

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
RHODE ISLAND ETHICS COMMISSION**

**In re: Michael Colasante
Respondent**

Complaint No. 2023-10

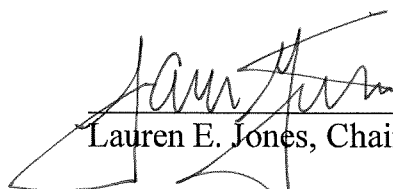
ORDER

This matter having been heard before the Rhode Island Ethics Commission on March 4, 2025, 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 AND ADJUDGED

1. The Commission approves the Informal Resolution and Settlement as submitted; and
2. The Respondent, a Richmond Town Council member, violated 520-RICR-00-00-1.4.2(B) Gifts (36-14-5009) by accepting services relative to the performance of an underground electrical installation and related excavation at his property in August 2023, which had a fair market value in excess of \$25, from Jeffrey Vaillancourt, who as the Town of Richmond Electrical Inspector had a direct financial interest in decisions that the Respondent was authorized to participate in the making of as part of his official duties; and
3. The Respondent, a Richmond Town Council member, violated 520-RICR-00-00-1.4.2(B) Gifts (36-14-5009) by accepting services relative to a 2023 request to RI Energy to provide electrical service to his property, which had a fair market value in excess of \$25, from Jeffrey Vaillancourt, who as the Town of Richmond Electrical Inspector had a direct financial interest in decisions that the Respondent was authorized to participate in the making of as part of his official duties; and
4. The Respondent is ordered to pay a civil penalty in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000).

ENTERED as an Order of this Commission,



Lauren E. Jones, Chair

Dated: 3/4/25

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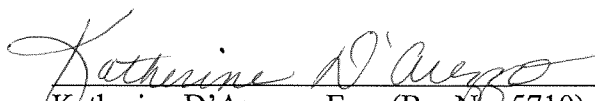
Complaint No. 2023-10

INFORMAL RESOLUTION AND SETTLEMENT

The Respondent, Michael Colasante, 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:

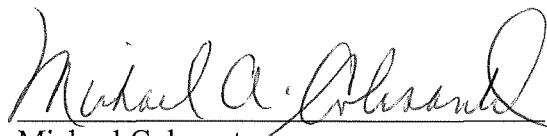
The Ethics Commission shall enter an Order and Judgment as follows:

1. The Respondent, a Richmond Town Council member, violated 520-RICR-00-00-1.4.2(B) Gifts (36-14-5009) by accepting services relative to the performance of an underground electrical installation and related excavation at his property in August 2023, which had a fair market value in excess of \$25, from Jeffrey Vaillancourt, who as the Town of Richmond Electrical Inspector had a direct financial interest in decisions that the Respondent was authorized to participate in the making of as part of his official duties;
2. The Respondent, a Richmond Town Council member, violated 520-RICR-00-00-1.4.2(B) Gifts (36-14-5009) by accepting services relative to a 2023 request to RI Energy to provide electrical service to his property, which had a fair market value in excess of \$25, from Jeffrey Vaillancourt, who as the Town of Richmond Electrical Inspector had a direct financial interest in decisions that the Respondent was authorized to participate in the making of as part of his official duties;
3. For the above violations, the Ethics Commission shall impose, and the Respondent agrees to pay, a civil penalty in the amount of \$5,000; and
4. The above terms represent the full and complete Informal Resolution and Settlement for Complaint No. 2023-10.


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

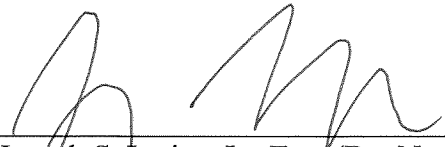
Date:

2/13/25


Michael Colasante
Respondent

Date:

2/13/2025



Joseph S. Larisa, Jr., Esq. (Bar No. 4113)
Attorney for Respondent

Date: 2/13/25