STATE OF KANSAS

Administration of Campaign Finance, Conflict of Interest & Lobbying Laws



901 S. Kansas Avenue Topeka, Kansas 66612 (785) 296-4219 (phone) (785) 296-2548 (fax)

GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS COMMISSION

https://ethics.kansas.gov

January 10, 2024

Melvin Williams, Candidate Unified Government 2939 N 43rd St Kansas City, KS 66104

Re: \$6,600.00 in civil liabilities owed to the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission

Dear Melvin Williams,

This communication is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

On August 25, 2021, an administrative order issued by the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission ("Commission") was mailed to you by certified mail, with signed return receipt requested, and by first-class mail. The order assessed a \$1,000.00 penalty for the failure to file your July 26, 2021, Receipts and Expenditures Report in a timely manner.

On October 28, 2021, Mark Skoglund, Executive Director for the Commission ("Mr. Skoglund"), sent you a letter to remind you of the outstanding civil penalty and that the matter would be forwarded along to the general counsel to initiate collections proceedings. On May 12, 2023, the final reminder letter was sent to you stating that if the civil penalty was not paid within thirty (30) days from the date of the letter, the debt would be sent to the Kansas Debt Recovery System for collections. This civil penalty was sent to the Kansas Debt Recovery System on July 5, 2023.

On March 24, 2022, an administrative order issued by the Commission was mailed to you by certified mail, with signed return receipt requested, and by first-class mail. The order assessed a \$300.00 penalty for the failure to file your January 10, 2022, Receipts and Expenditures Report in a timely manner.

On June 3, 2022, the Commission's Report and Order for Complaint No. 726 was mailed to you by certified mail, with signed return receipt requested, and by first-class mail. The order imposed a \$5,000.00 fine and found that you violated to the Kansas Campaign Finance Act.

On March 23, 2023, an administrative order issued by the Commission was mailed to you by certified mail, with signed return receipt requested, and by first-class mail. The order assessed a \$300.00 penalty for the failure to file your January 10, 2023, Receipts and Expenditures Report in a timely manner.

On November 2, 2023, Mr. Skoglund sent a letter by first class mail, reminding you of the obligation to pay the outstanding civil liabilities. As of the date of this letter, the Commission has not received payment.

Please be advised that the Commission takes failure to pay assessed civil penalties seriously. In the absence of payment in full by February 9, 2024, the Commission intends to exercise any legal remedies available, including the State of Kansas Debt Setoff Program. If the Commission refers your debt to this program, the Kansas Department of Revenue will divert \$6,600.00 to the Commission from any money due you from the State of Kansas. Additionally, if you fail to pay by that date, your name will be posted on the Commission's website for failure to meet this financial responsibility. The Kansas Debt Setoff Program

may also retain additional funds due to you from the state as payment for collection costs. Please be further advised that the Commission reserves and retains all its rights and remedies.

As stated above, \$1,000.00 of the \$6,600.00 in liabilities have already been sent to the Kansas Debt Recovery System to be collected from the moneys owed to you by the State of Kansas. This can be removed from the Kansas Debt Recovery System should payment be received by the Commission's office.

Further action to collect the civil penalty may be avoided by mailing a check or money order in the amount of \$6,600.00 made payable to the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission so that receipt occurs by February 9, 2024.

Sincerely,

Kaitlyn R. Bull-Stewart

General Counsel