

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

CONCILIATION AGREEMENT

In the matter of Barbara Crow;

1. On January 22, 2024, the Board received a complaint filed by Donna Bergstrom against Barbara Crow. The complaint alleged that Ms. Crow provided a falsified name, mailing address, email address, and phone number, when registering to attend a fundraiser by the 3B House District RPM (20805), a political party unit registered with the Board. The complaint alleged that Ms. Crow registered for the event online by paying \$100 with the name "Susan Johnson" using an incorrect address, email address, and phone number. The complaint alleged that Ms. Crow attended the event, introduced herself as "Susan Johnson," and wore a name tag with the name "Susan Johnson" at the event.
2. Ms. Crow provided a response to the Board and admitted the allegations. Ms. Crow stated "...I did provide a false name (Susan Johnson) and incorrect address because I was worried about my personal safety." Ms. Crow further stated that she didn't think of her actions as violating campaign finance law, but rather she was just "buying a ticket to an event." Ms. Crow stated that she is disappointed in herself and did not intend to hide information from the Board. In her response, she stated "I humbly apologize to the Board for this violation. If the organizers had not caught my subterfuge, this could have been much worse, and for that, I'm grateful."
3. Minnesota Statutes section 10A.29 provides that "[a]n individual or association that attempts to circumvent this chapter by redirecting a contribution through, or making a contribution on behalf of, another individual or association is guilty of a gross misdemeanor and subject to a civil penalty imposed by the board of up to \$3,000."
4. The parties agree that Ms. Crow violated Minnesota Statutes section 10A.29 by providing a false name when making a contribution to the 3B House District RPM.
5. To avoid a similar violation in the future, Ms. Crow agrees that she will not provide false information to any political entities registered with the Board when registering for events requiring payment or otherwise making a contribution, as that term is defined by Minnesota Statutes section 10A.01.
6. Ms. Crow agrees to the imposition of a civil penalty of \$200 for violating Minnesota Statutes section 10A.29. The amount of the civil penalty was determined in part by the fact that this was a first-time violation of the circumvention statute by Ms. Crow. While circumvention is a serious violation of campaign finance law and Ms. Crow's actions inconvenienced the 3B House District RPM, the party unit was ultimately able to obtain Ms. Crow's name and address. The contribution from Ms. Crow was not an attempt to circumvent any contribution limit. Ms. Crow's contribution

was relatively small and therefore was not required to be itemized within any report filed with the Board, she is remorseful, and she is unlikely to commit a similar violation in the future.

7. If Ms. Crow 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/ Barbara Crow
Barbara Crow

Dated: May 1, 2024

/s/ David Asp
David Asp, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Dated: April 10, 2024