

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

**FINDINGS AND ORDER IN THE MATTER OF
A CONTRIBUTION ACCEPTED DURING THE 2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION BY
THE PAWLENTY FOR GOVERNOR COMMITTEE**

Background

On January 16, 2006, the Pawlenty for Governor Committee (Committee) notified the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board (“the Board”) that the Committee accepted a \$250 contribution from Leonard Kelley Lindquist during the 2005 regular legislative session. The contribution was made on February 8, 2005. The regular 2005 legislative session was held from January 4, 2005, to May 23, 2005.

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.

Richard G. Morgan, legal counsel for the Committee stated in the January 16, 2006, letter “On February 8, 2005, “Leonard Kelley Lindquist” contributed \$250 by check to the Committee. The check contributed did not bear the lobbyist name and address by which Mr. Lindquist is registered as a lobbyist with the Board...Further, the check did not bear Mr. Lindquist’s lobbyist registration number of 494...Governor Pawlenty only became personally aware of the improper contribution by Mr. Lindquist approximately one month ago as a result of the review conducted by the Committee.” Mr. Morgan provided a copy of the check submitted by Mr. Lindquist to the Committee.

Board records show that Mr. Lindquist is registered as a lobbyist under the name “Kelley Lindquist”, at an address that is different than the address listed on the contribution check.

Mr. Morgan provided the Board with a copy of a check and letter that was used by the Committee to return the contribution that had been received during the regular legislative session to Mr. Lindquist.

This matter was considered by the Board in executive session on February 24, 2006.

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.

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

Findings of Probable Cause

1. There is evidence that the Committee accepted a contribution from a registered lobbyist during the 2005 regular legislative session. The Board finds probable cause to believe that the Committee violated Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1.
2. There is evidence that the checks used by Mr. Lindquist to make donations to the Committee did not contain the lobbyist registration number or a name and address consistent with Mr. Lindquist's lobbyist registration. The Board finds probable cause to believe that the Committee inadvertently accepted the contribution from Mr. Lindquist during the 2005 regular legislative session because there was no basis to identify the donor as a lobbyist.
3. There is evidence that the Committee returned the contribution that Mr. Lindquist provided during the 2005 regular legislative session. The Board finds probable cause to believe that the Committee returned the contribution to Mr. Lindquist as soon as it became aware that he was a lobbyist.

Based on the above Findings, the Board issues the following:

ORDER

1. The Board imposes no civil penalty on the Committee for accepting a contribution from Mr. Lindquist during the 2005 regular 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: February 24, 2006



Bob Milbert, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board