

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD**

**FINDINGS IN THE MATTER OF THE ACCEPTANCE OF
A CONTRIBUTION DURING THE 2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
BY THE PATRICIA TORRES RAY FOR STATE SENATE**

Summary of the Facts

In a letter dated November 20, 2006, Patricia Torres Ray, candidate, Patricia Torres Ray for State Senate (“the Committee”), voluntarily notified the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board (“the Board”) that the Committee accepted three contributions from registered lobbyists during the 2006 Legislative Session which was held from March 1, to May 21, 2006. The Committee received \$50 from Todd Otis and \$25 from Carole Spektor on March 17, 2006, and a \$50 contribution from Eugene Martinez on April 16, 2006.

Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1, prohibits candidates from soliciting or accepting a contribution from a lobbyist during a regular legislative session. A candidate who violates this section is subject to a civil penalty imposed by the Board of up to \$1,000.

Ms. Ray states, “When these contributions were made, we were not aware that the donors were registered lobbyists and the individuals did not provide their lobbyist registration numbers. We became aware that these three contributions should not have been accepted on October 28, 2006, as a result of the campaign’s use, beginning in October, of the Campaign Finance Board’s reporting software.” Ms. Ray provided copies of the letters and checks returning the three contributions.

This matter was considered by the Board in executive session on January 9, 2007.

Based on the above Summary of the Facts and Relevant Statutes, the Board makes the following:

Finding Concerning Probable Cause

1. There is probable cause to believe that the Committee accepted three contributions from Lobbyists during the 2006 regular legislative session.
2. There is probable cause to believe that the donations accepted by the Committee did not contain the required lobbyist registration numbers and that the Committee accepted the contributions from registered lobbyists because there was no registration number to identify the donors as lobbyists.
3. There is not probable cause to believe that the acceptance of the subject contributions was intentional or done with the intent to violate Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1.

