Respondent CSV's Principal Officer, Principal Officer Helfand, was a member of the fundraising subcommittee for the Farrell Committee for the November 2010 election campaign before leaving to form Respondent CSV. During this campaign, the Farrell Committee retained Chris Lee of Townsquare Consulting ("Respondent Lee"), as its campaign consultant.

In September 2010, incumbent Supervisor Michela Alioto-Pier was informed by the California courts that she was unable to run for reelection for her District 2 Supervisor seat. She then chose Mark Farrell, a candidate for District 2 Supervisor, to endorse as her replacement. She and her staff worked with Mark Farrell and his campaign consultant, Respondent Lee, during the course of the campaign to offer her endorsement and appear at events in support of Mark Farrell. In addition to this interaction with Mark Farrell and his staff, Supervisor Alioto-Pier was also in charge of the fundraising activities for Respondent CSV. Supervisor Alioto-Pier raised 86% of the contributions received by Respondent CSV.

While Respondent Lee was a campaign consultant for the Farrell Committee, he also coordinated with Respondent CSV, Principal Officer Helfand and the campaign consultant for Respondent CSV, MSHC Partners, regarding the setup, fundraising, and initial campaign planning of Respondent CSV. Respondent Lee reached out to Principal Officer Helfand, who had previously volunteered for the Farrell Committee, to assist Principal Officer Helfand with the formation of Respondent CSV. In addition, Respondent Lee also had contacts with another mail house used by Respondent CSV to produce a door hanger. The door hanger was being produced as a Farrell support piece containing an endorsement letter written by Supervisor Alioto-Pier. Respondent Lee's interactions with Respondent CSV and its staff caused Respondent CSV to become a controlled committee of Mark Farrell, instead of a committee primarily formed for his election. The evidence supports the finding that Mark Farrell did not authorize Respondent Lee, as an agent of the Farrell Committee, to coordinate with Respondent CSV.

While Respondent Lee was a campaign consultant for the Farrell Committee, he also coordinated with Respondent CSV, Principal Officer Helfand and the campaign consultant for Respondent CSV, MSHC Partners, regarding the setup, fundraising, and initial campaign planning of Respondent CSV. Respondent Lee reached out to Principal Officer Helfand, who had previously volunteered for the Farrell Committee, to assist Principal Officer Helfand with the formation of Respondent CSV. In addition, Respondent Lee also had contacts with another mail house used by Respondent CSV to produce a door hanger. The door hanger was being produced as a Farrell support piece containing an endorsement letter written by Supervisor Alioto-Pier. Respondent Lee's interactions with Respondent CSV and its staff caused Respondent CSV to become a controlled committee of Mark Farrell, instead of a committee primarily formed for his election. The evidence supports the finding that Mark Farrell did not authorize Respondent Lee, as an agent of the Farrell Committee, to coordinate with Respondent CSV.

Under the Political Reform Act<sup>1</sup> (the "Act"), any person who violates any provision of this title, who purposely or negligently causes any other person to violate any provision of this title, or who aids and abets any other person in the violation of any provision of this title, shall be liable under the provisions of this chapter. As a result, Respondents were required to amend the statement of organization to reflect being a controlled committee and have all mailers identify the Farrell Committee as the sender of the mailer.

For the purposes of this Stipulation, Respondents' violations of the Act are stated as follows:

**COUNT 1:** Respondents Common Sense Voters, SF 2010; Vote for Mark Farrell for District 2 Supervisor failed to file an amended statement of organization within 10 days to disclose that Respondent Committee was a controlled committee and failed to add the name of the controlling candidate to the committee name. Respondent Chris Lee purposely or negligently caused this violation (within the meaning of Section 83116.5) through his role of campaign consultant for the Farrell Committee and his coordination with Respondent CSV, Principal Officer Helfand and the campaign consultant for Respondent CSV, MSHC Partners, regarding CSV's setup, fundraising, and initial campaign planning. In this way, Respondents Common Sense Voters, SF 2010; Vote for Mark Farrell for District 2 Supervisor and Chris Lee violated Government Code Sections 84102, subdivisions (e) and (g), and 84103; subdivision (a).

**COUNT 2:** Respondents Common Sense Voters, SF 2010; Vote for Mark Farrell for District 2 Supervisor failed to use proper sender identification on a mass mailer sent on or about October 17, 2010, sent in support of Mark Farrell for District 2 Supervisor and against his opponent, Janet Reilly, which failed to display the name of the candidate controlling the committee. Respondent Chris Lee purposely or negligently caused this violation (within the meaning of Section 83116.5) through his role of campaign consultant for the Farrell Committee and his coordination with Respondent CSV, Principal Officer Helfand and the campaign consultant for Respondent CSV, MSHC Partners, regarding CSV's setup, fundraising, and initial campaign planning. In this way, Respondents Common Sense Voters, SF 2010; Vote for Mark Farrell for District 2 Supervisor and Chris Lee violated Government Code Section 84305.

**COUNT 3:** Respondents Common Sense Voters, SF 2010; Vote for Mark Farrell for District 2 Supervisor failed to use proper sender identification on a mass mailer sent on or about October 19, 2010, sent in support of Mark Farrell for District 2 Supervisor and against his opponent, Janet Reilly, which failed to display the name of the

---

<sup>1</sup> The Political Reform Act is contained in Government Code Sections 81000 through 91014. All statutory references are to the Government Code as it was in effect at the time of the violations, unless otherwise indicated. The regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission are contained in Sections 18110 through 18997 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations. All regulatory references are to Title 2, Division 6 of the California Code of Regulations as in effect at the time of the violations, unless otherwise indicated.

candidate controlling the committee. Respondent Chris Lee purposely or negligently caused this violation (within the meaning of Section 83116.5) through his role of campaign consultant for the Farrell Committee and his coordination with Respondent CSV, Principal Officer Helfand and the campaign consultant for Respondent CSV, MSHC Partners, regarding CSV's setup, fundraising, and initial campaign planning. In this way, Respondents Common Sense Voters, SF 2010; Vote for Mark Farrell for District 2 Supervisor and Chris Lee violated Government Code Section 84305.

**COUNT 4:** Respondents Common Sense Voters, SF 2010; Vote for Mark Farrell for District 2 Supervisor failed to use proper sender identification on two mass mailers sent on or about October 20, 2010, sent in support of Mark Farrell for District 2 Supervisor and against his opponent, Janet Reilly, which failed to display the name of the candidate controlling the committee. Respondent Chris Lee purposely or negligently caused this violation (within the meaning of Section 83116.5) through his role of campaign consultant for the Farrell Committee and his coordination with Respondent CSV, Principal Officer Helfand and the campaign consultant for Respondent CSV, MSHC Partners, regarding CSV's setup, fundraising, and initial campaign planning. In this way, Respondents Common Sense Voters, SF 2010; Vote for Mark Farrell for District 2 Supervisor and Chris Lee violated Government Code Section 84305.

**COUNT 5:** Respondents Common Sense Voters, SF 2010; Vote for Mark Farrell for District 2 Supervisor failed to use proper sender identification on a mass mailer sent on or about October 25, 2010, sent in support of Mark Farrell for District 2 Supervisor and against his opponent, Janet Reilly, which failed to display the name of the candidate controlling the committee. Respondent Chris Lee purposely or negligently caused this violation (within the meaning of Section 83116.5) through his role of campaign consultant for the Farrell Committee and his coordination with Respondent CSV, Principal Officer Helfand and the campaign consultant for Respondent CSV, MSHC Partners, regarding CSV's setup, fundraising, and initial campaign planning. In this way, Respondents Common Sense Voters, SF 2010; Vote for Mark Farrell for District 2 Supervisor and Chris Lee violated Government Code Section 84305.

### SUMMARY OF THE LAW

When the Political Reform Act was enacted, the people of the state of California found and declared that previous laws regulating political practices suffered from inadequate enforcement by state and local authorities. (Section 81001, subd. (h).) To that end, Section 81003 requires that the Act be liberally construed to achieve its purposes.

A committee includes any person or combination of persons who receive contributions totaling \$1,000 or more in a calendar year. (Section 82013, subd. (a).) This type of committee commonly is referred to as a recipient committee. Section 82047.5 defines a primarily formed

with Respondent CSV, Principal Officer Helfand and the campaign consultant for Respondent CSV, MSHC Partners, regarding CSV's setup, fundraising, and initial campaign planning. In this way, Respondents Common Sense Voters, SF 2010; Vote for Mark Farrell for District 2 Supervisor and Chris Lee violated Government Code Section 84305.

committee, in relevant part, as a committee which is formed or exists primarily to support or oppose a single candidate, a single measure, a group of specific candidates being voted upon in the same city, county, or multicounty election, or two or more measures being voted upon in the same city, county, multicounty, or state election. By contrast, a *controlled committee* is one that is controlled directly or indirectly by a candidate or that acts jointly with a candidate in connection with the making of expenditures. (Section 82016.) A candidate controls a committee if the candidate, *the candidate's agent*, or any other committee controlled by the candidate has a significant influence on the actions or decisions of the committee. Section 84102, subdivision (g), requires any other information shall be required by Commission regulations that are consistent with the purposes and provisions of this chapter.

To further the well-established state interest in the integrity of its election processes, the Act imposes certain restrictions on candidates for elective offices, chiefly in the form of contribution limits and disclosure requirements. To insure that candidates and their supporters do not evade the Act's contribution limits and disclosure requirements, these restrictions are extended to include the activities of persons who coordinate campaign spending with the candidates themselves, or with the candidates' committees and agents.

#### **Duty to Amend Statement of Organization**

Section 84101 requires every recipient committee to file a statement of organization with the Secretary of State. Section 84102, subdivision (a), states that the statement of organization shall include the committee's name, street address and telephone number, if any. The statement of organization shall also include the full name, street address and telephone number, if any, of the treasurer and other principal officers of the committee. (Section 84102, subd. (c).)

Section 84102, subdivision (e), states that the statement of organization shall include a statement of whether the committee is independent or controlled, and if controlled, the name of each candidate or state measure proponent by which it is controlled, or the name of any controlled committee with which it acts jointly. Regulation 18402, subdivision (c), requires that whenever identification of a committee is required by law, the identification shall include the full name of the committee as required in the statement of organization including the last name of each candidate that controls the committee.

Section 84103, subdivision (a), requires that whenever there is a change in any of the information contained in a statement of organization, an amendment shall be filed within 10 days to reflect the change. requires every recipient committee to file a statement of organization

#### **Duty to Disclose Proper Sender Identification**

Section 84305, subdivision (a), requires candidates and committees to properly identify themselves when sending a mass mailing. Specifically, the statute provides that no candidate or committee shall send a mass mailing unless the name, street address, and city of the candidate or committee are shown on the outside of each piece of mail in the mass mailing. If the sender of the mass mailing is a controlled committee, Section 84305, subdivision (c), requires that the

name of the candidate, as well as the name of the committee, be included on the mass mailing.

Section 82041.5 defines a "mass mailing" as over two hundred substantially similar pieces of mail, but does not include a form letter or other mail which is sent in response to an unsolicited request, letter or other inquiry. Regulation 18435, subdivision (a), clarifies this section, and further defines a mass mailing as over two hundred substantially similar pieces of mail sent in a calendar month.

### **Joint and Several Liability for Causing Another to Violate the Act**

Recognizing that the law should hold accountable not only those persons who directly commit violations, but also those persons who encourage or assist in the commission of violations, the Act extends liability for a violation to include anyone who causes, either intentionally or negligently, or aids and abets in the violation of the Act. Section 83116.5 imposes liability for violating the Act on those who: (i) violate the Act; (ii) purposely or negligently cause another to violate the Act; or (iii) aid and abet another in violating the Act. When two or more persons are responsible for a violation of the Act, they are jointly and severally liable. (Section 91006.)

### **SUMMARY OF THE FACTS**

In November 2010, the City and County of San Francisco held a ranked-choice voting election to elect the representative for District 2 of the Board of Supervisors. Respondent CSV qualified as a primarily formed committee on October 1, 2010, and registered on October 13, 2010. As discussed above, while Respondent Lee was a campaign consultant for the Farrell Committee, he also coordinated with Respondent CSV, Principal Officer Helfand and the campaign consultant for Respondent CSV, MSHC Partners, regarding the setup, fundraising and initial campaign planning of Respondent CSV. Respondent Lee's interactions with Respondent CSV and its staff caused Respondent CSV to become a controlled committee of Mark Farrell, instead of a committee primarily formed for his election. As such, under the Act, Respondents were required to amend the statement of organization to reflect being a controlled committee and have all mailers identify the Farrell Committee as the sender of the mailer.

#### **COUNT 1**

#### **Failure to Amend Statement of Organization**

Respondent CSV qualified as a primarily formed committee on October 1, 2010, and filed a statement of organization reflected that information on October 13, 2010. Respondent CSV disclosed that it was formed to support candidate Mark Farrell for County Supervisor of the City and County of San Francisco for District 2. As mentioned above, Mark Farrell had a campaign committee for this election, the Farrell Committee. While Respondent Lee was a campaign consultant for the Farrell Committee, he coordinated with Respondent CSV, Principal Officer Helfand and the campaign consultant for Respondent CSV, MSHC Partners, regarding its setup, fundraising and initial campaign planning. In addition, Respondent Lee also had contacts with another mail house used by Respondent CSV to produce a door hanger. The door hanger



was being produced as a Farrell support piece containing an endorsement letter written by Supervisor Alioto-Pier. Through these interactions, Respondent Lee, an agent of the Farrell Committee, thereby had significant influence on the Respondent CSV and thus caused Respondent CSV to become a controlled committee of Mark Farrell.

As a candidate controlled committee, Respondents were required to include in the name of the candidate controlling the committee in the name of Respondent Committee. Respondents failed to provide this required information in the name of Respondent CSV and failed to amend the statement of organization.

Thus, Respondent CSV failed to file an amended statement of organization within 10 days to disclose that Respondent Committee was a controlled committee and failed to add the name of the controlling candidate to the committee name. Respondent Chris Lee caused this violation (within the meaning of Section 83116.5) through his role of campaign consultant for the Farrell Committee and his coordination with Respondent CSV, Principal Officer Helfand and the campaign consultant for Respondent CSV, MSHC Partners, regarding its setup, fundraising and initial campaign planning. In this way, Respondents CSV and Chris Lee violated Government Code Sections 84102, subdivisions (e) and (g), and 84103, subdivision (a).

#### COUNTS 2 - 5

#### **Failure to Disclose the Controlling Candidate in Mass Mailings**

Section 82041.5 and Regulation 18435 define a "mass mailing" as over 200 substantially similar pieces of mail sent in a calendar month, which are not sent in response to an unsolicited request. Section 84305, subdivision (a), requires candidates and committees to properly identify themselves when sending a mass mailing. Pursuant to Section 84305, subdivision (b), if a candidate or committee sends a mass mailing, the name, street address, and city of the candidate or committee must be shown on the outside of each piece of mail sent as part of the mass mailing, in no less than 6-point type, which shall be in a color or print which contrasts with the background, so as to easily legible. Furthermore, if the sender of a mass mailing is a controlled committee, the name of the person controlling the committee must also be included in each piece of mail. (Section 84305, subd. (c).)

Respondents Common Sense Voters, SF 2010; Vote for Mark Farrell for District 2 Supervisor failed to use proper sender identification on mass mailers sent on or about October 17, 2010, through October 25, 2010, sent in support of Mark Farrell for District 2 Supervisor and against his opponent, Janet Reilly, which failed to display the name of the candidate controlling the committee. Respondent Chris Lee caused this violation (within the meaning of Section 83116.5) through his role of campaign consultant for the Farrell Committee and his coordination with Respondent CSV, Principal Officer Helfand and the campaign consultant for Respondent CSV, MSHC Partners, regarding its setup, fundraising and initial campaign planning. The mailers are detailed below:

committee; the name of the person controlling the committee must also be included in each piece of mail. (Section 84305, subd. (c).)

Mailer Title	Date	Quantity (approx.)
The Man Behind the Curtain	10/17/10	12,248
Captain Mysterious Mail Piece	10/19/10	20,239
CMV1003: Proposition B	10/20/10	40,478
Negative/CMV 1005: Comparative		
11757 Farrell Doorhanger 03	10/25/10	25,000

Thus, Respondents Common Sense Voters, SF 2010; Vote for Mark Farrell for District 2 Supervisor and Chris Lee violated Government Code Section 84305 four times.

### CONCLUSION

This matter consists of five counts of violating the Act, which carries a maximum administrative penalty of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per count.

In determining the appropriate penalty for a particular violation of the Act, the Enforcement Division considers the typical treatment of a violation in the overall statutory scheme of the Act, with an emphasis on serving the purposes and intent of the Act. The Enforcement Division also considers the facts and circumstances of the violation in context of the factors set forth in Regulation 18361.5, subdivision (d)(1)-(6), which include: the seriousness of the violations; the presence or lack of intent to deceive the voting public; whether the violation was deliberate, negligent, or inadvertent; whether the Respondent demonstrated good faith in consulting with Commission staff; whether there was a pattern of violations; and whether upon learning of the violation the Respondent voluntarily filed amendment to provide full disclosure. Additionally, liability under the Act is governed in significant part by the provisions of Section 91001, subdivision (c), which requires the Commission to consider whether or not a violation is inadvertent, negligent or deliberate, and the presence or absence of good faith, in applying remedies and sanctions.

Statement of Organization: Respondents had a duty to file an amendment to the statement of organization to disclose it was no longer a primarily formed committee but a controlled committee after the actions of Respondent Lee caused this status change. The amendment was needed to include in the name of the candidate controlling the committee in the name of Respondent CSV. Respondents failed to provide this required information in the name of Respondent CSV and failed to amend the statement of organization.

The failure to amend the statement of organization concealed from the public the true nature of the Respondent CSV's activity. In aggravation, these actions coordinating the committees gave an unlawful advantage to one side in an election which was decided by only the slimmest of margins. In mitigation, Respondents filed other campaign information correctly and the name of the committee disclosed its support of Mark Farrell.

Other cases regarding the failure to amend a statement of organization recently approved by the Commission include:

*In the Matter of Put California Back to Work, Sponsored by the Civil Justice Association of California and J. Richard Eichman*, FPPC No. 10/504. Respondents formed as a state general purpose committee and failed to amend the statement of organization when the committee became primarily formed. The committee was aware of the requirement, having been told by the treasurer, and chose not to timely amend the statement. A \$3,500 stipulated settlement was approved for this violation by the Commission on March 15, 2012.

*In the Matter of Californians for SAFE Food, a coalition of public health and food safety experts, labor unions, consumers, family farmers, and veterinarians. No on Proposition 2*, FPPC No. 08/515. This case involved one count of failing to name a sponsor on the statement of organization and one count of failing to amend the statement of organization to include a sponsor. A \$2,500 penalty for the each count was approved by the Commission on April 8, 2010.

In this matter, Respondent CSV's actions were serious as Respondent CSV coordinated with the candidate's campaign consultant. However, in mitigation, Principal Officer Helfand had little campaign experience and neither of the Respondents have a history of violating the Act. Therefore, imposition of an administrative penalty in the amount of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) is recommended.

Sender Identification: As a candidate controlled committee, Respondents had a duty to display on the mass mailing the name of the controlling candidate. The failure to provide proper disclosure in a mass mailing deprives the public of important information by making them believe that the mailing is independent of a candidate. In aggravation, Respondent CSV was able to send out hit pieces on opponents without disclosing its association with the candidate. Also, without the statement of organization's amendment, the public would not have been able to trace the association back to the candidate. Further, Respondent CSV was involved in multiple advertisements, all of which failed to provide proper disclosure. In mitigation, the name of Respondent CSV clearly presented its support of candidate Mark Farrell and Respondents have cooperated with the investigation and assert that the contacts and coordination were the actions of only one individual who believed that he was acting within the law.

Other similar cases regarding failing to properly include the required disclosure statements on mailers recently approved by the Commission include:  
dollars (\$2,500) is recommended.

*In the Matter of Alan Frank, Alan Frank for City Council 2012, and Jeff Buchanan*, FPPC No. 12/890. Staff: Commission Counsel Zachary Norton and Special Investigator Paul Rasey. Respondent, Alan Frank, was an unsuccessful candidate for Placentia City Council in the November 6, 2012 election. Alan Frank for City Council 2012 was Respondent Frank's candidate controlled committee, and Respondent Jeff Buchanan was the Treasurer of the committee. Prior to the election, Respondents paid for and caused to be sent two mass mailers which failed to identify Respondents as the senders of the mailers in violation of Government Code Section 84305, subdivision (a) (1 count). A stipulated settlement of \$2,500 was approved by the Commission on September 19, 2013.

*In the Matter of Protect Burlingame and Kevin Osborne*, FPPC No. 09/804. This case involved two mailers in a local election campaign, each sent to approximately 7,000 households, which lacked sender identification. Respondent in this matter did not have an Enforcement history. A \$2,500 penalty was approved by the Commission on April 11, 2011.

In this matter, Respondents failed to provide proper disclosure statements as a result of failing to properly file as a candidate controlled committee and concealing the connection between the candidate-controlled committee and the committee which was supposed to be independent of it. Taking into consideration the factors above, imposition of an administrative penalty of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) is recommended for each of the four counts.

### PROPOSED PENALTY

After consideration of the factors of Regulation 18361.5, as well as consideration of penalties in prior enforcement actions, the imposition of a penalty of Fourteen Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$14,500) is recommended.

*In the Matter of Protect Burlingame and Kevin Osborne*, FPPC No. 09/804.

independent of it. Taking into consideration the factors above, imposition of an administrative penalty of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) is recommended for each of the four counts.