# FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION FEC NO. 18-104

## AFFIDAVIT OF JOSEPH F. MULLINS

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared JOSEPH F. MULLINS who, upon being duly sworn, deposes and says:

- 1. My name is Joseph F. Mullins.
- 2. I am over the age of 18 and have personal knowledge of this matter.
- I am the Respondent in FEC Complaint No. 18-104 and a 2018 candidate for Flagler County Commission, District 4.
- 4. In FEC Complaint No. 18-104, the Complainant, Kimble Medley, alleges that I reimbursed several contributors for contributions that were made to my campaign for Flagler County Commission. Those contributors, their relationship to me and the amount of the contributions are:

Jennifer Mullins (sister) - \$1,000

Julie Eden (sister) - \$1,000

Danny Eden (brother-in-law) - \$1000

Heather Buchanan (former employee) - \$500

5. My sisters and I are beneficiaries of a trust established by my mother. It distributes \$75,000 in March of each year. As part of the trust arrangement, I am

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responsible for making payments of roughly \$10,000 per year to each of them. I make the payments to my sisters, either from the Mullins Sports & Entertainment, LLC account ("Mullins Sports") or from one of the Real Estate LLC's that I manage, Mullins Properties.

- 6. I have been making those payments to my sisters for at least 4 years and continue to do so. Each of these individuals wanted to support my campaign and make a contribution. They asked that their contribution be taken from their payment. I explained that I could not do that under Florida's campaign finance laws.
- 7. I wrote checks to my sisters and Ms. Buchanan from Mullins Sports in February 2018. These checks represented a portion of the annual payment I would ordinarily make to them.
- I also paid my sisters additional funds in March of 2018 in the amount 9K.
   Those payments were made from the Mullins Sports account.
- 9. Heather Buchanan, one of the contributors to my campaign and the source of one of the four contributions in question, is a former employee of Mullins Sports. As an employee, she would receive hourly payments from my companies. She was brought on to work in the corporate office to help with administrative duties in February 4, 2018.
- 10. Heather Buchanan became a subject of funds missing in the corporate office.

  When she was confronted, she walked out of the office and never returned. She had

  made a contribution of \$500 to my campaign from funds she would have received from

hours worked on extra duties at the corporate office. This was a contribution she made by her request. A few days after making the contribution I learned that she was stating she didn't want to make the contribution.

- After Ms. Buchanan's complaints, I refunded her \$500 contribution on April 16, 2018, and reported the refund on my campaign finance report for April 2018 activity.
- 12. The four contributions in question were reported on my campaign finance report for February 2018 activity, and the report was filed with the Flagler County Supervisor of Elections.
- 13. To the best of my knowledge, all of the campaign finance reports I have filed for this election are true and accurate reports of my contributions and expenditures.

  Additionally, I have not falsely reported or deliberately failed to include any information on any of my campaign reports for this election.
- 14. I never intended to try to circumvent any Florida contribution limits by accepting contributions from these individuals, nor was it my intention that Mullins Sports would be somehow considered as the ultimate source for the contributions in question.
- 15. In my Flagler County Commission race, I received over \$100,000 in contributions through the August 28, 2018 election. The \$3,500 in total contributions

from my sisters, brother-in-law and Ms. Buchanan were not critical to my fundraising efforts.

#### FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT:

Signed this 13 day of September, 2018.

Joseph F. Mullins

### VERIFICATION

## STATE OF FLORIDA COUNTY OF FLAGLER

Sworn to and subscribed before me this <u>13</u> day of September 2018, by Joseph F. Mullins, who is personally known to me, and who executed same under oath.

Signature of Notary Public

DOTTYE L. BENTON
MY COMMISSION # GG 009917
EXPIRES: July 10, 2020
Bonded Thru Notary Public Underwriters

YE L. BENTON SSION # GG 009917 ES: July 10, 2020

My commission expires:

My commission number:

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