



Louisiana

Office of the Governor
Auctioneers Licensing Board

Bobby Jindal
Governor

February 17, 2014

Mr. Freddie Phillips
8055 Hanks Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70812

11736 Newcastle Avenue
Bldg. 2, Suite C
Baton Rouge, LA 70816

Telephone: 225.295.8420
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Email: admin@LALB.org
Web Address: www.LALB.org

RE: Louisiana Association of Professional Auctioneers ("LAPA")

Dear Mr. Phillips,

On January 8, 2013, you requested that LAPA's website be provided a link on the Louisiana Auctioneers' Licensing Board's official website. Our legal counsel reviewed this request and determined that the placement of the link on our website is purely a discretionary act on the part of the Board. Since that time, you have attended Board meetings pressing to have your site linked to our website. Several of the Board members attempted to inquire as to the membership of LAPA and its officers. Your responses have been vague at best. Further, our counsel has reviewed the records of the Louisiana Secretary of State concerning your "association." There is no registered legal entity known as "Louisiana Association of Professional Auctioneers." We are only able to find a trade name registered on December 8, 2011 by Robert Burns. A trade name under Louisiana law is a word or group of words used by a person to identify his business, vocation or occupation. LAPA is simply a trade name for Robert Burns and nothing more.

It is my understanding that you have now written to the Attorney General concerning our refusal to link LAPA to our website. Based upon that letter, it appears that you failed to inform the Attorney General that the Board did provide a response to your request and that you have failed to provide any minimal information concerning your alleged organization. While under oath on February 6, 2014, Mr. Burns testified during his deposition that LAPA does have only 4 members; two members live out of state, two members live in Louisiana, only one of which is licensed as an auctioneer in Louisiana. The Board simply cannot add a link to its website for every individual auctioneer who decides to form an organization. LAPA is simply a front organization in which you and Robert Burns use to criticize the Board and the Governor. As far as I know, LAPA represents the views of Robert Burns and yourself.

Your organization continues to post commentary about the Board, its members, and Governor that is at best misleading or incorrect.

Finally, there is no law that would require the Board to include LAPA as a linked site. The Board is always glad to receive constructive advice from auctioneers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tessa Steinkamp".

Tessa Steinkamp, Chairman

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL/RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

c.c. Members of the Board
Governor Jindal- Boards and Commissions
Buddy Caldwell, Attorney General
Stephen B. Street, Jr., State Inspector General
Marjorie Esman, Executive Director -Louisiana ACLU