



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN & POLITICAL FINANCE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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OCPF, Lincoln Committee sign disposition agreement

BOSTON -- The Office of Campaign and Political Finance announced today that it has entered into a disposition agreement with the Committee to Elect Charles B. Lincoln for not disclosing more than \$52,000 in expenditures made outside the Committee's depository account.

The agreement states that in 1996, Lincoln, a Brockton resident who was a candidate for Plymouth County sheriff, made \$52,430.08 in campaign expenditures outside of the depository account, using his personal credit cards.

These expenditures violated Massachusetts General Laws c. 55, s. 19, which requires a county candidate to make all expenditures in excess of \$50 on checks drawn on a depository account. Credit card payments must be made through the depository account and the vendors must then be disclosed separately to OCPF by the Committee.

Under the depository system, banks provide regular reports directly to OCPF on behalf of candidates. Candidates using this system include those seeking statewide and county office and Governor's Council, state party committees and mayoral and citywide city council candidates in Boston, Lowell, Springfield and Worcester.

In the agreement, Lincoln agreed to pay \$1,500 to the Commonwealth, in part as restitution for staff time used to reconstruct the record of the Committee's expenditures. The agreement was signed by Lincoln, Committee treasurer Marcelle Cataldo and OCPF Director Michael J. Sullivan.

"The law requires that all campaign finance activity take place through a candidate's depository account," Sullivan said. "Any outside activity defeats the purpose of the law and prevents the public disclosure of committee fundraising and expenditures."

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OCPF's investigation of the Committee's activity started after Lincoln notified the office of his credit card activity in December 1996. Working with the committee, OCPF then undertook a detailed review and reconstruction of records relating to the expenditures.

The disposition agreement is available for public inspection at OCPF's office in Room 411 of the McCormack Building, One Ashburton Place.

OCPF administers the campaign finance law for all candidates and committees on the state, county and municipal level in Massachusetts. In addition, the office receives and maintains campaign finance reports from candidates and committees to provide disclosure of these activities to the public.

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