

IN THE MATTER OF NAPOLEON YOUTH FOOTBALL'S 2025 CHARITABLE BINGO LICENSE APPLICATION

SUMMARY OF DECISION

On April 29, 2025, the Ohio Attorney General's Office ("AGO") sent to Napoleon Youth Football ("Napoleon") a Notice of Intent to Reject its 2025 Type III Bingo License Application, and an Opportunity for Hearing on the matter. Napoleon Youth Football did not request a hearing on the intent to reject. This matter is now before the Attorney General for adjudication. Upon independent review of the record, the Attorney General hereby **rejects** the application.

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

On or about January 27, 2025 Napoleon Youth Football submitted its completed application to obtain a 2025 Type III Charitable Bingo License ("License") from the AGO. (See, Affidavit of Elizabeth Heider, ¶ 3). On its Application Napoleon indicated that it held tax exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) corporation. (Exhibit 3 to Heider Aff.). While reviewing the Application, Charitable License and Endorsement Coordinator Heider noticed that Napoleon became a federal tax-exempt charity on or about June 27, 2024. (Heider Aff. ¶ 5).

The AGO is authorized to issue a bingo license to an entity that meets the definition of a "charitable organization" in R.C. 2915.08(H)(1). Under that definition a "charitable organization" must have been in continuous existence in this State for two years immediately preceding an application for a bingo license. R.C. 2915.08(A)(1).

Upon review of the Application and documents in support submitted by Napoleon, Coordinator Heider determined that Napoleon has not been in continuous existence as a charitable organization in Ohio for two years. It therefore does not meet the definition of a "charitable organization" pursuant to R.C. 2915.01(H)(1) and is not eligible to receive a bingo license. Based on the foregoing, the AGO's Charitable Law Section sent notice to Napoleon of its intent to reject its 2025 Charitable Bingo License application, citing its failure to qualify as a "charitable organization" that is eligible to obtain a bingo license. (Exhibit 1 to Heider Aff.). In the Notice the AGO's Charitable Law Section informed Napoleon of its right to request and a hearing on the intended rejection. Napoleon did not request a hearing.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The Attorney General concurs with the proposal to reject Napoleon's 2025 Type III Charitable Bingo License application. It is uncontested that Napoleon has not existed as a tax-exempt charitable organization in this State for two years. Thus, under Ohio law it is not a "charitable organization" that is eligible for a bingo license. Based on the foregoing the Attorney General rejects Napoleon's 2025 Type III Bingo License Application.

ADJUDICATION

IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED THAT THE 2025 TYPE III CHARITABLE BINGO LICENSE APPLICATION FILED BY NAPOLEON YOUTH FOOTBALL IS HEREBY REJECTED.

Any appeal from this Adjudication must be pursued by filing a Notice of Appeal (a copy or the original) with the Ohio Attorney General's Office, Charitable Law Section, 30 East Broad Street, 25th Floor, Columbus, Ohio, 43215.

The appeal must set forth the order appealed from and state that the Order is not supported by reliable, probative and substantial evidence and is not accordance with law. A copy or the original of such Notice of Appeal shall also be filed by the appellant with the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the place of business of the appellant is located. Such Notice of Appeal shall be filed within fifteen (15) days after the mailing of the notice of the Ohio Attorney General's Order as provided in Section 119.12 of the Ohio Revised Code.

By Order of the Ohio Attorney General
DAVE YOST



Bridget C. Coontz
Chief Counsel

June 24, 2025

Appendix – Delegation Letter



DAVE YOST
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

Administration
Office 614-728-5458
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February 24, 2023

Re: Authorized Designee for Charitable Bingo and Distributor Adjudications

Chief Counsel and Ethics Officer, Bridget C. Coontz will serve as the designee of Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost for Charitable Bingo and Distributor Adjudications issued pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Chapters 2915 and 119, revoking the prior designation of Deputy Attorney General, Jonathan Fulkerson.

The Charitable Law Section will transmit the record of proceedings to Chief Counsel and Ethics Officer, Bridget C. Coontz with ten (10) days of the deadline to file objections to the hearing officer's report and recommendation pursuant to ORC 119.09.

Upon receipt of an adjudication order, the Charitable Law Section will enter the order in its journal and serve a copy to the party affected in accordance with ORC 119.09.

This designation shall remain in effect for the duration of her employment or until revoked under my signature.

DAVE YOST
Ohio Attorney General

