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Department of State

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

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,
Bureau of Charitable Organizations

Docket No. 0042-98-11

vs.

File No. 11-98-08115

Council on American-Islamic Relations –
Pennsylvania,
Respondent

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Bureau of Charitable Organizations (“Bureau”), and, The Council on American – Islamic Relations – Pennsylvania (“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, et seq.

STIPULATED FACTS

2. Respondent admits that the following allegations are true:
 - a. Respondent is a charitable organization as defined by the Act.
 - b. Respondent was previously registered with the Bureau under registration number 35172, but Respondent’s registration with the Bureau expired on November 11, 2009 and was not again perfected until August 3, 2011.

- c. At all relevant and material times, Respondent was not registered to solicit charitable contributions in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- d. Respondent's last known address on file with the Bureau is 1218 Chestnut Street, Suite 510, Philadelphia, PA 19107.
- e. Respondent solicits contributions from Pennsylvania residents by the internet.
- f. On or about June 23, 2011, the Bureau sent via certified mail, additional notification that Respondent's registration with the Bureau had expired, and requested information including but not limited to the total number of Pennsylvania residents that contributed to Respondent's organization since Respondent's registration lapsed on November 11, 2009, as well as the total amount of contributions received from Pennsylvania residents since Respondent first solicited in the Commonwealth.
- g. Respondent mailed a response to the Commonwealth's letter on July 18, 2011.
- h. Respondent's response indicated that Respondent had solicited charitable contributions from Pennsylvania residents between November 9, 2009 and August 3, 2011.

AGREED VIOLATIONS

- 3. Respondent admits and agrees that by engaging in the aforementioned activities:
 - a. Respondent repeatedly violated the Act at 10 P.S. § 162.15(a)(1), by and through, 10 P.S. § 162.5(a), in that Respondent solicited charitable contributions in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania while not currently registered with the Bureau; and

PROPOSED ORDER

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

a. Respondent repeatedly violated the Act at 10 P.S. § 162.15(a)(1), by and through, 10 P.S. § 162.5(a).

ADMINISTRATIVE FINE

b. An ADMINISTRATIVE FINE of three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00) is levied upon Respondent. Respondent shall tender the full sum of three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00), with this executed Consent Agreement, which shall be paid by certified check, cashiers check, attorney's check, or U.S. Postal money order made payable to the "Commonwealth of Pennsylvania."

CASE SETTLED AND DISCONTINUED

5. 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 requirements of this Order. However, nothing in this Consent Agreement and Order shall preclude the Prosecution 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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF NOTICE AND WAIVER OF HEARING

6. 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

7. This Consent Agreement is between the Bureau and Respondent only. It does not bind any other governmental or 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

8. 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


9. 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

10. 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.

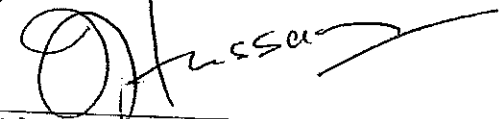
VERIFICATION OF FACTS AND STATEMENTS

11. 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.


Jacquelyn E. Pfurstch, Esquire
Prosecuting Attorney
Department of State

DATED: 9/12/11

Council on American-Islamic Relations -
Pennsylvania


By: IFTIKHAR HUSSAIN
Title: CHAIR
Respondent

DATED: 8/29/11



IN THE MATTER OF
COUNCIL ON AMERICAN-ISLAMIC RELATIONS
FILE NO. 11-98-08115

ORDER

AND NOW, to wit, on this 19th day of September 2011, the terms of paragraph 4 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:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Carol Aichele".

Carol Aichele
Secretary of the Commonwealth