

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

CONCILIATION AGREEMENT

In the matter of the Neighbors for Jim Davnie committee (15164);

1. Neighbors for Jim Davnie is the principal campaign committee of Representative Jim Davnie. The aggregate special source contribution limit, which includes contributions from lobbyists, political committees and funds, and associations not registered with the Board, was \$13,700 for state house candidates during the 2019-2020 election cycle segment. The committee's 2019 and 2020 year-end reports of receipts and expenditures initially disclosed a combined total of \$14,050 in special source contributions. A staff review was opened on August 20, 2021.
2. In response to the staff review, the Davnie committee audited all of its 2020 transactions and found three additional contributions from special sources totaling \$400 that had not been included on the initial 2020 year-end report. The Davnie committee has filed an amended 2020 year-end report disclosing these contributions. The \$750 in excess special source contributions was not returned within 90 days and is therefore deemed accepted under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 3.
3. Charles Vanek, the Davnie committee's treasurer, stated that although the committee has a system for recording contributions, some contributions had been missed early in 2020. The treasurer attributed the disruptions in the recordkeeping system to the fact that he and his family had been forced into temporary housing due to a house fire in mid-2019. Consequently, in May 2020, they were "moving back into the house during COVID ... followed by chaos in the Longfellow neighborhood (where both the Candidate and Treasurer live) in the wake of George Floyd's murder." The treasurer also temporarily moved out of the state during the time when the 2020 report was being prepared. Mr. Vanek said that these events led to breakdowns in the established recordkeeping process.
4. The parties agree that the committee inadvertently accepted \$750 in excessive contributions from special source contributors in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11, during the 2019-2020 election cycle segment. This is the committee's first violation of the aggregate special source limit.
5. To avoid a similar violation in the future, the committee agrees to ensure that it follows its recordkeeping system in all cases. The committee also agrees to ensure that the committee's treasurer reviews and enters contributions into the Campaign Finance Reporter software within 30 days of receipt so that excess contributions may be returned during the 90-day grace period.
6. The committee further agrees to the imposition of a civil penalty of \$750, which is one times the amount of the violation, for accepting contributions in excess of the limit imposed by Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11, during the 2019-2020 election cycle

