

# SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, this Settlement Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into by and between the New York State Commission on Public Integrity ("Commission") and Buffalo Niagara Association of Realtors ("Respondent"); and

WHEREAS, the Commission is the State agency responsible for enforcing Article 1-A of the New York State Legislative Law, as amended ("Lobbying Act"); and

WHEREAS, as a registered client in 2008 and 2009, Respondent is therefore required to comply with the reporting requirements set forth in the Lobbying Act; and

WHEREAS, on December 10, 2009, the Commission determined there is reasonable cause to believe that Respondent knowingly and willfully violated Legislative Law §1-m and issued a Notice of Reasonable Cause ("NORC"), a copy of which has been served upon Respondent; and

WHEREAS, in lieu of appearing for an adjudicatory hearing that could result in the assessment of a civil penalty, the parties to this Agreement have agreed to resolve their dispute in a manner that avoids further adjudicatory proceedings;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants made herein, as the final settlement of the violation set forth herein, the parties agree that:

- I. Respondent admits that it violated § 1-m(d) of the Lobbying Act as set forth in the NORC and agrees to pay to the Commission the amount of \$250 in settlement of said violation. If full payment is not received with and at the same time as this Agreement, this Agreement shall become null and void in its entirety.
- II. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Agreement, Respondent understands and acknowledges that the Commission may investigate other knowing and willful violations, if any, by Respondent, of the Lobbying Act.
- III. Respondent hereby waives (its, their, his, her) right to cure, as provided in §1-o(c)(iii) of the Lobbying Act and may not assert such right at any future time.
- IV. Respondent agrees that it will, in all respects, abide by the terms of the Lobbying Act.
- V. Respondent agrees that neither it nor its agent will issue any public statement, directly or indirectly denying the factual allegations in the NORC or creating the impression that the NORC is without factual basis.
- VI. It is understood and agreed that this Agreement is not confidential, and that the Commission reserves the right to make public the Agreement and its terms.



VII. If Respondent violates any of the terms of this Agreement, the Commission may declare this Agreement null and void and proceed to a hearing as if the Agreement had not been executed.

VIII. Any amendment or modification to this Agreement shall be in writing and signed by both parties.

Dated: 2-22-10



New York State  
Commission on Public Integrity

ACCEPTED AND AGREED TO  
THIS 21<sup>st</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 2009

Buffalo Niagara Association of Realtors

By: John L. Leonard  
Name: JOHN L. LEONARD  
Title: CEO