

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

**FINDINGS IN THE MATTER OF THE ACCEPTANCE OF  
A CONTRIBUTION DURING THE 2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION  
BY THE PATRICIA TORRES RAY FOR STATE SENATE**

**Summary of the Facts**

In a letter dated November 20, 2006, Patricia Torres Ray, candidate, Patricia Torres Ray for State Senate ("the Committee"), voluntarily notified the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board ("the Board") that the Committee accepted three contributions from registered lobbyists during the 2006 Legislative Session which was held from March 1, to May 21, 2006. The Committee received \$50 from Todd Otis and \$25 from Carole Spektor on March 17, 2006, and a \$50 contribution from Eugene Martinez on April 16, 2006.

Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1, prohibits candidates from soliciting or accepting a contribution from a lobbyist during a regular legislative session. A candidate who violates this section is subject to a civil penalty imposed by the Board of up to \$1,000.

Ms. Ray states, "When these contributions were made, we were not aware that the donors were registered lobbyists and the individuals did not provide their lobbyist registration numbers. We became aware that these three contributions should not have been accepted on October 28, 2006, as a result of the campaign's use, beginning in October, of the Campaign Finance Board's reporting software." Ms. Ray provided copies of the letters and checks returning the three contributions.

This matter was considered by the Board in executive session on January 9, 2007.

**Based on the above Summary of the Facts and Relevant Statutes, the Board makes the following:**

**Finding Concerning Probable Cause**

1. There is probable cause to believe that the Committee accepted three contributions from Lobbyists during the 2006 regular legislative session.
2. There is probable cause to believe that the donations accepted by the Committee did not contain the required lobbyist registration numbers and that the Committee accepted the contributions from registered lobbyists because there was no registration number to identify the donors as lobbyists.
3. There is not probable cause to believe that the acceptance of the subject contributions was intentional or done with the intent to violate Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1.

4. The Committee voluntarily notified the Board of the violation and returned the contributions received from Todd Otis, Carole Specktor, and Eugene Martinez. The Board finds that the Committee returned the contributions as soon as it became aware of the violation.

**Based on the above Finding Concerning Probable Cause, the Board issues the following:**

**ORDER**

1. The Board imposes no penalty on the Patricia Ray Torres for Senate Committee for acceptance of contributions from lobbyists during the regular 2006 legislative session.
2. The Board investigation of this matter is entered into the public record in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.02, subdivision 11. The matter is concluded.

Dated: January 9, 2007

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Felicia Boyd", written over a horizontal line.

Felicia Boyd, Chair  
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

**Relevant Statutes**

1. Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 5. **Registration number on checks.** A contribution made to a candidate by a lobbyist, political committee, political fund, or party unit must show the name of the lobbyist, political committee, political fund, or party unit and the number under which it is registered with the board.
2. Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1. **Contributions during legislative session.** (a) A candidate for the legislature or for constitutional office, the candidate's principal campaign committee, or a political committee or party unit established by all or a part of the party organization within a house of the legislature, must not solicit or accept a contribution from a registered lobbyist, political committee, political fund, or dissolving principal campaign committee, or from a party unit established by the party organization within a house of the legislature, during a regular session of the legislature.