

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

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Bureau of Corporations and Charitable Organizations

v.

Case No.: 22-98-012236

Charitable Deeds & Services, Respondent

### CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Bureau of Corporations and Charitable Organizations ("Bureau"), by and through its undersigned prosecuting attorney, Trista M. Boyd, and **Charitable Deeds & Services**, ("Respondent"), stipulate as follows in settlement of the above-captioned matter:

#### 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 *et. seq.* 

2. At all relevant and material times, Respondent acted as a charitable organization as defined by the Act.

# STIPULATED FACTS

3. Respondent's address on file with the Bureau is: 3009 Knight Town Rd., Shippenville, PA 16254.

4. Respondent operated as an unregistered charitable organization in Pennsylvania from October 31, 2004 through September 20, 2023.

5. During the unregistered period noted above, Respondent engaged in charitable activities in Pennsylvania, even though Respondent was not exempt from registration under 10 P.S. § 162.6(a)(8) since Respondent received contributions in excess of \$25,000.00 per annum.

6. Respondent is currently registered as a charitable organization with the Bureau and has been issued Certificate of Registration No.: 120785.

#### **MITIGATION**

7. Respondent avers the following in mitigation of any sanction, which the Commonwealth neither admits nor denies:

a. That Respondent failed to register as a charitable organization during the time period alleged herein because Respondent was under the mistaken belief and understanding that it was only required to register if Respondent uses a professional fundraiser.

b. That Respondent never used a professional fundraiser during the time period alleged in the complaint.

c. That if Respondent was not mistaken as to when it was necessary to register as a charitable organization, Respondent would have registered during the time period alleged in the complaint.

d. That Respondent understands it is required to register as a charitable organization and Respondent has done so and will continue to do so in the future.

# **AGREED VIOLATION**

8. Respondent admits and agrees that by engaging in the aforementioned conduct, Respondent committed a violation of the Act as follows:

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a. Section 15(a)(1) of the Act, 10 P.S. § 162.15(a)(1), by and through
10 P.S. § 162.5(a), by soliciting contributions without the approved registration
filed with the Bureau.

#### PROPOSED ORDER

9. The parties, intending to be legally bound, consent to issuance of the following Order in settlement of this matter:

a. Respondent has violated Section 15(a)(1) of the Act, 10 P.S. § 162.15(a)(1), by and through 10 P.S. § 162.5(a), by soliciting contributions without the approved registration filed with the Bureau.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES

b. An ADMINISTRATIVE FINE of Twenty-One Thousand, Twenty-Five Dollars (\$21,025.00) is levied upon Respondent. Respondent shall tender the full sum of Twenty-One Thousand, Twenty-Five Dollars (\$21,025.00), with this executed Consent Agreement. Payment shall be by <u>certified</u> <u>check</u>, <u>cashier's check</u>, <u>attorney's check</u>, <u>or U.S. Postal money order</u>. The instrument of payment shall be made payable to the "Commonwealth of Pennsylvania," and shall be valid for a period of at least one hundred eighty (180) days. Respondent agrees that payment will be made by one of the methods indicated in herein and that payment by uncertified personal check, corporate check or cash will not be accepted.

#### CASE SETTLED AND DISCONTINUED

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

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requirements of this Order. However, nothing in this Consent Agreement and 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 and Order.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RIGHT TO ATTORNEY

11. Respondent acknowledges that Respondent is aware that Respondent has the right to consult with, and/or be represented by, private legal counsel of Respondent's choosing and at Respondent's expense when reviewing, considering, and accepting the terms of this Consent Agreement. Respondent had an opportunity to consult with, and has been advised by, Terry R. Heeter, Esquire, regarding this Consent Agreement.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF NOTICE AND WAIVER OF HEARING

12. 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 the hearing: to be represented by counsel at the hearing; 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

13. This Consent Agreement is between the Bureau and Respondent only. It does not bind any other administrative or governmental 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 an Order approving and adopting this Consent Agreement.

#### **EFFECT OF SECRETARY'S REJECTION**

14. 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

15. 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

16. 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.

# **AUTHORITY TO SIGN**

17. The individual signing below on behalf of Respondent hereby represents and warrants that the individual is signing with full and complete authority to bind Respondent to each and every term of this Agreement.

### **VERIFICATION OF FACTS AND STATEMENTS**

18. 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. § 4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

Trista M. Boyd Prosecuting Attorney Department of State Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

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Respondent

By: <u>Bobbi Wolfgung</u> Print Title: <u>President</u> Print DATE: August 15,2024

DATE: 08/20/2024



# **IN THE MATTER OF**

# Charitable Deeds & Services Case No.: 22-98-012236

# **ORDER**

AND NOW, this **27** day of **AJUST** 2024, the foregoing Consent Agreement

is hereby approved, and the terms set forth therein are hereby adopted and incorporated herein as the Order of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, now issued in resolution of this matter.

THIS ORDER shall take effect immediately.

# **BY ORDER:**

Al Schmidt

Secretary of the Commonwealth

For the Commonwealth:

Respondent:

For the Respondent:

Trista M. Boyd, Esquire P. O. Box 69521 Harrisburg, PA 17106-9521

Charitable Deeds & Services 3009 Knight Town Rd. Shippenville, PA 16254

Terry R. Heeter, Esquire Kooman, Heeter & Gulnac, P.C. P.O. Box 700 Clarion, PA 16214