

BEFORE THE WEST VIRGINIA ETHICS COMMISSION

IN RE:

VCRB 2024-116

**Richard Martin,
Former Mayor of Reedy, WV**

Conciliation Agreement

The West Virginia Ethics Commission and Richard Martin freely and voluntarily enter into the following Conciliation Agreement pursuant to W. Va. Code § 6B-2-4(t) to resolve all the potential charges arising from allegations of violations of the West Virginia Governmental Ethics Act based upon the facts set forth below.

Findings of Fact

1. Richard Martin ("Respondent" or "Martin"), at all times pertinent herein, was the Mayor of the City of Reedy, West Virginia.
2. At all times pertinent herein, Richard Martin was either a "public employee" or "public official" as defined in the Ethics Act, at W. Va. Code § 6B-1-3(j) and (k).
3. The Ethics Commission has jurisdiction over alleged violations of the West Virginia Governmental Ethics Act committed by public employees and officials, such as Richard Martin. W. Va. Code §§ 6B-1-1 through 6B-3-11.
4. On or about July 25, 2024, Martin used public funds from the Reedy Maintenance Account to pay his personal electric bill. This is evidenced by a check

register entry on the City's Poca Valley Bank account showing an electronic payment in the amount of \$218.97 for Martin's electric bill.

5. After being confronted by members of city council demanding repayment, Martin then paid the City back on August 30, 2024, by tendering a check in the amount of \$230.

6. Martin admits that he paid his personal electric bill with funds from the City of Reedy Maintenance Account. However, Martin maintains that his actions were justified because the City of Reedy was delinquent in paying him his mayor salary.

7. Martin's father, Carrol Martin, worked for the City of Reedy at all times pertinent herein. In May and June 2024, Martin's father retired from his city position, and city council awarded him unearned vacation and sick time.

8. Shortly after his father's retirement, Martin rehired his father without approval of the city council. Martin maintains that he rehired his father due to having his own medical issues and thus needing help with city work. Martin did not notify the public of the vacant position. Martin believed his father's employment was in the best interest of the City.

9. In 2023 and 2024, Martin, along with his father, ran the City of Reedy bingo and raffle sessions. Martin was personally responsible for maintaining account records.

10. In July of 2024, the city council finance committee performed an audit of the bingo/raffle account. Reviewing what bingo records were available, thousands of dollars appeared missing from the account. Furthermore, a security video recorded Martin opening the cash box containing proceeds from the bingo/raffle sessions and

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appearing to put cash in his wallet. Martin denies the validity of the city council finance committee audit. In support of Martin's position, he asserts that the State of West Virginia renewed his bingo license after reviewing the issues raised.

Relevant Legal Provisions

W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b)(1) states that a public official or public employee may not knowingly and intentionally use his or her office for his or her own private gain or that of another person. The related legislative rule, W. Va. Code R. § 158-6-5.2 (2022), states, "Improper Use - Public officials and public employees may not use government property for personal projects or activities that result in private gain."

Furthermore, the anti-nepotism provisions in the Ethics Act and related Legislative Rule prohibit public officials and employees from giving an unfair advantage to relatives and persons with whom they reside. W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b)(4) and W. Va. Code R. § 158-6-3 (2022). W. Va. Code R. § 158-6-3.3.6.3 further prohibits a public official or public from hiring or directly supervising a relative.

Conciliation of Violations

I, Richard Martin, admit that I violated W. Va. Code §§ 6B-2-5(b)(1) and (4) of the West Virginia Governmental Ethics Act and legislative rules by using funds from the Reedy maintenance account to pay my personal electric bill, rehiring my father to a City position without City Council approval, and removing money belonging to the City of Reedy from the bingo/raffle box.

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I assert that for the reasons described in paragraph 6, 8 and 10 above, it was never my intention to violate the Ethics Act. In order to resolve this matter, I am entering into this Conciliation Agreement. I understand that for this Agreement to be finalized, the Ethics Commission must approve it.

In consideration of the settlement of this matter, I agree to the Commission's imposition of the following sanctions:

1. A public reprimand;
2. A fine in the amount of \$1,000 to be paid to the West Virginia Ethics Commission, and
3. To undergo training on the West Virginia Governmental Ethics Act, either in person, virtually, or by viewing the training provided on the Ethics Commission's website, at [West Virginia Ethics Commission](#), within 30 days of the entrance of the Order approving the Conciliation Agreement. I shall provide written confirmation of the completion of this training to the Ethics Commission within five business days of completing it.

I understand and agree that if the Ethics Commission fails to approve this Conciliation Agreement, then this Conciliation Agreement is null and void and the Complaint against me will proceed before the Hearing Examiner, where it will be processed in accordance with the West Virginia Code and the Ethics Commission's Legislative Rules.

If the Ethics Commission approves the Agreement, it will enter an Order in which it approves the Agreement and sets forth the sanctions listed above.


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Both parties understand that, pursuant to W. Va. Code § 6B-2-4(t), this Conciliation Agreement and Commission Order must be made available to the public.

10/6/25
Date

Robert J. Wolfe
Robert J. Wolfe, Chairperson
West Virginia Ethics Commission

10-2-2025
Date

Richard Martin
Richard Martin, Respondent

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COMMISSION'S ORDER

After considering the Findings of Fact, Relevant Legal Provisions, and Conciliation of Violations in the Conciliation Agreement, the West Virginia Ethics Commission finds that the Conciliation Agreement is in the best interests of the State and Richard Martin, as required by W. Va. Code § 6B-2-4(t). In accordance with W. Va. Code § 6B-2-4(s), the Commission imposes the following sanctions:

1. Respondent shall pay a fine in the amount of \$1,000 to the West Virginia Ethics Commission in monthly increments of \$100 with the first installment due on December 6, 2025, and on the sixth day of every month thereafter for the next nine months to satisfy the \$1,000 fine.
2. Respondent shall undergo training on the West Virginia Governmental Ethics Act by attending either an in-person or virtual training presented by the Ethics Commission staff or by viewing the training provided on the Ethics Commission's website at ethics.wv.gov.
3. Respondent is issued a Public Reprimand.

11/6/25
Date


Robert J. Wolfe, Chairperson
West Virginia Ethics Commission