

# *Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Business owner, two companies make \$185,000 payment to resolve campaign finance issues**

OCPF has entered into a disposition agreement with Canton-based businessman Vincent Barletta to resolve a complaint that corporate funds were contributed to Massachusetts candidates in another person's name.

According to the agreement, on at least 60 occasions between 2010 and 2015, business entities controlled by Barletta provided \$35,500 to employees who then used those funds to make contributions to candidates.

The campaign finance law prohibits corporate contributions, and prohibits a person from disguising the true source of a contribution.

To resolve the issue, Barletta and two Barletta-controlled businesses, First Fidelity Corp. and Puma Corp., made a \$185,000 payment to the state's general fund. In addition, Barletta and all Barletta-controlled businesses agreed not to make any contributions to influence Massachusetts elections for five years. Barletta paid \$17,500 personally, First Fidelity Corp. paid \$155,000, and Puma Corp. paid \$12,500.

OCPF's analysis of bank records and other information revealed that several employees of Barletta-controlled entities deposited funds received from the entities into their personal checking accounts, either shortly before or shortly after they made contributions to candidates. Funds were contributed to a total of 10 candidates.

The candidate committees that received funds, and are still active, have voluntarily disgorged or will disgorge the prohibited funds by Dec. 31, 2016. Disgorgements are made according to the "residual funds clause" in Section 18 of campaign finance law – to the state, a municipality, charity or scholarship fund.

The candidates and their committees were not aware that the contributions they received were made with corporate funds provided by another until they were notified by OCPF. The 10 candidates ran for statewide, legislative and municipal offices, and are listed in the disposition agreement [here](#).

In addition to the \$185,000 payment, Barletta agreed to provide OCPF with an annual affidavit through 2021 certifying that he and his businesses did not provide funds to any person for the purpose of making contributions to candidates.

According to the agreement, OCPF acknowledges that Barletta, Barletta Engineering, and the other named Barletta-controlled entities appear to be presently responsible with respect to the Massachusetts campaign finance law.

Barletta has also contacted the Federal Election Commission regarding alleged corporate reimbursements provided to employees for contributions those employees may have made to federal candidates and committees since 2010.

The agreement was signed by OCPF Director Michael J. Sullivan and Barletta, as well as representatives from businesses controlled by Barletta.

A disposition agreement is a voluntary written agreement entered into between the subject of a review and OCPF, in which the subject agrees to take certain specific actions.



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