CHALMERS, ADAMS,
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Taylor Corrects SEI Filing; No Ethics Investigation Pending

SANFORD, NC – Attorney Philip R. Thomas of Chalmers, Adams, Backer & Wallen, PLLC, counsel for North Carolina House candidate Charles Taylor, issued the following statement in response to recent reporting concerning Taylor's financial disclosures and a business operating at property he owns on Tramway Road.

"Let's be clear about what actually happened here. This controversy arose out of confusing disclosure requirements and a cumbersome government filing system. Even the Ethics Commission acknowledged the confusion and the need for clearer instructions. The suggestion that Charles was engaged in some elaborate scheme to conceal properties readily identifiable in publicly available county land records is nonsense.

"Charles and I worked directly with senior staff at the State Ethics Commission to clarify the reporting requirements and make sure everything was properly disclosed. Charles has now filed an updated SEI separately identifying his reportable real estate interests and disclosing both LLCs. There was never any effort to hide anything, and his prompt action to ensure the filing was complete speaks for itself.

"And despite the headlines suggesting otherwise, there is no pending ethics case against Charles. The State Ethics Commission has not initiated an investigation or any other formal proceeding. More importantly, the complaint is jurisdictionally defective. North Carolina law limits the Commission's formal complaint jurisdiction to covered persons and legislative employees, and Charles is neither. Sending allegations to reporters does not somehow create a valid ethics case. There is no ethics proceeding against Charles. Period.

"As for the Tramway Road property, Charles is the landlord, not the owner or operator of the business located there. He does not own any of the gaming machines and has no involvement in the tenant's day-to-day operations. To his knowledge, the tenant is not engaged in any unlawful activity. Ownership of the property should not be confused with ownership of the business.

"Someone took a confusing government filing requirement, combined it with allegations about a business Charles doesn't own or operate, and tried to manufacture a major scandal just days before early voting. The timing speaks for itself. Charles has fully addressed the disclosure issue, there is no pending ethics investigation, and there is absolutely no truth to the accusation that he intentionally concealed his property interests," Thomas concluded.

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