



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
PRESS RELEASE

Ethics Commission

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Stacey Fulhorst
San Diego Ethics Commission
(619) 533-3476

**ETHICS COMMISSION ANNOUNCES SETTLEMENT
WITH FORMER MAYORAL CANDIDATE RON ROBERTS
CONCERNING VIOLATIONS OF CAMPAIGN LAWS**

Stacey Fulhorst, Executive Director of the City of San Diego Ethics Commission, announced today the Commission's approval of a stipulated settlement agreement with County Supervisor Ron Roberts. Roberts, a candidate for Mayor in the 2004 citywide election, has agreed to pay \$15,000 for failing to properly obtain and report information regarding the occupation and employer of a significant number of his contributors. Ms. Fulhorst commented that, "By failing to disclose the correct occupation and employer information for many of his contributors, Roberts deprived the public of key information typically used to assess the nature and interests of campaign supporters." Although the Commission's investigation revealed that Roberts relied on his fundraising staff to obtain the required contributor information, Ms. Fulhorst noted that he is responsible for the actions of his committee's representatives.

According to the stipulated agreement, thirty contributors were incorrectly reported as "retired" or "homemaker" when in fact they were actually contractors, developers, real estate professionals, teachers, bankers, physicians, and attorneys. The Commission's investigation revealed that the true occupation of these contributors could have been obtained with a

reasonable amount of due diligence. In addition to paying the \$15,000 fine, Roberts has agreed to undertake all efforts necessary to obtain or verify the correct occupation and employer information for approximately 900 contributors who were previously reported as “retired” or “homemaker,” and to file all necessary amendments to his campaign statements.

According to Commission Chair, Dorothy Leonard, “The Commission felt that the amount of the fine was appropriate in light of the carelessness exhibited by the committee. Our investigation revealed that the committee’s procedures for obtaining the required information fell far below acceptable standards.” She also commented that the Commission hopes to put the regulated community on notice that they must make reasonable and diligent efforts to obtain the required information from contributors, and that the failure to do so will result in substantial administrative fines.

Ethics Commission fines are paid to the City of San Diego’s General Fund. The stipulated settlements approved by the Commission resolve all factual and legal issues without the necessity of holding an administrative hearing.

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