

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of Campaign and Political Finance

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**OCPF, Rep. Spellane sign agreement
regarding campaign finance violations**

The Office of Campaign and Political Finance announced today that it has entered into a disposition agreement with state Representative Robert P. Spellane of Worcester for violations of the campaign finance law relating to the personal use of campaign funds, transfers of funds between his committee and personal accounts, and failure to provide full disclosure of campaign finance activity.

According to the agreement, Spellane made several transfers between his committee and personal accounts in 2004, 2005 and 2006, with most of that activity not disclosed on campaign finance reports. Though he ultimately repaid the amount advanced from his campaign, Spellane acknowledged that money transferred from his campaign account to his personal account was put toward personal expenses.

For a one-year period starting in December 2004, Spellane made six withdrawals from his campaign account totaling \$19,500, though he made intermittent transfers to pay back the advances, some within a matter of days. From December 2005 to August 2006, however, he withdrew committee funds without making any repayment, and ultimately accumulated a liability of \$32,500 owed to his campaign.

OCPF initiated its review after conducting its routine audit of the Spellane Committee's 2005 campaign finance report. After further review, the office concluded that the committee's reports did not accurately reflect its campaign finance activity during the relevant period by omitting or inaccurately reporting several transactions.

The lack of disclosure of transfers to Spellane's personal account suggested that the funds involved were used personally by the candidate. Spellane acknowledged to OCPF that such transfers were to satisfy personal financial obligations, including loan payments for his personal vehicle.

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To cover the liability to his campaign account that had accrued, Spellane made two payments totaling \$36,000 in personal funds to his committee in October 2006. Based on a review of the committee's expenditures as offset by Spellane's transfers of personal funds to the committee, Spellane has now fully reimbursed the committee for the expenditures made for his personal use. In fact, the \$36,000 payment was \$3,500 more than the amount required to pay back the campaign funds that had been withdrawn.

In addition to not disclosing the transfers to and from the committee account, Spellane also did not provide complete disclosure of some reimbursements from committee funds to himself. By not disclosing contributions, expenditures, and reimbursements in a timely and accurate manner, the committee did not comply with the campaign finance law.

To resolve the matter, Spellane agreed to make a payment of \$10,000 in committee funds to the Commonwealth in the nature of a civil forfeiture. He also agreed to amend his past campaign finance reports within 30 days to include the missing or incomplete information and to provide additional disclosure to OCPF through 2009, including bank statements and mid-year paper reports.

The agreement, which is a public record, was signed by Spellane and OCPF Director Michael J. Sullivan.

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