

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Former State Senator Ernest Newton Enters into a Consent Order for Ethics Violations**

**March 2, 2011**

Former State Senator Ernest E. Newton II of Bridgeport, CT entered into a consent agreement with the Office of State Ethics (OSE) for accepting money in exchange for an official action and failing to report the money on a required disclosure form.

According to the consent order finalized yesterday with the OSE, in June 2004, Newton and Warren Godbolt, the Executive Director of a non-profit organization, Progressive Training Associates, made an agreement that if Godbolt paid \$5,000 to Newton, Newton would secure \$100,000 in Bond Commission funding for Progressive Training Associates. (Godbolt was the respondent in a [February 2010 settlement](#) with the OSE.)

In support of this agreement, Newton, in his official capacity as a state senator, took official action, including discussing the status of bonding monies with legislative staff and agreeing to work on a “write-up” in support of the \$100,000 funding. In June or July of 2004, Godbolt paid \$5,000 to Newton. In August of that year, the Bond Commission approved \$100,000 in funding to Progressive Training Associates, although the organization did not ultimately receive the money.

Connecticut law prohibits public officials from receiving something of value based on any understanding that a vote, official action or judgment would be influenced thereby. The law also requires General Assembly members to disclose sources of income over \$1,000 on annual Statements of Financial Interests (SFIs).

As part of the consent agreement, Newton is prohibited from holding state employment or seeking and holding a contract for services with the state for six months from the date of the consent order. Should he become a public official or state employee in the future, he must file an annual SFI.

No monetary penalty was assessed due to the unique circumstances of substantial penalties already incurred by Newton for the same conduct. Newton resigned from the General Assembly in 2005, served three years in prison and six months in a halfway house (released in 2010), and paid \$13,862 in restitution to the State Elections Enforcement Commission. In addition, Newton recently stipulated to a \$20,000 judgment with the Attorney General, which has yet to be paid.

“The closure of this case is a reminder that ensuring the integrity of state government is of significant importance,” said OSE Executive Director, Carol Carson. “The public interest must come first, and the OSE is committed to fairly and vigorously enforcing the Code of Ethics.”

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