

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF TAOS
EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

FILED
8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
TAOS COUNTY NM
FILED IN MY OFFICE
7/16/2024 9:50 AM
LAUREN M. FELTS-SALAZAR
DISTRICT COURT CLERK

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION,

Plaintiff,

v.

JAY CHRISTOPHER STAGG,

Defendant.

GB

No. D-820-CV-2023-00368

**ORDER APPROVING SETTLEMENT AND RELEASE AND OF STIPULATED
DISMISSAL WITH PREJUDICE**

THIS MATTER having come before the Court upon the Parties' *Joint Motion to Enter Order Approving Settlement and Release and of Stipulated Dismissal with Prejudice* ("Joint Motion"), filed jointly by Plaintiff, the State Ethics Commission, and Defendant Jay Christopher Stagg, on July 15, 2024, the Court having reviewed the Joint Motion and being advised in the premises, FINDS:


1. The Joint Motion is well taken and should be granted.
2. The July 9, 2024 Settlement and Release, attached as Exhibit A to the Joint Motion, is fair, adequate and reasonable. Further, the Settlement and Release "does not *put the [C]ourt's sanction on and power behind* a decree that violates [the] Constitution, statute or jurisprudence." *Allred v. N.M. Dep't of Transp.*, 2017-NMCA-019, ¶ 31 (quoting *United States v. City of Miami*, 664 F.2d 435 (5th Cir. 1981)).

The Court therefore ORDERS, ADJUDGES, AND DECREES as follows:

1. The Court approves the July 9, 2024 Settlement and Release.

2. All claims against Defendant Stagg in this action are hereby dismissed with prejudice with no finding or admission of liability or fault; *provided that* the Court expressly reserves continuing jurisdiction for any motion that a Party files to enforce the terms of the July 9, 2024 Settlement and Release, including for any motion contemplated by Paragraph 11 of the July 9, 2024 Settlement and Release filed by Plaintiff State Ethics Commission or Defendant Christopher J. Stagg to enforce the terms of Paragraphs 2 and 11 of the July 9, 2024 Settlement and Release. *See Allred*, 2017-NMCA-019, ¶ 27 (citing *Kokkonen v. Guardian Life Ins. Co. of Am.*, 511 U.S. 375, 381–82 (1994)) (noting that a court may include “an express reservation or repudiation of ongoing judicial enforcement authority within an order of dismissal”).
3. Each Party is to pay their own costs and attorneys’ fees.

IT IS SO ORDERED


HON. EMILIO J. CHAVEZ
District Court Judge

/s/ Jeremy Farris
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APPROVED:

By: /s/ Kurt B. Gilbert (electronically approved as to form of proposed order on July 12, 2024)

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