

**BEFORE THE
GEORGIA GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE COMMISSION
STATE OF GEORGIA**

IN THE MATTER OF

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CASE NO.

EVERTON BLAIR

21-0028-C

CONSENT ORDER

This matter comes before the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission (“Commission”) pursuant to a complaint filed *sua sponte* by the Commission on October 19, 2021. Now, prior to a hearing on this matter, Everton Blair (“Respondent”) and the Commission agree to resolve the above-styled matter by a Consent Order under the terms and conditions described herein.

Findings of Fact

Respondent is the current District 4 Gwinnett County Board of Education member, having been elected during the 2018 election cycle. Respondent filed his Declaration of Intention to Accept Campaign Contributions (“DOI”) on December 7, 2017 and as such, has been subject to the filing rules and regulations of the Commission.

As an elected public officer, Respondent is required to disclose contributions and expenditures at prescribed times by filing campaign contribution disclosure reports (“CCDR”). *See generally* O.C.G.A. § 21-5-34. On six occasions Respondent failed to timely file a CCDR which would have disclosed contributions and expenditures relating to his campaign. These violations relate to the December 31, 2018 CCDR, June 30, 2019 CCDR, December 31, 2019 CCDR, June 30, 2020 CCDR, December 31, 2020 CCDR, and June 30, 2021 CCDR.

Respondent, as a public official is required to file a Personal Financial Disclosure Statement which requires the annual disclosure of a public officer’s personal finances, secondary employment, and fiduciary positions so that the general public can identify potential conflicts of interest and self-dealing on the part of public officers and candidates for public office. *See generally* O.C.G.A. § 21-5-50. In this matter, after being elected to public office, Respondent failed to timely file three Personal Financial Disclosure Statements covering the years 2018, 2019, and 2020.

Conclusions of Law

1. Respondent violated O.C.G.A. § 21-5-34 when he failed to timely file his December 31, 2018 CCDR.
2. Respondent violated O.C.G.A. § 21-5-34 when he failed to timely file his June 30, 2019 CCDR.
3. Respondent violated O.C.G.A. § 21-5-34 when he failed to timely file his December 31, 2019 CCDR.
4. Respondent violated O.C.G.A. § 21-5-34 when he failed to timely file his June 30, 2020 CCDR.
5. Respondent violated O.C.G.A. § 21-5-34 when he failed to timely file his December 31, 2020

CCDR.

6. Respondent violated O.C.G.A. § 21-5-34 when he failed to timely file his June 30, 2021 CCDR.
7. Respondent violated O.C.G.A. § 21-5-50 when he failed to timely file his PFDS covering calendar year 2018.
8. Respondent violated O.C.G.A. § 21-5-50 when he failed to timely file his PFDS covering calendar year 2019.
9. Respondent violated O.C.G.A. § 21-5-50 when he failed to timely file his PFDS covering calendar year 2020.

Agreement

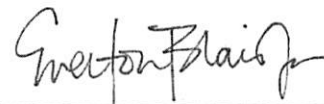
In resolving this matter, Respondent hereby agrees to the following:

Respondent agrees to pay \$1,125.00 to the Commission in late fees for violating the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Act nine times. The late fee shall be paid to the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission within thirty (30) days from the date of this Order. Further, Respondent, agrees not to commit any further violations of the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Act and corresponding Commission Rules.

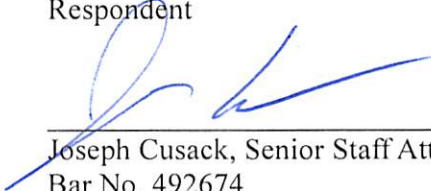
Respondent represents that the foregoing findings of facts are true, agrees with the conclusions of law, and further agrees to abide by all terms of this Order. By signing this Order, Respondent, waives any right to appeal pursuant to the procedures outlined in the Administrative Procedures Act (APA), O.C.G.A. § 50-13-1 *et. seq.*

Failure to comply with the terms herein, absent a showing of good faith, will constitute a willful and knowing violation of said terms by Respondent. Respondent's failure to comply with said terms shall constitute a breach of this agreement and thereby authorize the Commission to seek enforcement action against the Respondent in Superior Court. The parties agree that all costs and attorneys' fees incurred by the Commission in any enforcement action shall be assessed against Respondent pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 21-5-6(b)(14)(C).

The Commission adopts the foregoing findings of fact and conclusions of law and orders the implementation of the terms of this Consent Order.



Everton Blair
Respondent



Joseph Cusack, Senior Staff Attorney
Bar No. 492674

SO ORDERED this 9th day of December, 2021.

Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission

BY:



James Kreyenbuhl
Chairman