**BEFORE THE GEORGIA GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AND**

**CAMPAIGN FINANCE COMMISSION**

**STATE OF GEORGIA**

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| **IN THE MATTER OF:** | **\*** | **CASE NO.** |
| **MARY NORWOOD** | **\***  **\***  **\***  **\***  **\*** | **2017-0233** |

**CONSENT ORDER**

This matter comes before the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission (hereinafter “Commission”) pursuant to a complaint filed by Charles Stadtlander on or about December 4, 2017. Now, prior to a final hearing on this matter, Respondent Mary Norwood (hereinafter “Respondent”) and the Commission agree to resolve the above-styled matter by Consent Order under the terms and conditions described herein.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

Respondent is a former candidate for Mayor of the City of Atlanta, Georgia, who most recently campaigned for said office during the 2017 general election cycle, after the filing of her declaration to intention to accept campaign contributions on October 5, 2006, and her qualification to stand for election to said office on March 3, 2014.

At the time of the alleged violations, Respondent was a candidate for elected public office, who was required to regularly report the amount(s) and source(s) of her campaign contribution(s), as well as, the end recipient(s) and sum(s) of his campaign expenditures through the filing of campaign contribution disclosure reports (hereinafter “CCDR”).

In addition to imposing regular reporting requirements, the Georgia General Assembly has also imposed a maximum limit on the amount of campaign contributions that a candidate for elected public office may raise during an election cycle for use in their campaign for elected office. *See* O.C.G.A. § 21-5-41. In the case *sub judice*, the Commission finds that Respondent:

1. Improperly accepted $58,300.00 (aggregate total accepted above limits) in campaign contributions from various contributors which exceeded maximum campaign contribution limits.
2. Improperly accepted $22,450.00 (aggregate total accepted above limits) in campaign contributions which exceed maximum campaign contribution limits.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The Commission finds that Respondent violated the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Act in that Respondent:

1. Improperly accepted $58,300.00 in campaign contributions which exceeded maximum campaign contribution limits when Respondent failed to elect separate accounting as permitted by O.C.G.A. § 21-5-43(a), a violation of O.C.G.A. §§ 21-5-41(b) and 21-5-43(a).
2. Improperly accepted $22,450.00 in campaign contributions which exceed maximum campaign contribution limits, a violation of O.C.G.A. § 21-5-41(b).

**HOLDING**

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

Respondent will pay a $27,000.00 civil penalty to the Commission for violation O.C.G.A. §§ 21‑5‑41(b) and 21-5-43(a) by exceeding maximum campaign contribution limits as detailed *supra*.

Respondent further agrees to pay all civil penalties detailed *supra* to the Commission within thirty days (30) from the date of this Order.

Any and all other allegations raised against Respondent by Complainant are deemed to be unactionable or unfounded or otherwise permissible under the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Act.

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 Procedure Act (APA) as provided by 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 and/or collection of this order by subsequent contempt or other proceedings against the Respondent in the Superior Court for the State of Georgia. 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)(iv).

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

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|  | Mary Norwood  Respondent  Frank Strickland, Esq.  Ga. State Bar No.: 687600  Attorney for Respondent |
| Order Prepared and Presented by:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Robert S. Lane  Ga. State Bar No.: 178970  Deputy Executive Secretary |  |

SO ORDERED this day of , 2020.

**Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission**

**BY:**

Jake Evans, Chair