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BEFORE THE MARYLAND BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY

**MARYLAND BOARD OF PUBLIC
ACCOUNTANCY**

*** COMPLAINT No.: CPAS 2023-0063**

V.

CHARLES F. DRASHER III, CPA
Respondent

01-44608

* * * * *

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND CONSENT ORDER

This matter comes before the Maryland Board of Public Accountancy (the "Board") as a result of a complaint opened by the Board against Charles F. Drasher III, CPA (the "Respondent") in case number CPAS 2023-0063 for violations of the Maryland Public Accountancy Act (the "Act", Md. Code Ann., Business Occupations and Professions Article ("Bus. Occ. & Prof."), §2-101 *et seq.*). To resolve this matter without a formal hearing, the Board and the Respondent (collectively "Parties") have agreed to enter into this Settlement Agreement and Consent Order ("Consent Order") to provide for the imposition of disciplinary measures that are fair and equitable in these circumstances and that are consistent with the best interests of Maryland's citizens.

THE PARTIES AGREE AND STIPULATE THAT:

1. The Respondent is licensed in Maryland as a Certified Public Accountant (registration number 01-44608). At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was the individual licensee responsible for his firm, Baltimore Fiscal Partners, LLC (registration number 07-44648), and the Board had jurisdiction over the Respondent, his firm, and the relevant subject matter.
2. In or around the years 2022 and 2023, the Respondent, through his firm, provided certain public accounting services in the State that were the subject of a peer review as defined in Bus. Occ. & Prof., §2-4A-01(d).
3. In or around June of 2023, the Board acquired information showing that the Respondent received a failing report in relation to his most recent peer review.
4. On or about June 2, 2023, the Board opened a complaint against the Respondent based on his recent failed peer review and began an investigation to determine whether any disciplinary or corrective measures were necessary pursuant to Bus. Occ. and Prof., §2-4A-06.
5. As part of its investigation, on or about June 2, 2023, the Board sent a written notification of the complaint to the Respondent requesting him to provide a written response to the complaint within 30 days.
6. The Respondent failed to provide any response to the Board.

7. Based on the above-described circumstances, the Respondent admits that he has violated, and is subject to, the following provisions of the Act and its corresponding regulations, which provide, in pertinent part:

Bus. Occ. & Prof. §2-315. Denials, reprimands, suspensions, and revocations – Grounds; license certificate.

(a)(1) Subject to the hearing provisions of § 2-317 of this subtitle, the Board, on the affirmative vote of a majority of its members, may deny a license to any applicant, reprimand any licensee, or suspend or revoke a license if the applicant or licensee:

(xii) violates a rule of professional conduct adopted by the Board.

COMAR 09.24.01.06 Code of Professional Conduct

I. Other Responsibilities and Practices . . .

(5) Failure to Respond.

(a) If an applicant or licensee receives from the Board a written communication requesting a response, the applicant or licensee shall respond in writing within 30 days of the date of the mailing.

(b) The Board shall send a written communication by first-class mail to the last address furnished to the Board by the applicant or licensee. . .

(d) Failure to respond as required by the regulation may be considered by the Board to be a violation of Business Occupations and Professions Article, §2-315(a)(1)(xii), Annotated Code of Maryland.

Accordingly, the Respondent agrees to the entry of this Consent Order by the Board finding him in violation and imposing sanctions.

8. Pursuant to Bus. Occ. & Prof. § 2-315(a)(2), the Board has the authority to impose a civil penalty of up to \$5,000 for each violation of the Act. However, in light of the Respondent's agreement to the terms of this Consent Order, based on all required and relevant considerations, the Board will assess, and the Respondent agrees to pay, a total civil penalty in the amount of \$250.00 which shall be due at the time of execution of this Consent Order. If the Respondent fails to pay the full \$250.00 penalty amount when due, the Respondent's license, registration number 01-44608, shall be immediately and automatically suspended until such time as the required payment is made in full.

9. By entering into this Consent Order, the Respondent, in relation to these matters, expressly waives the right to any further written notification of administrative charges, to an administrative hearing before the Board or its designee on any charges, to the making of Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, to any and all other proceedings before the Board or its designee on these matters, and to any rights to appeal from this Consent Order to any court of competent jurisdiction.

10. The Parties agree that a future waiver of any of the rights or duties provided herein must be in writing. Any such waiver constitutes a one-time waiver on a case-by-case basis and not a waiver of this entire Consent Order or the subject provision(s) unless otherwise explicitly stated in writing.

11. The Parties intend that this Consent Order represents the final expression of the Parties' intent and agreement between the Parties relating to the subject matter of this Consent Order. The Parties further intend that this Consent Order contains all the terms the Parties agreed to on the subject matter of this Consent Order and intend for this Consent Order to replace all of the Parties' previous discussions, understandings, and agreements relating to the subject matter.

12. The Parties agree that this Consent Order shall be construed in accordance with laws of Maryland.

13. The Parties agree that this Consent Order shall constitute a Final Order of the Board, shall be enforceable as such, and the Board's records and publications will reflect the Consent Order's terms.

14. The Respondent agrees that he is knowingly, freely, voluntarily, and intelligently entering this Consent Order after having had the opportunity to consult with a licensed attorney of his choosing and at his expense.

BASED ON THE AGREEMENTS AND STIPULATIONS SET FORTH HEREIN, IT IS, THIS 6 DAY OF March, 2025, BY THE MARYLAND BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY:

ORDERED that the Respondent, Charles F. Drasher III, licensed Maryland Certified Public Accountant, registration number 01-44608, has violated Bus. Occ. & Prof. §2-315(a)(1)(xii) and COMAR 09.24.01.06(I)(5); and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent shall pay a civil penalty to the Board in the amount of \$250.00 in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 8 of this Consent Order; and it is further

ORDERED that, unless otherwise specified in this Consent Order, each provision herein shall remain in effect and enforceable as herein agreed unless the Board in writing stays, modifies, terminates, or suspends it; and it is further

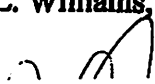
ORDERED that this document shall constitute a Final Order of the Board, and the Board may consider this Consent Order and the facts set forth herein in connection with, and in deciding, any subsequent action or proceeding before the Board, and that this Consent Order may, if relevant, be admitted into evidence in any matter before the Board, its designee, and/or any court for purposes of enforcing this Settlement Agreement and Consent Order or other action by the Board; and it is further

ORDERED that the Board's records and publications shall reflect the discipline against the Respondent in this matter.

MARYLAND BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY


**SIGNATURE ON ORIGINAL
DOCUMENT**

Jan L. Williams, Ph.D., CPA, Chair



**SIGNATURE ON ORIGINAL
DOCUMENT**

Charles F. Drasher III, CPA, Respondent



AGREED:

March 25/025
Date