IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

FILED LAKE COUNTY, OHIO

STATE OF OHIO	)	CASE NO. 09-CR-000374
Plaintiff	)	
vs.	)	JUDGMENT ENTRY
DEBORAH P. RAMIREZ	)	
Defendant	)	JUDGE JOSEPH GIBSON

2010 MAR 25 P 1:40

MAUREEN G. KELLY
LAKE CO. CLERK OF COURT

This day, to-wit: March 17, 2010, came the Lake County Prosecuting Attorney, Charles E. Coulson, by and through Karen L. Kowall, Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, on behalf of the State of Ohio, and the defendant, Deborah P. Ramirez, being in Court, and represented by counsel, Mark E. Porter, Esquire, the defendant having heretofore entered a plea of "Not Guilty" to the charges in the Indictment, and further having been tried by a jury, the jury now returns its verdict.

The jury finds the defendant "Guilty" of Count 1, Complicity to Elections Falsification, a felony of the Fifth degree, in violation of Sections 2923.03(A)(2) and 3599.36 of the Ohio Revised Code; Count 2, Complicity to Elections Falsification, a felony of the Fifth degree, in violation of Sections 2923.03(A)(2) and 3599.36 of the Ohio Revised Code and Count 3, Complicity to Elections Falsification, a felony of the Fifth degree, in violation of Sections 2923.03(A)(2) and 3599.36 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The Court then proceeded to the sentencing hearing pursuant to R.C. 2929.19. The Court has also considered the record, oral statements, any victim impact statement, pre-sentence report and/or drug and alcohol evaluation submitted by the Adult Probation Department of the Court of Common Pleas, as well as the principles and purposes of sentencing under R.C. 2929.11, and has balanced the seriousness and recidivism factors under R.C. 2929.12. After consideration of the factors in R.C. 2929.12, the Court finds that a community control sanction is consistent with the purposes and principles of sentencing set forth in R.C. 2929.11, and that the Defendant is amenable to an available community control sanction.

The Court finds that Defendant was afforded all rights pursuant to Crim.R. 32 and was given the opportunity to speak before judgment and sentence was pronounced against her.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT the Defendant be sentenced to three (3) years of community control, subject to the general supervision and control of the Adult Probation Department under any terms and conditions that they deem appropriate, including that the Defendant shall be prohibited from leaving the state without permission of the Court or the Adult Probation Department. The Defendant shall abide by all laws including, but not limited to, the laws related to firearms and dangerous ordnances.

The Court further imposes specific sanctions and conditions as follows:

1. The Defendant shall serve one hundred twenty (120) days in the Lake County Jail, Painesville, Ohio, with eighty-five (85) days credit for time served.

2. Upon release from the Lake County Jail, Defendant's community control may be transferred upon acceptance to the State of California.

3. The Defendant shall not be involved, directly or indirectly, in any election or circulating any petitions.

Violation of any of this sentence shall lead to a more restrictive sanction, a longer sanction, or a prison term of twelve (12) months on Count 1, twelve (12) months on Count 2 and twelve (12) months on Count 3, to run consecutive to each other for a total of thirty-six (36) months. Defendant is notified that if a prison term is imposed for violation of a community control sanction, the Defendant may be placed on post-release control after being released from prison. If post-release control is imposed, and the Defendant violates any of the post-release control conditions, the Adult Parole Authority or Parole Board could impose a more restrictive or longer control sanction, or return Defendant to prison for up to nine (9) months for each violation, up to a maximum of half of the stated prison term. If the violation is a new felony, Defendant may receive a prison term of the greater of one (1) year or the time

remaining on post-release control, in addition to any other prison term imposed for the new offense.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT Defendant report to the Lake County Adult Probation Department.

On March 18, 2010, came the Lake County Prosecuting Attorney, Charles E. Coulson, by and through Karen L. Kowall, Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, on behalf of the State of Ohio, and the defendant, Deborah P. Ramirez, being in Court, and represented by counsel, Mark E. Porter, Esquire, this matter came before the Court for the purpose of notifying the defendant regarding her right to appeal. The defendant was fully advised of her right to appeal and appellate process.

Defendant is ordered to pay all court costs and all costs of prosecution in an amount certified by the Lake County Clerk of Courts. Defendant is further ordered to pay any supervision fees as permitted pursuant to R.C. 2929.18(A)(5)(a).

Bond is hereby released.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

JUDGE JOSEPH GIBSON

PREPARED ON MARCH 18, 2010
AT THE DIRECTION OF THE TRIAL COURT:

CHARLES E. COULSON (0008667)
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Karen L. Kowall (0030031)
CHIEF ASSISTANT PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

KLK/sd

INDICTMENT - SIX COUNTS

FILED

STATE OF OHIO

COUNTY OF LAKE

2009 MAY 27 P 3:30

KATHLEEN O. KELLY
LAKE CO. CLERK OF COURT

CASE NO 09CR000368

"SECRET"

STATE OF OHIO vs. JOSEPH J. COPIJA

Of the April term in the year two thousand and nine :

THE JURORS OF THE LAKE COUNTY GRAND JURY of the State of Ohio on their oaths, in the name and by the authority of the State of Ohio, do find and present that:

COUNT 1

On or between the 14th day of June, 2008 and the 30th day of August, 2008, in Lake County, State of Ohio, one **JOSEPH J. COPIJA** did orally or in writing, on oath lawfully administered or in a statement made under penalty of election falsification, knowingly state a falsehood as to a material matter relating to an election in a proceeding before an election official or in a matter in relation to which an oath or statement under penalty of election falsification is authorized by law, including a statement required for verifying of filing any declaration of candidacy, nominating petition, or other petition presented to or filed with the secretary of state, a board of elections, or any other public office for the purpose of submitting a question or issue to the electors at an election.

This act, to-wit: **Election Falsification**, constitutes a Felony of the Fifth degree, contrary to and in violation of the Ohio Revised Code, Title 35 §3599.36 and against the peace and dignity of the State of Ohio.

COUNT 2

On or between the 1st day of July, 2008 and the 31st day of July, 2008, in Lake County, State of Ohio, one **JOSEPH J. COPIJA** did orally or in writing, on oath lawfully administered or in a statement made under penalty of election falsification, knowingly state a falsehood as to a material matter relating to an election in a proceeding before an election official or in a matter in relation to which an oath or statement under penalty of election falsification is authorized by law, including a statement required for verifying of filing any declaration of candidacy, nominating petition, or other petition presented to or filed with the secretary of state, a board of elections, or any other public office for the purpose of submitting a question or issue to the electors at an election.

This act, to-wit: **Election Falsification**, constitutes a Felony of the Fifth degree, contrary to and in violation of the Ohio Revised Code, Title 35 §3599.36 and against the peace and dignity of the State of Ohio.

COUNT 3

On or between the 1st day of August, 2008 and the 21st day of August, 2008, in Lake County, State of Ohio, one **JOSEPH J. COPIJA** did orally or in writing, on oath lawfully administered or in a statement made under penalty of election falsification, knowingly state a falsehood as to a material matter relating to an election in a proceeding before an election official or in a matter in relation to which an oath or statement under penalty of election falsification is authorized by law, including a statement required for verifying of filing any declaration of candidacy, nominating petition, or other petition presented to or filed with the secretary of state, a board of elections, or any other public office for the purpose of submitting a question or issue to the electors at an election.

This act, to-wit: **Election Falsification**, constitutes a Felony of the Fifth degree, contrary to and in violation of the Ohio Revised Code, Title 35 §3599.36 and against the peace and dignity of the State of Ohio.

COUNT 4

On or between the 14th day of June, 2008 and the 21st day of August, 2008, in the Multiple Locations, Lake County, State of Ohio, one **JOSEPH J. COPIJA** did knowingly aid or abet Lacy Cortez and/or Deborah Ramirez in committing Election Falsification, a violation of section 3599.36 of the Revised Code.

This act, to-wit: **Complicity to Election Falsification**, constitutes a Felony of the Fifth degree, contrary to and in violation of the Ohio Revised Code, Title 29 §2923.03(A)(2) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Ohio.

COUNT 5

On or between the 14th day of June, 2008 and the 21st day of August, 2008, in the Multiple Locations, Lake County, State of Ohio, one **JOSEPH J. COPIJA** did knowingly aid or abet Lacy Cortez and/or Deborah Ramirez in committing Election Falsification, a violation of section 3599.36 of the Revised Code.

This act, to-wit: **Complicity to Election Falsification**, constitutes a Felony of the Fifth degree, contrary to and in violation of the Ohio Revised Code, Title 29 §2923.03(A)(2) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Ohio.

COUNT 6

On or between the 14th day of June, 2008 and the 21st day of August, 2008, in Lake County, State of Ohio, one **JOSEPH J. COPIJA** did knowingly aid or abet Lacy Cortez and/or Deborah Ramirez in committing Prohibitions Relating to Petitions, a violation of section 3599.14(A)(7) of the Revised Code.

This act, to-wit: **Complicity to Prohibitions Relating to Petitions**, constitutes a Felony of the Fifth degree, contrary to and in violation of the Ohio Revised Code, Title 29 §2923.03(A)(2) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Ohio.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

A TRUE BILL
This Bill of Indictment found upon testimony sworn and sent before the Grand Jury at the request of the Prosecuting Attorney.

GRAND JURY-FOREPERSON/DEPUTY

I certify this to be a full, true and correct copy of the original indictment, with the endorsements thereon, now on file in my office.

DEPUTY
Maureen G. Kelly, CLERK OF COURTS

KLK/dmr May 14, 2009
(0030031)

INDICTMENT - THREE COUNTS

2009 JUN -1 A 11: 46

STATE OF OHIO }
ss. CLERK OF COURT
COUNTY OF LAKE }

CASE NO. 09B000374
"SECRET"

STATE OF OHIO vs. DEBORAH P. RAMIREZ

Of the April term in the year two thousand and nine :

THE JURORS OF THE LAKE COUNTY GRAND JURY of the State of Ohio on their oaths, in the name and by the authority of the State of Ohio, do find and present that:

COUNT 1

On or between the 14th day of June, 2008 and the 30th day of June, 2008, in Lake County, State of Ohio, one **DEBORAH P. RAMIREZ** did knowingly aid or abet Joseph J. Copija and/or Lacy R. Cortez in committing Elections Falisification, a violation of section 3599.36 of the Revised Code.

This act, to-wit: **Complicity to Elections Falisification**, constitutes a Felony of the Fifth degree, contrary to and in violation of the Ohio Revised Code, Title 29 §2923.03(A)(2) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Ohio.

COUNT 2

On or between the 1st day of July, 2008 and the 31st day of July, 2008, in Lake County, State of Ohio, one **DEBORAH P. RAMIREZ** did knowingly aid or abet Joseph J. Copija and/or Lacy R. Cortez in committing Elections Falsification, a violation of section 3599.36 of the Revised Code.

This act, to-wit: **Complicity to Elections Falsification**, constitutes a Felony of the Fifth degree, contrary to and in violation of the Ohio Revised Code, Title 29 §2923.03(A)(2) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Ohio.

COUNT 3

On or between the 1st day of August, 2008 and the 21st day of August, 2008, in Lake County, State of Ohio, one **DEBORAH P. RAMIREZ** did knowingly aid or abet Joseph J. Copija and/or Lacy R. Cortez in committing Elections Falsification, a violation of section 3599.36 of the Revised Code.

This act, to-wit: **Complicity to Elections Falsification**, constitutes a Felony of the Fifth degree, contrary to and in violation of the Ohio Revised Code, Title 29 §2923.03(A)(2) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Ohio.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

A TRUE BILL

This Bill of Indictment found upon testimony sworn and sent before the Grand Jury at the request of the Prosecuting Attorney.

GRAND JURY-FOREPERSON/DEPUTY

I certify this to be a full, true and correct copy of the original indictment, with the endorsements thereon, now on file in my office.

DEPUTY

Maureen G. Kelly, CLERK OF COURTS

KLK/dmr May 15, 2009
(003003L)

FILED IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
LAKE COUNTY, OHIO

2011 APR 18 P 2:38

MAUREEN G. KELLY
LAKE CO. CLERK OF COURT

STATE OF OHIO	)	CASE NO. 09-CR-000368
Plaintiff	)	
vs.	)	**JUDGMENT ENTRY OF SENTENCE**
JOSEPH J. COPIJA	)	
Defendant	)	JUDGE EUGENE A. LUCCI

This day, to-wit: April 15, 2011, this matter came on for Defendant's sentencing hearing pursuant to R.C. 2929.19 with the Lake County Prosecuting Attorney, Charles E. Coulson, by and through Karen L. Kowall, Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, on behalf of the State of Ohio, and the Defendant, Joseph J. Copija, represented by Matthew Bangerter, Esquire, being present in court.

The Defendant previously entered a plea of "Guilty" to Count 1, Election Falsification, a felony of the Fifth degree, in violation of Section 3599.36 of the Ohio Revised Code, subject to division (B) of R.C. 2929.13 and Count 4, Complicity to Election Falsification, a felony of the Fifth degree, in violation of Sections 2923.03(A)(2) and 3599.36 of the Ohio Revised Code , subject to division (B) of R.C. 2929.13.

The Court has considered the record, oral statements, any victim impact statement, pre-sentence report and/or drug and alcohol evaluation submitted by the Lake County Adult Probation Department of the Court of Common Pleas, as well as the principles and purposes of sentencing in R.C. 2929.11, and has balanced the seriousness and recidivism factors under R.C. 2929.12.

In considering the foregoing, and for the reasons stated on the record, this Court finds that a prison sentence is consistent with the purposes and principles of

sentencing set forth in R.C. 2929.11 and that Defendant is not amenable to an available community control sanction.

The Court finds that Defendant was afforded all rights pursuant to Crim.R. 32 and was given the opportunity to speak before judgment and sentence was pronounced against him.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

That the Defendant serve a stated prison term of six (6) months in prison on Count 1 and six (6) months in prison on Count 4, to run concurrent with each other for a total of six 6) months. Said prison term shall be served at the Lorain Correctional Institution, Grafton, Ohio with one hundred forty-six (146) days of credit for time already served. If the Defendant is returned to prison for a violation of post-release control by the Ohio Adult Parole Authority, the sentence of this Court shall be served consecutive to the parole violation, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 2929.141(A).

It is also the finding of this Court that the prison sentence hereby imposed by this Court was jointly recommended to this Court by both the Defendant and the Prosecution.

The Court disapproves of Defendant's placement in an Intensive Program Prison (IPP).

The Court has further notified the Defendant that post-release control is optional and that the Defendant may be placed on post-release control up to a maximum of 3 years, as well as the consequences for violating conditions of post-release control imposed by the Parole Board under Revised Code section 2967.28. The Defendant is ordered to serve as part of this sentence any term of post-release control imposed by the Parole Board, and any prison term for violation of that post-release control.

That the Clerk of Courts issue a warrant directed to Daniel A. Dunlap, Sheriff of Lake County, Ohio, to convey the said Defendant to the custody of the Lorain Correctional Institution, Grafton, Ohio forthwith.

Defendant is ordered to pay all court costs and all costs of prosecution in an amount certified by the Lake County Clerk of Courts. Costs of proceedings are assessed against the Defendant for which execution is hereby awarded. Defendant is further ordered to pay any supervision fees as permitted pursuant to R.C. 2929.18(A)(5)(a).

Bond is hereby released.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

JUDGE EUGENE A. LUCCI

PREPARED ON APRIL 15, 2011
AT THE DIRECTION OF THE TRIAL COURT:

CHARLES E. COULSON (0008667)
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Karen L. Kowall (0030031)
CHIEF ASSISTANT PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

KLK/sd

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
LAKE COUNTY, OHIO

FILED
2011 MAR 11 A 8:44
MAUREEN G. KELLY
LAKE CO. CLERK OF COURT

STATE OF OHIO	)	CASE NO. 09-CR-000368
Plaintiff	)	
vs.	)	JUDGMENT ENTRY
JOSEPH J. COPIJA	)	
Defendant	)	JUDGE EUGENE A. LUCCI

This day, to-wit: March 8, 2011, came the Lake County Prosecuting Attorney, Charles E. Coulson, by and through Karen L. Kowall, Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, on behalf of the State of Ohio, and the Defendant, Joseph J. Copija, being in Court and represented by counsel, Matthew Bangerter, Esquire, the Defendant having heretofore entered a plea of "Not Guilty" does now voluntarily withdraw his former plea and says that he is "Guilty" of Count 1, Election Falsification, a felony of the Fifth degree, in violation of Section 3599.36 of the Ohio Revised Code and Count 4, Complicity to Election Falsification, a felony of the Fifth degree, in violation of Sections 2923.03(A)(2) and 3599.36 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Upon application of the Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, and for good cause shown, the Court thereupon entered a Nolle Prosequi on all other Counts in the Indictment.

The Court, after advising the Defendant of all his legal rights regarding trial and prosecution and finding that the Defendant understands such rights, and that his plea is being entered knowingly and voluntarily, accepts the Defendant's plea of "Guilty," and finds the Defendant "Guilty."

The Court hereby defers sentencing until April 14, 2011 at 11:30 a.m. and refers the matter to the Lake County Adult Probation Department of the Court of Common Pleas for a pre-sentence investigation and report. It is further ordered, pursuant to R.C. Section 2901.07, that the Defendant shall submit a DNA sample to the Adult Probation Department at the time of his pre-sentence interview.

Bond is revoked.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

EUGENE A. LUCCI, JUDGE

PREPARED ON MARCH 9, 2011
AT THE DIRECTION OF THE TRIAL COURT:

CHARLES E. COULSON (0008667)
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Karen L. Kowall (0030031)
CHIEF ASSISTANT PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

KLK/sd