

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of Campaign and Political Finance

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CONTACT: Denis Kennedy
Director of Public Information
(617) 727-8352 / (800) 462-6273

**OCPF, Strasnick sign disposition agreement
concerning excess contributions to three candidates**

The Office of Campaign and Political Finance announced today that it has entered into a disposition agreement with Brian Strasnick regarding \$11,000 in excess contributions he made to candidates through other persons, including his employees.

In the agreement, OCPF concluded that in 2001 and 2002, Strasnick provided money to 14 people, most of whom were employees of the Willow Street Medical Center and Willow Street Medical Laboratory in Lynn, of which Strasnick is the owner, president and chief executive officer. The money was provided to individuals for the purpose of allowing them to make \$500 contributions to three candidate committees: the Salvy Migliaccio Committee of Lynn, the Committee to Elect James Segel of Needham, and the Committee to Elect Steven Walsh of Lynn.

Neither Strasnick nor the individuals who made contributions using Strasnick's funds informed Migliaccio, Segel or Walsh, or their committees, that the contributions were made with funds provided by Strasnick. OCPF found no reason to believe that the relevant candidates or Committees had any knowledge that the named contributors did not in fact make the contributions, until they were so notified by OCPF.

The campaign finance law limits the amount an individual may contribute to a candidate to \$500 annually. In its review, OCPF found that Strasnick, in addition to making legal contributions of \$500 using his own name, made contributions in the name of another 22 times, for a total of \$11,000 over the two-year period.

The excess contributions were given in the following manner:

- o In June 2001 Strasnick made a \$500 contribution to Migliaccio, a candidate for state Senate in a special election in 2002. Later that year, he gave \$500 to each of five Willow Street employees, who each wrote a personal check to Migliaccio in his or her own name. Strasnick gave another \$500 to Migliaccio in February 2002 and again gave

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\$500 to an employee, who again sent it to Migliaccio in her own name. The total excess amount contributed to Migliaccio was therefore \$3,000.

- o In March 2002, Strasnick made a \$500 contribution to Segel, a candidate for state treasurer. About three months later, 11 people, eight of whom were Willow Street employees, made \$500 contributions by personal check to Segel, using funds Strasnick provided for that purpose. The total excess amount contributed to Segel was therefore \$5,500.
- o In July 2002, Strasnick made a \$500 contribution to Walsh, a candidate for state representative. In August, five people, four of whom were employed at Willow Street, made \$500 contributions by personal check to Walsh, using funds Strasnick provided for that purpose. The total excess amount contributed to Walsh was therefore \$2,500.

Migliaccio, Segel and Walsh have voluntarily disgorged the funds improperly contributed by Strasnick by making payments to charitable entities in the full amounts of \$3,000 (by Migliaccio), \$5,500 (by Segel), and \$2,500 (by Walsh).

In the agreement, OCPF concluded that Strasnick violated sections 7A and 10 of M.G.L. Chapter 55. Section 7A states that an individual may contribute no more than \$500 annually to any one candidate. Section 10 states that “no person shall, directly or indirectly, make a campaign contribution in any name except his own nor in any manner for the purpose of disguising the true origin of the contribution.” Strasnick violated this provision by having 14 persons make 22 contributions using his funds in a manner that disguised the true origin of the funds.

To resolve the matter, Strasnick agreed to pay a total of \$16,000 to the Commonwealth in the nature of a civil forfeiture: \$11,000 upon execution of the agreement and the remaining \$5,000 no later than September 1, 2003. Strasnick also agreed to notify OCPF if he makes future contributions to any state or local candidates in 2003 or 2004 and to make all future contributions to any Massachusetts candidate or political committee, regardless of amount, only in the form of a personal check.

OCPF agreed not to refer the matter to the Attorney General for further action.

In addition to Strasnick, the agreement was signed by OCPF Director Michael J. Sullivan.

A copy of the agreement is available at OCPF’s office at One Ashburton Place, Room 411, Boston.

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