

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD**

**FINDINGS IN THE MATTER OF
A CONTRIBUTION MADE DURING THE REGULAR 2004 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
BY MARK GEIER**

PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

In response to an inquiry from the Board, Mark Geier notified the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board ("the Board") that he made a \$250 contribution to the (Patrick) Garofalo Volunteer Committee during the regular 2004 legislative session.

In a letter to the Board received October 6, 2004, Mark Geier stated, "I did make a contribution during the legislative session. It was inadvertent, and I will not do it in the future."

The contribution was received on April 17, 2004. The regular 2004 legislative session was held from February 2, 2004, to May 16, 2004.

This matter was considered by the Board in executive session on October 15, 2004.

Based on the record before it, the Board issues the following:

EVIDENTIARY FINDINGS

1. Mark Geier, a registered lobbyist, made a \$250 contribution to the (Patrick) Garofalo Volunteer Committee on April 17, 2004.
2. Minn. Stat. §10A.273, subd. 1, (b), prohibits a lobbyist from making a contribution to a principal candidate committee during a regular session of the legislature. The regular 2004 legislative Session was held from February 2, 2004, to May 16, 2004.
3. The (Patrick) Garofalo Volunteer Committee has not yet returned the contribution to Mark Geier.

Based on the above Statement of the Evidence, the Board makes the following:

FINDING CONCERNING PROBABLE CAUSE

There is probable cause to believe that Mark Geier violated Minn. Stat. §10A.273, subd. 1, (b), by making a contribution to a principal campaign committee during the regular session of the legislature in 2004.

Based on the above Finding Concerning Probable Cause, the Board issues the following:

ORDER

1. In lieu of forwarding the above public finding of probable cause to the county attorney in Ramsey County to pursue a judgment in district court, the Board imposes a civil penalty of \$250 on Mark Geier for making a contribution during the regular 2004 legislative session.
2. Mark Geier is directed to forward to the Board payment of the civil penalty, by check or money order payable to the STATE OF MINNESOTA, within thirty days after receipt of this order.
3. Mark Geier is directed to forward a copy of the check and accompanying letter received from the (Patrick) Garofalo Volunteer Committee returning the \$250 contribution. The copy of the check and the accompanying letter must be received within thirty days after the receipt of this order.
3. If Mark Geier does not comply with the provisions of this order, the Board's Executive Director shall refer this matter to the Ramsey County Attorney for civil enforcement pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 10A.273.
4. The Board investigation of this matter is entered into the public record in accordance with Minn. Stat. §10A.02, subd. 11, and upon receipt of a copy of the check and accompanying letter received by Mark Geier and payment by Mark Geier of the civil penalty imposed herein, the matter is concluded.

Dated: _____

Wil Fluegel, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure
Board