

In the Matter of Community Redemption Center,

Respondent.

DECISION AND NOTICE OF
CIVIL ASSESSMENT

Alleged Violations of Lobbying Act §1-j.

Community Redemption Center (“Respondent”), a client in 2010 and in 2012, was required to file the 2010 July/December, 2012 January/June, and 2012 July/December Client Semi-Annual Reports (“Reports”) by January 15, 2011, July 15, 2012, and January 15, 2013, respectively, pursuant to Article 1-A of the Legislative Law (“Lobbying Act”) §1-j, because the Respondent retained, employed, or designated a lobbyist and Respondent reasonably anticipated that it would expend or incur reportable compensation and expenses in an amount in excess of \$5,000 during the 2010 and 2012 calendar years.

On April 19, 2012, a Notice of Failure to File the 2010 July/December Report was issued which afforded the Respondent 15 days to file the Report.

On May 14, 2012, the Commission sent Respondent a Notice of Substantial Basis Investigation for the 2010 July/December Report, including a proposed settlement agreement for \$5,000.

On April 23, 2014, a Notice of Failure to File the 2012 January/June and 2012 July/December Reports was issued which afforded the Respondent 15 days to file the Reports.

On June 11, 2014, the Commission sent Respondent a Notice of Substantial Basis Investigation for the 2012 Reports.

On June 24, 2014, the Commission approved a Substantial Basis Investigation Report, finding that a substantial basis existed to conclude that Respondent knowingly and willfully failed to file timely all three Reports.

On August 12, 2014, a Notice of Hearing was issued to Respondent. On September 10, 2014, a hearing was held pursuant to Lobbying Act §1-o(c)(i) and 19 NYCRR §941. Respondent did not attend or put forth a defense.

On September 25, 2014, the hearing officer, Judge George C. Pratt, issued a Report and Recommendation (“Report and Recommendation”), in which he found that the Respondent knowingly and willfully failed to file the Reports and recommended the assessment of a civil penalty in the amount of \$15,000.

The parties were given 10 days from receipt of the Report and Recommendation to respond. No response was received from the Respondent.

The Joint Commission on Public Ethics (“Commission”) hereby affirms the Hearing Officer’s Report and Recommendation and finds that the Respondent knowingly and willfully failed to file its 2010 July/December, 2012 January/June, and 2012 July/December Client Semi-Annual Reports. The Commission also affirms the Recommendation of the Hearing Officer and directs that the Respondent file its 2010 July/December, 2012 January/June, and 2012 July/December reports and be assessed a civil penalty in the amount of \$15,000.

Approved: Daniel J. Horwitz
Chair

Paul Casteleiro
Hon. Joseph Covello
Seymour Knox, IV
Gary J. Lavine
Hon. Mary Lou Rath
David A. Renzi
Michael A. Romeo, Sr.
Hon. Renee R. Roth
George H. Weissman
Members

Absent: David Arroyo
Marvin E. Jacob
Members

DATED: November 25, 2014