

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

**In re: Jason K. Messier,  
Respondent**

**Complaint No. 2023-2**

**ORDER**

This matter having been heard before the Rhode Island Ethics Commission on May 16, 2023, pursuant to 520-RICR-00-00-3.16 Informal Disposition (1011), and the Commission having considered the Complaint herein, the arguments of the parties, and the proposed Informal 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 as submitted;

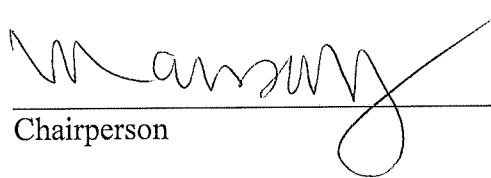
THAT, the Commission incorporates by reference herein the Findings of Fact and Admissions, and the Conclusions of Law, set forth in the Informal Resolution and Settlement;

THAT, the Respondent violated Rhode Island Gen. Laws § 36-14-16(a)(4) by failing to timely disclose on his 2017-2021 Financial Disclosure Statements the annual stipend he received as a member of the West Warwick Town Council;

THAT, the Respondent violated Rhode Island Gen. Laws § 36-14-16(a)(4) by failing to timely disclose on his 2019-2021 Financial Disclosure Statements his executive positions with Crazy Christmas Wagon and the West Warwick Senior Citizens Center;

THAT, the Respondent is ordered to pay a civil penalty in the amount of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00).

ENTERED as an Order of this Commission,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
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In re: Jason K. Messier,  
Respondent

Complaint No. 2023-2

**INFORMAL RESOLUTION AND SETTLEMENT**

The Respondent, Jason K. Messier, and the Ethics Commission Prosecutor, representing the People of the State of Rhode Island, hereby agree to a resolution of the above-referenced matter as follows, subject to the approval of the Rhode Island Ethics Commission (“Ethics Commission”):

**I. FINDINGS OF FACT & ADMISSIONS**

1. The Respondent is a member of the West Warwick Town Council (“Town Council”), a municipal elected position, and has served continuously in that position since he was first elected in November 2016.

2. As a member of the Town Council, the Respondent receives an annual stipend for his service. From 2017-2021, the Respondent received stipends in the following amounts: \$5,200 in 2017; \$4,700 in both 2018 and 2019; \$5,200 in 2020; and \$4,900 in 2021.

3. The Respondent did not disclose his annual stipend in response to the Family Income Sources question on his 2017-2021 Financial Disclosure Statements (“2017-2021 Statements”), as was required.

4. In January 2019, the Respondent incorporated Crazy Christmas Wagon, a non-profit corporation whose stated purpose is that of helping families and individuals in need, specifically, but not exclusively limited to, during the holiday season. The Respondent operates Crazy Christmas Wagon out of his own private vehicle, delivering donated food and gifts to the

recipients.<sup>1</sup>

5. At all relevant times, the Respondent served as President of Crazy Christmas Wagon.

6. The Respondent did not disclose his position as President of Crazy Christmas Wagon in response to the Family Executive Positions question on his 2019-2021 Statements as was required.

7. In April 2016, the Respondent formed Wicked Beautiful Rhode Island LLC (“Wicked Beautiful”), a limited liability company with the purpose of promoting small businesses through social media. In March 2020, the Respondent officially designated the company’s fictitious name as Jay Knows A Guy with the Secretary of State.

8. At all relevant times, the Respondent owned and controlled Wicked Beautiful as its sole member and manager.

9. The Respondent did not disclose any executive positions with either Wicked Beautiful or Jay Knows A Guy in response to the Family Executive Positions question on his 2017-2021 Statements.

10. In August 1977, the West Warwick Senior Citizens Center (“Senior Center”) was established as a non-profit corporation to serve the needs of elderly and some non-elderly persons and to provide these individuals with a range of activities and services.

11. The Annual Reports filed with the Secretary of State indicate that the Respondent has been a member of the Board of Directors (“Board”) for the Senior Center since 2019.

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<sup>1</sup> Crazy Christmas Wagon is not registered with the United States Internal Revenue Service as a charitable organization. The Respondent represents that he does not derive any income or financial benefit from the donations that he receives and that Crazy Christmas Wagon is the conduit by which he transfers donations he receives to the intended recipients.

12. The Respondent did not disclose his position as a Director on the Senior Center's Board in response to the Family Executive Positions question on his 2019-2021 Statements.

13. The West Warwick Senior's Building Fund ("Building Fund") is a non-profit corporation that was formed in May 1979 to purchase, and own, a building to be used as a Senior Citizen's Drop-in Center, together with any lawful purpose connected with such purpose and ownership. Its Annual Reports filed with the Secretary of State indicate that the Building Fund will open, own, and operate a senior center and any other related activity including housing, etc.

14. The Building Fund has a Board of Directors which has included the Respondent since 2019. The members of the Board of Directors are the same members as those comprising the Senior Center's Board.

15. The Building Fund has not conducted business or held any meetings since January 2008, but it has remained as an active corporation with the Secretary of State to date in case the Building Fund is needed to finance additional projects associated with the Senior Center.

16. The Respondent did not disclose his position as a Director on the Building Fund's Board in response to the Family Executive Positions question on his 2019-2021 Statements. He has represented that he was not aware that the Building Fund existed until after the instant Complaint was filed, given that its Board's last meeting predated his election to the Town Council.

17. The instant Complaint was filed with the Ethics Commission on April 3, 2023.

18. On April 18, 2023, after receiving notice of the Complaint, the Respondent presented to the Ethics Commission's office to discuss the allegations raised in the Complaint and to ensure full compliance on his 2017-2021 Statements. The Respondent met with the Prosecution to review his statements and identify all required disclosures, including any not alleged in the Complaint.

19. On April 24, 2023, and April 30, 2023, the Respondent made the following amendments: (1) disclosure of his annual stipend on his 2017-2021 Statements; (2) disclosure of his position as President of Crazy Christmas Wagon on his 2019-2021 Statements; (3) disclosure of his position as owner of Wicked Beautiful on his 2017-2021 Statements; (4) disclosure of his position on the Board of Directors of the Senior Center on his 2019-2021 Statements; and (5) disclosure of his position on the Board of Directors of the Building Fund on his 2019-2021 Statements.

20. Additionally, the Respondent made the following necessary amendments to his Financial Disclosure Statements that were not referenced in the Complaint: (1) disclosure of his business ownership interest in Wicked Beautiful on his 2017-2021 Statements; (2) disclosure of his ownership interest in real property located at 25/27 Robinson Way, West Warwick, Rhode Island on his 2019-2021 Statements;<sup>2</sup> and (3) disclosure of a car loan on his 2020 and 2021 Statements.

## **II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. As a member of the West Warwick Town Council, a municipal elected position, the Respondent was subject to the Financial Disclosure mandate of R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-16(a)(4).

2. By failing to disclose on his 2017-2021 Statements the annual stipend he received as a member of the Town Council, as required by R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-17(b)(2) and Commission Regulation 520-RICR-00-00-4.4 Occupational Income (36-14-17001), the Respondent violated § 36-14-16(a)(4).

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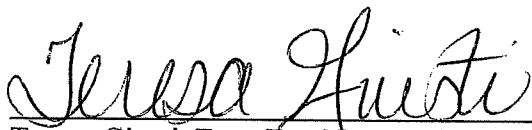
<sup>2</sup> The Respondent is the record owner of a three-unit dwelling, one of which serves as the Respondent's primary residence, and two of which serve as rental units. Because the property was not used exclusively as the Respondent's principal residence, it was required to be disclosed on his financial disclosure statements.

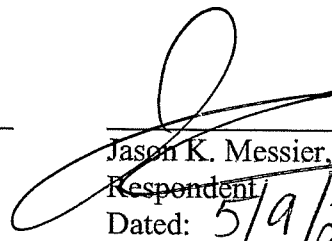
3. By failing to disclose on his 2019-2021 Statements his executive positions with Crazy Christmas Wagon and the Senior Center, as required by R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-17(b)(6) and Commission Regulations 520-RICR-00-00-4.11 Leadership Positions with Not-For-Profit Organizations (36-14-17008) and 520-RICR-00-00-4.5 Executive Positions (36-14-17002), the Respondent violated § 36-14-16(a)(4).

### III. SETTLEMENT

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

1. The Ethics Commission shall enter an Order and Judgment adopting the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and terms of the Settlement herein.
2. The Respondent agrees that the Ethics Commission will impose a civil penalty in the amount of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300) which the Respondent agrees to pay.
3. The above terms represent the full and complete Informal Resolution and Settlement relative to the conduct set forth herein and in Complaint No. 2023-2.

  
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Teresa Giusti, Esq. (Bar No. 8006)  
Ethics Commission Prosecutor  
Dated: 5/12/23

  
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Jason K. Messier,  
Respondent  
Dated: 5/9/23