

SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF GEORGIA



IN THE MATTER OF:

Partners for Digital Equality, Inc.

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Case No.: ENCH-120035

Respondent.

CONSENT ORDER FOR REGISTRATION

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 43-17-11, the Georgia Secretary of State has conducted an investigation into the activities of Partners for Digital Equality, Inc. (hereinafter known as “Respondent”) to determine whether any of its activities violated the Georgia Charitable Solicitations Act of 1988, as amended, O.C.G.A. §43-17-1 *et seq.* (hereinafter the “Act”). The Secretary of State (hereinafter “Secretary”) and Respondent desire to reach a final settlement of the matters arising from the Secretary’s investigation, and, accordingly, have agreed to the terms set forth in this Consent Order. As a result of the investigation, the Secretary makes the following findings of fact and conclusions of law:

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1.

At all times relevant to the matters asserted herein, Respondent was not registered with the Georgia Secretary of State, Securities and Charities Division, as a charitable organization.

2.

Respondent is a charitable organization as defined in O.C.G.A. § 43-17-2(2), and is subject to the provisions therein and to the Rules and Regulations promulgated thereunder.

3.

Respondent operates as a charitable foundation soliciting and/or obtaining charitable contributions from corporations in Georgia, to facilitate the availability of broadband technology and information to underserved communities.

4.

Respondent maintains its principal business address at 3525 Piedmont Road, Bldg.7, 3rd Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30327.

5.

On or about August 24, 2011, Respondent submitted an application for registration as a charitable organization.

6.

On or about September 1, 2011, the Secretary sent a deficiency notice to Respondent concerning its application. Respondent did not submit the requested information within sixty days and a notice dated November 28, 2011, was sent to Respondent informing it that such charitable organization was not registered to solicit contributions in Georgia and that any solicitation would be considered a willful violation of the Act.

7.

Subsequent to receipt of the aforementioned notice, Respondent continued to operate as a charitable organization despite being unregistered.

8.

On or about January 5, 2012, Respondent submitted another application for registration as a charitable organization with the Georgia Secretary of State, Securities and Charities

Division. All necessary documents were included this time.

9.

Respondent admits to the above-styled findings of fact and waives any further of findings of fact not already contained in this Order.

II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

10.

Respondent is a charitable organization as defined by O.C.G.A. § 43-17-2(2).

11.

Respondent's total gross revenue exceeded \$25,000.00 for the year 2010; it is not exempt from registration pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 43-17-9.

12.

Respondent violated O.C.G.A. §§ 43-17-5(a) and 43-17-12(a) by soliciting charitable contributions, from corporations in Georgia, while it was unregistered and nonexempt from registration.

III. ORDER

Now therefore, Respondent admits to the findings of facts and conclusions of law contained herein and agree to the entry of this Consent Order based on the following terms and conditions;

13.

Respondent does hereby agree to waive all rights to a hearing concerning this matter pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 43-17-16;

14.

Respondent agrees not to further violate the provisions of the Georgia Charitable Solicitations Act of 1988, as amended.

15.

Respondent agrees not to solicit contributions until it has an effective charitable organization registration statement with the Secretary.

16.

Respondent hereby agrees to pay the amount of \$250.00 as a civil penalty to the Secretary within thirty days of the effective date of this Consent Agreement. Said payment shall be by money order or cashier's check on a bank licensed to do business in the State of Georgia. Said payment shall be made payable to the Georgia Secretary of State and mailed to the attention of Sonya Williams, Esq. at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217.

CONSENT AND WAIVER OF HEARING

Respondent hereby agrees to the entry of the foregoing Consent Order.

Respondent does hereby waive all rights to a hearing regarding this matter pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 43-17-16 and the Rules and Regulations promulgated thereunder.



Julius Hollis, CEO
Partners for Digital Equality, Inc.

2-27-12
Date

SO ORDERED this ____ day of _____, 2012.

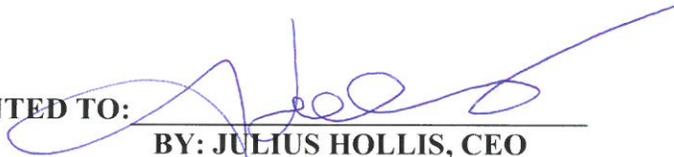
**BRIAN KEMP
SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF GEORGIA**

BY:



**TANYA BATTLE
Director of Registration
Securities and Charities Division**

CONSENTED TO:



BY: JULIUS HOLLIS, CEO

ON BEHALF OF:

**PARTNERS FOR DIGITAL EQUALITY, INC.
Respondent**

As to Julius Hollis:

Sworn to and subscribed before me
this 27 day of February, 2012.



NOTARY PUBLIC
My commission expires: 10/9/14

