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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

vs.

Welcome America, Inc.,
Respondent

Docket No. 0059-98-10
File No. 10-98-03156

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Bureau of Charitable Organizations ("Bureau") and Welcome America, Inc., ("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 ("the Act"), Act of December 19, 1990, P.L. 1200, No. 202, as amended ("Act"), 10 P.S. §§ 162.1 *et. seq.*
2. Respondent has been periodically registered as a charitable organization in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, registration number 11898, but failed to renew its registration since fiscal year ending December 31, 2006.
3. At all relevant and material times, Respondent conducted business in Pennsylvania as a charitable organization, as defined by the Act.
4. At all relevant and material times, Respondent did not hold a registration to solicit charitable contributions within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

5. At all relevant and material times, Respondent was not exempt from registration or excluded from the requirements of the Act.

STIPULATED FACTS

6. Respondent's last known business address is 1515 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

7. Respondent solicits charitable contributions in Pennsylvania through direct mail, telephone, and through corporate sponsors.

8. On or about May 15, 2005, Respondent entered into a Consent Agreement with the Bureau in which the Respondent was found in violation of the Act at 10 P.S. § 162.15(a)(1) by and through 10 P.S. § 162.5(a), by failing to register with the Bureau before soliciting charitable contributions in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania between 1996 and 2003, and by and through 10 P.S. § 162.12 by failing to keep true and accurate records of its fiscal activities.

9. On April 12, 2010, the Bureau sent a letter via certified mail, informing the Respondent that Respondent was not registered with the Bureau and was soliciting charitable contributions in the Commonwealth, that Respondent failed to pay \$325 in late fees and administrative fines that were previously assessed by the Bureau, and that failure to properly register with the Bureau and pay the outstanding fines would result in the issuance of a Cease and Desist Order.

10. The Executive Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth issued a Cease and Desist Order on June 2, 2010.

11. On or about June 25, 2010, Respondent submitted its registration information for fiscal year ending December 31, 2008.

12. Respondent's registration information indicated that Respondent had received charitable contributions in 2008 totaling at least \$1,759,900.00.

AGREED VIOLATIONS

13. Respondent admits and agrees that by engaging in the foregoing activities it repeatedly violated the Act at 10 P.S. §162.15(a)(1), by and through 10 P.S. §162.5, by soliciting charitable contributions in Pennsylvania without being properly registered.

PROPOSED ORDER

14. The parties, intending to be legally bound, agree to the 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, by soliciting charitable contributions in Pennsylvania without properly being registered.

ADMINISTRATIVE FINE

b. An ADMINISTRATIVE FINE of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) is levied upon Respondent. Respondent shall tender the full sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) with this executed Consent Agreement which shall be paid by certified check, cashier's check, attorney's check, or U.S. Postal money order made payable to the "Commonwealth of Pennsylvania."

CASE SETTLED AND DISCONTINUED

15. 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 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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF NOTICE AND WAIVER OF HEARING

16. 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 that 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

17. 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

18. 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

19. 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

20. 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

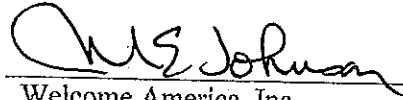
21. Respondent verifies that the facts and statements set forth in this Agreement are true and correct to the best of Respondent's knowledge, information and belief. Respondent

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. Pfarsich, Esquire
Prosecuting Attorney
Department of State

DATED: 9/10/10



Welcome America, Inc.
Title:
Respondent

DATED: 9/7/10



IN THE MATTER OF
WELCOME AMERICA, INC.
FILE NO. 10-98-03156

ORDER

AND NOW, this 13th day of September 2010, the terms of Paragraph 14 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 "Basil L. Merenda".

Basil L. Merenda
Acting Secretary of the Commonwealth