

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of Campaign and Political Finance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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***OCPF, D'Amico sign disposition agreement
concerning car lease payments***

The Office of Campaign and Political Finance announced today that it has entered into a disposition agreement with former Quincy City Councilor Michael J. D'Amico for not properly accounting for car lease payments from his campaign funds.

In the agreement, OCPF concluded that payments by D'Amico's committee for his personal vehicle were not supported by records maintained by the candidate. The committee paid \$200 each month toward the lease of a vehicle for D'Amico, which covered about half of the monthly payment. The committee paid a total of \$2,400 in 2000 and \$2,600 in 2001, for a total of \$5,000.

Under OCPF regulations, a candidate may use campaign funds for political and constituent travel, though this activity must be disclosed on campaign finance reports. Candidates may be reimbursed by their committees for the use of their private vehicles. The reimbursement must be in the form of payment for actual miles driven at the standard Internal Revenue Service rate.

At the request of OCPF, D'Amico produced various documents reflecting political and constituent activities in 2000 and 2001. After its review, OCPF concluded that D'Amico and the Committee did not keep sufficient records to the extent required by the law and regulation and were unable to document satisfactorily that their estimate of political and constituent miles traveled was accurate. The office also concluded that D'Amico used the vehicles for political or constituent purposes for substantially less than the mileage that would have justified the payments made by the Committee toward the lease.

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In the agreement, D'Amico agreed to reimburse \$2,000 to his committee from his personal funds and to pay an additional \$500 to the Commonwealth in the nature of a civil forfeiture. OCPF agreed not to refer the matter to the Attorney General for further action.

D'Amico was Ward 4 councilor for each of the two years that were the subject of the agreement. He left office in January 2002.

The agreement was signed by OCPF Director Michael J. Sullivan, D'Amico and Lorraine H. D'Amico, the committee treasurer.

A copy of the agreement is available from OCPF, One Ashburton Place, Room 411, Boston. The D'Amico Committee's reports are on file at the City Clerk's office at City Hall, Quincy.

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