

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
BEFORE THE RHODE ISLAND ETHICS COMMISSION**

**In re: Richard Nassaney  
Respondent**

**Complaint No. 2022-6**

**ORDER**

This matter having been heard before the Rhode Island Ethics Commission on November 15, 2022, pursuant to 520-RICR-00-00-3.16 Informal Disposition (1011), and the Commission having considered the Complaint herein, the Respondent's Answer, the arguments of the parties, and the proposed Information Resolution and Settlement, which is incorporated by reference herein, it is hereby

**ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED**

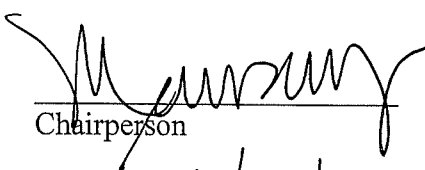
THAT, the Commission approves the Informal Resolution and Settlement; and

THAT, the Commission incorporates by reference herein the Findings of Fact and Admissions, and the Conclusions of Law, set forth in the Informal Resolution and Settlement; and

THAT, by voting to approve the victualing license application of his business associate, Richmond Market, the Respondent violated R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-5(a); and

THAT, consistent therewith, the Respondent is ordered to pay a civil penalty in the amount of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300).

ENTERED as an Order of this Commission,

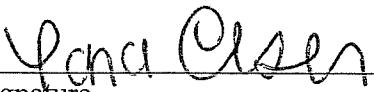
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

Dated:

11/15/22

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Tara Olsen, hereby certify that on the 15th day of November 2022, I caused a true copy of the Order to be forwarded by first class mail, postage prepaid, to Richard Nassaney, 23 Sunset Drive, Richmond, RI 02892 and B. Joe Reddish III, 23 Corey Trail, Wyoming, RI 02898.

  
Signature

RECEIVED  
RHODE ISLAND  
ETHICS COMMISSION

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
BEFORE THE RHODE ISLAND ETHICS COMMISSION

In re: Richard Nassaney,  
Respondent

Complaint No. 2022-6

**INFORMAL RESOLUTION AND SETTLEMENT**

The Respondent, Richard Nassaney, and the Rhode Island Ethics Commission (“Commission”) hereby agree to a resolution of the above-referenced matter as follows:

**I. FINDINGS OF FACT & ADMISSIONS**

1. The Respondent has continuously served as a member of the Richmond Town Council (“Town Council”) since he was elected to office in November 2016.
2. In his private capacity, the Respondent has at all relevant times been the owner and sole officer of RGN Sales, Inc. (“RGN”), which is engaged in wholesale plumbing and heating equipment sales.
3. Since 2006, the Respondent has produced and sold a bottled sauce known as “Rich’s Sweet Heat.” In addition to online sales through his website, the Respondent, through RGN, sells his sauce directly to local, independent markets, as well as to larger markets via distributors.
4. The Respondent/RGN sold Rich’s Sweet Heat to Richmond Farms Fresh Market, located at 5 Kingstown Road in Richmond, Rhode Island, under its initial ownership and operation by Menta Brokerage, Inc. from March 2019 to July 2020.

5. The Respondent/RGN sold Rich's Sweet Heat to Richmond Farms Fresh Market under its successor ownership and operation by Crugnale Brokerage, Inc. from July 2020 to March 2022.

6. In March 2022, the market was sold to Richmond Market LLC. Richmond Market LLC's managers, Peter and Jeanine Caswell, currently operate the market located at 5 Kingstown Road as "Richmond Market." Richmond Market is one of four local, independent markets to which the Respondent sells his sauce.

7. The Respondent/RGN sold cases of Rich's Sweet Heat to Richmond Market on the following dates: May 20, 2022 (\$153); August 22, 2022 (\$51); and October 7, 2022 (\$51). The Respondent/RGN charged Richmond Market \$51 for each 12-bottle case of product purchased.

8. On July 12, 2022, the Respondent participated in the Richmond Town Council's unanimous (5-0) vote to approve Richmond Market's application for a victualing license.

## **II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. As an elected member of the Richmond Town Council, the Respondent was at all times subject to the Rhode Island Code of Ethics in Government pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-4(1).

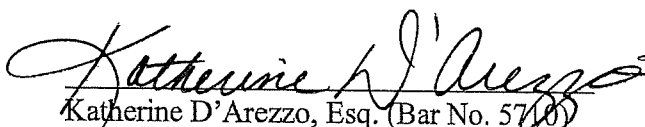
2. At all relevant times, the Respondent and Richmond Market were business associates pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-2(3).

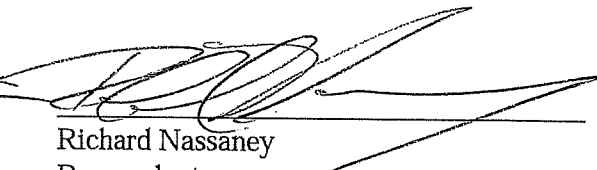
3. By voting to approve the victualing license application of his business associate, Richmond Market, the Respondent violated R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-5(a).

**III. SETTLEMENT**

Pursuant to the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the parties hereby agree, subject to the approval of the Commission, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-13(d) and 520-RICR-00-00-3.16 Informal Disposition (1011), to the following:

1. The Commission shall enter an Order and Judgment adopting the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and terms of the Settlement herein.
2. The Prosecution will recommend, and the Respondent will pay, a civil penalty in the amount of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300).
3. The above terms represent the full and complete Informal Resolution and Settlement for Complaint No. 2022-6.

  
Katherine D'Arezzo, Esq. (Bar No. 5710)  
Commission Prosecutor

  
Richard Nassaney  
Respondent

Dated: 11/1/2022

Dated: 10-19-22