

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF ETHICS AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY



In Re: A. Akeredolu-Ale
Case No.: 24-0086-P

NEGOTIATED DISPOSITION

Pursuant to section 221(a)(4)(A)(v)¹ of the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Establishment and Comprehensive Ethics Reform Amendment Act of 2011 (“Ethics Act”), effective April 27, 2012 (D.C. Law 19 -12 4, D.C. Official Code § 1 -116 1.01 *et seq.*), the Office of Government Ethics (“the Office” or “OGE”) hereby enters this Negotiated Disposition with the Respondent, A. Akeredolu-Ale. Respondent agrees that the resulting disposition is a settlement of the above-titled action, detailed as follows:

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

Respondent is a Program Monitor with the DC Department of Disability Services (“DDS”). Respondent is one of a group of Program Monitors at DDS who are assigned to respective vendors. There are approximately 21 vendors that perform under contracts with DDS’ Rehabilitation Services Administration. DDS Program Monitors assist their assigned vendors. Respondent’s role includes participating in DDS’s grant writing processes, helping develop sales and marketing strategies for vendors, conducting vendor site visits, vending machine installation and removal and ensuring that vendors comply with federal regulations. Should one of his assigned vendors need equipment, Respondent is responsible for forwarding the vendor’s equipment request to DDS’ finance department.

On March 30, 2023, Respondent received an equipment request email from his sister, who works for one of DDS’ vendors. Respondent was not assigned to the vendor with whom his sister was employed. Around that same time, Respondent’s superiors became aware that Respondent’s sister worked for a vendor. In an interview with OGE staff, Respondent admitted to helping his sister and her employer get equipment for their worksite. He further acknowledged that he visited his sister’s worksite on more than one occasion and that at no time during the relevant period was he assigned to do work at that site. On the aforementioned email chain, Respondent’s superior advised him to let someone else work with that vendor since she knew he had a “special connection”.²

A witness in this matter, stated on the record that the vendor should not have received the equipment listed in the request from Respondent’s sister because the vendor’s work site was not properly permitted to operate such equipment. The witness further stated that Respondent was not properly educated on the permitting and regulatory requirements for that site. Based on the

¹ Section 221(a)(4)(A) of the Ethics Act provides, in pertinent part, that “[i]n addition to any civil penalty imposed under this title a violation of the Code of Conduct may result in the following. . . Any negotiated disposition of a matter offered by the Director of Government Ethics, and accepted by the respondent, subject to approval by the Ethics Board.”

² Email dated March 30, 2023, titled “Re: Fw: Equipment and Financial Assistance”.

witness's review of records, equipment meeting the same description as the requested equipment was ultimately delivered to the vendor (the employer of Respondent's sister).

II. NATURE OF VIOLATIONS

Respondent's conduct is in violation of Chapter 18 of the District Personnel Manual ("DPM"), as set forth below:

- ❖ Failing to act impartially and giving preferential treatment to a private organization or individual in violation of DPM § 1800.3(h).
 - Respondent violated this rule when he responded to his sister's equipment request and ensured that her employer received the requested equipment, despite not being assigned to service her employer and not having a full understanding of the permitting requirements for her worksite.

None of the above-referenced actions were authorized by the District of Columbia.

Respondent admits that his actions described herein, violated the District's Code of Conduct, and enters into this Negotiated Disposition to facilitate a resolution of these violations. Respondent waives his right to proceed to an adversarial hearing in this matter and voluntarily, knowingly, and understandingly consents to the Board's imposition of a fine against him in this matter. Moreover, by agreeing to settle this matter via a Negotiated Disposition, Respondent will allow OGE to avoid expending significant time and resources to litigate this matter through a contested hearing, and to focus its finite resources on other investigations.

III. TERMS OF THE NEGOTIATED DISPOSITION

Respondent admits that his conduct violated the District's Code of Conduct. Respondent agrees to pay a total fine in the amount of **\$1,000** to resolve this matter, in accordance with the following terms and conditions:

1. Respondent agrees to pay a lump sum amount of \$1,000 on or before October 12, 2024;
2. Payment will be accepted by certified check or money order, made out to the D.C. Treasurer, delivered to and received by OGE at 1030 15th Street NW, Suite 700 West, Washington, DC 20005 or by electronic payment at <https://dcwebforms.dc.gov/pay/bega1/> using transaction ID 24-0086-P;
3. In the event that Respondent's employment with the District government ceases prior to complete satisfaction of the fine amount, Respondent agrees that any outstanding fine amount will be satisfied by deduction in full from Respondent's final District government paycheck and/or any payment to the Respondent from the District government for unused annual leave;
4. Respondent agrees to attend ethics training no later than October 30, 2024.

Respondent promises not to engage in such conduct in the future. In consideration of Respondent's acknowledgement and agreement, OGE will seek no further remedy and will take no further action related to the above misconduct.

Respondent understands that if he fails to pay the full **\$1,000.00 fine** in accordance with the terms

set forth here, pursuant to section 221(a)(5)(A) of the Ethics Act (D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.21(a)(5)(A)), the Ethics Board may file a petition in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for enforcement of this Negotiated Disposition and the accompanying Board Order assessing the fine. Respondent agrees that failure to pay the fine amount will result in collection action. Respondent further understands that if he fails to adhere to this agreement, OGE may instead, at its sole option, recommend that the Ethics Board nullify this settlement and hold an open and adversarial hearing on this matter, after which the Ethics Board may impose sanctions up to the full statutory amount (\$5,000.00 per violation) as provided in the Ethics Act for each violation.³ Because the Office is, at this time, foregoing requesting that the Ethics Board hold an open and adversarial hearing on this matter, Respondent waives any statute of limitation defenses should the Ethics Board decide to proceed in that matter as a result of Respondent's breach of this agreement.

The mutual promises outlined within constitute the entire agreement in this case. Failure to adhere to any provision of this agreement is a breach rendering the entire agreement void. By our signatures, we agree to the terms outlined therein.



A  AKEREDOLU-ALE
Respondent

9-11-24
Date



ASHLEY COOKS
Director of Government Ethics

9-12-24
Date

This agreement shall not be deemed effective unless and until it is approved by the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability, as demonstrated by the signature of the Chairperson below.

APPROVED:



NORMA HUTCHESON
Chairperson, Board of Ethics and Government

9-12-24
Date

#24-0086-P
AC/ASM

³ Section 221(a)(1) (D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.21(a)(1)).

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BOARD OF ETHICS AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY



IN RE: A. Akeredolu-Ale
Respondent

CASE No.: 24-0086-P

ORDER

Based upon the mutual representations and promises contained in the Negotiated Disposition approved by the Board on September 12, 2024, and upon the entire record in this case; it is, therefore:

ORDERED that Respondent pay a civil penalty in the amount of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00);

This Order is effective upon approval by the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability, as demonstrated by the signature of the Chairperson below.

NORMA HUTCHESON
Chairperson, Board of Ethics and Government Accountability

9-12-24
Date