

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD**

CONCILIATION AGREEMENT

In the matter of the Citizens for (Dan) Sparks committee (15675);

1. The Citizens for (Dan) Sparks committee is the principal campaign committee of Senator Dan Sparks. The Minnesota Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association, Inc. (MNHBP) is a horsepersons' organization that is organized as a nonprofit corporation under section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code. The MNHBPA does not have a political committee or fund registered with the Board. The Sparks committee's 2019 year-end report of receipts and expenditures disclosed a \$500 contribution given by the MNHBPA in August 2019.
2. Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 13, prohibits a principal campaign committee from accepting a contribution that exceeds \$200 from an association not registered with the Board, unless the contribution is accompanied by a written disclosure statement satisfying the requirements of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.20, and that statement is filed with the recipient's next report. The MNHBPA did not provide the required disclosure statement with its contribution. A contribution that is not returned within 90 days of being deposited is deemed to be accepted under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 3.
3. Senator Sparks explained that he assumed the MNHBPA was registered with the Board at the time the contribution was given. Senator Sparks provided a copy of the front of a check from the committee returning \$500 to the MNHBPA in January 2020.
4. The parties agree that the Sparks committee accepted a contribution in excess of \$200 without the required disclosure statement in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 13. This is the committee's first violation of the disclosure requirement regarding contributions from unregistered associations.
5. To avoid a similar violation in the future, the Sparks committee agrees:
 - a. To ensure that the committee's treasurer reviews and enters contributions into the Campaign Finance Reporter software within 60 days of receipt; and
 - b. That it will not accept a contribution in excess of \$200 from an association without also obtaining the association's Board registration number, a disclosure statement in the form required by statute if the association is not registered with the Board, or advice from Board staff.
6. The Sparks committee agrees to provide to the Board, within 90 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties, a copy of the deposited check or other documentation showing that the check returning \$500 to the MNHBPA was deposited.

7. The Sparks committee agrees to the imposition of a civil penalty in the amount of \$300 for accepting a contribution in excess of \$200 without the disclosure statement required by Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 13. The civil penalty is the amount of the contribution that exceeded \$200. Of this amount, \$100 is due within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties. The remaining \$200 of the penalty is, by the terms of this agreement, stayed until January 1, 2023. If the committee violates Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 13, before January 1, 2023, the outstanding civil penalty is due immediately. If the committee does not violate Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 13, before January 1, 2023, the outstanding civil penalty is waived.

8. If the Sparks committee does not comply with the provisions of this agreement, this matter may be reopened by the Board and the Board may take such actions as it deems appropriate.

/s/ Dan Sparks
Senator Dan Sparks
Citizens for (Dan) Sparks

Dated: June 29, 2020

/s/ Gary Haugen
Gary Haugen, Vice Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Dated: June 3, 2020