MINUTES OF THE
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
5th Floor Conference Room
April 8, 2009

I. Call to Order

Chairman Cashman called the meeting to order at 9:10 A.M. Commissioners Gerratana and Bozzuto were present. Agency staff was also present.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the March 25, 2009 Regular Meeting

It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana to approve the Minutes of the March 25, 2009 Regular Meeting. So voted.

III. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Solomon Hall, Hartford
File No. 2007-343
Proposed Consent Agreement and Order
Respondent: Lisa Stapleton
Investigators: Attorney Shannon Bergquist and Gilberto Oyola, Lead Legal Investigator
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Attorney Andrews summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Consent Agreement and Order with respect to Respondent Lisa Stapleton. She recommended adoption of the proposed agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana to adopt the proposed Consent Agreement and Order in File No. 2007-343. So voted. A copy of the Consent Agreement and Order is attached and incorporated herein as part of these minutes.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Margaret Potts, Town Clerk, Oxford
File No. 2007-351
Proposed Consent Agreement and Order
Respondent: August Palmer
Investigator: Attorney Marc Crayton
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Attorney Andrews summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Consent Agreement and Order with respect to Respondent August Palmer. She stated that this matter was scheduled for a hearing on March 26, 2009 before Hearing Officer Stephen Cashman. Before the hearing took place, the Respondent indicated to Attorney Crayton his willingness to settle the matter. For the record, Commissioner Cashman agreed to the proposed settlement. Ms. Andrews recommended adoption of the proposed agreement contingent upon receipt of the above mentioned agreement within seven days and the payment of the civil penalty of Eight Hundred Dollars ($800).

It was moved by Commissioner Gerratana and seconded by Commissioner Bozzuto to adopt the proposed Consent Agreement and Order in File No. 2007-351, contingent upon receipt of the original agreement and civil penalty within seven days. So voted. A copy of the Consent Agreement and Order is attached and incorporated herein as part of these minutes.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Karen Doyle Lyons, Norwalk
File No. 2008-007
Proposed Findings and Conclusions
Investigator: Attorney Kevin Ahern
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Attorney Andrews summarized the above referenced complaint and the proposed Findings and Conclusions recommending dismissal of the complaint. She recommended adoption of the proposed Findings and Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana to adopt the proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2008-007. So voted. The complaint is dismissed for the reasons stated. A copy of the Findings and Conclusions is attached and incorporated herein as part of these minutes.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Judy Aron, West Hartford
File No. 2008-073
Proposed Consent Agreement/Order or Find Reason to Believe Recommendation, §9-369b
Respondent: Sharon LaPointe
Investigator: Attorney Marc Crayton
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Attorney Andrews summarized the above referenced complaint and the proposed Consent Agreement and Order with Respondent Sharon LaPointe. She stated that at the Commission's meeting held on March 25, the proposed Agreement was approved contingent upon receipt of the above mentioned agreement within seven days. The faxed copy has been received however the original has not. Ms. LaPointe has indicated to

Attorney Crayton that it was mailed on April 3rd. Attorney Andrews recommended approval provided the original signed agreement is received and if it is not, she recommend a Reason to Believe Finding that Ms. LaPointe has violated C.G.S. §9-369b.

It was moved by Commissioner Gerratana and seconded by Commissioner Bozzuto to adopt the proposed Consent Agreement and Order with respect to Respondent LaPointe contingent upon receipt of the above mentioned agreement within seven days. It was also moved that in the event the signed agreement is not received, the Commission Finds Reason to Believe that Respondent Sharon LaPointe violated Connecticut General Statutes §9-369b and that a Hearing Officer be designated for this matter. So voted.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Scott A. Adamsons, Portland
File No. 2008-129
Proposed Findings and Conclusions
Investigators: Attorney William Smith and Charlie Urso, Lead Legal Investigator
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Attorney Andrews summarized the above referenced complaint and the proposed Findings and Conclusions. The Commission discussed the proposed resolution and Mr. Garfield suggested a friendly amendment to paragraph four of the proposed Findings and Conclusions. The Commission agreed to the amendments and Attorney Andrews recommend adoption with the amendments.

It was moved by Commissioner Gerratana and seconded by Commissioner Bozzuto to adopt the proposed Findings and Conclusions as amended in File No. 2008-129. So voted. The complaint is dismissed with respect to Senator Doyle and the Commission will take no further action with respect to the Treasurer. A copy of the Findings and Conclusions is attached and incorporated herein as part of these minutes.

B. Executive Session per C.G.S. 1-200(6)(B) and (E), and 1-210(b)(3) and (4)

It was moved by Commissioner Gerratana and seconded by Commissioner Bozzuto at 9:26 A.M. to proceed into Executive Session pursuant to C.G.S. §1-200(6)(B) and (E), and §1-210(b)(3) and (4) to discuss strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims and exempt records relating thereto, listed as items 6 through 9 on the agenda. So voted. Commissioners Cashman, Gerratana and Bozzuto were present. Staff members present were Mr. Garfield, Mr. Lenge, Ms. Andrews, Mr. Smith, Mr. Crayton, Mr. Ahern, Mr. Oyola, Ms. Stratton, Ms. Blackburn, Ms. Rotman, Ms. Nicolescu, Ms. Kief, Ms. Sadowski, Ms. Montgomery, Mr. Urso, Ms. Zaccagnino, Ms. Lagueux and Mr. Gebo.

It was moved by Commissioner Gerratana and seconded by Commissioner Bozzuto at 10:15 A.M. to return to public session. So voted.

Following a short recess the Commission took the following action:

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Lisa R. Carver, New Britain
File No. 2008-032
Investigator: Attorney Marc Crayton
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

This matter was continued.

7. In the Matter of a Complaint In re: David Larkin, Hartford
File No. 2008-046
Investigator: John Neumon, Lead Legal Investigator
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

It was moved by Commission Gerratana and seconded by Commissioner Bozzuto to authorize the issuance of an investigatory subpoena to obtain relevant credit union records. So voted.

8. In re: "Crisco 2008," Hartford
File No. 2008-082
Investigators: Attorney Kevin Ahern and Charlie Urso, Lead Legal Investigator
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

This matter was continued.

9. In the Matter of a Complaint by Olga Iris Vazquez, Hartford
File No. 2008-092
Investigator: Attorney Marc Crayton
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Attorney Andrews summarized the above referenced complaint and the proposed Findings and Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana to adopt the proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2008-092. So voted. The complaint is dismissed for the reasons stated. A copy of the Findings and Conclusions is attached and incorporated herein as part of these minutes.

Administrative Reports

Mr. Garfield stated that Mann Hasen has prepared a presentation for the Commissioners. Mr. Garfield said that the new data base that Mann will be demonstrating is an enhancement that is critical to the goal of full disclosure.

Mr. Hasen demonstrated for the Commission and staff a preview of the new advanced document search mechanism for e-Cris that will be available to the public in about two weeks.

Declaratory Ruling

Chairman Cashman requested a motion to add to the today's agenda a discussion of a proposed Declaratory Ruling.

It was moved by Commissioner Gerratana and seconded by Commissioner Bozzuto to add to the agenda the discussion of proposed Declaratory Ruling. So voted.

Ms. Rotman stated that the there have been many calls asking for guidance on this issue. The Commission has before them a draft Proposed Declaratory Ruling titled "Public Declarations by Candidates in Exploratory Committee, which will provide guidance on what constitutes a "public declaration" of a candidate's intention to seek a particular office, thereby requiring that a candidate dissolve his exploratory committee and form a candidate committee. Ms. Rotman and Ms. Kief summarized the proposed ruling and said that it is important that potential participating candidates understand what constitutes a public declaration and the impact it could have on those who may join the CEP Program.

Following the discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Gerratana and seconded by Commission Bozzuto to initiate the declaratory ruling process and a twenty-one day comment period for Proposed Declaratory Ruling 2009-01. So voted.

IV. Legislation

Mr. Garfield informed the Commission that the budget was voted out of the Appropriations Committee last Thursday. He is pleased to report that the proposed budget gives sufficient funds to operate the agency at the current level. He summarized several concerns he has with the Governor's proposal. He stated that the grant funds proposal has been sent to the Finance Committee and he said he has personally spoken with the Governor regarding this.

Mr. Garfield summarized the progress of the Commission's proposals stating that the GAE Committee has reached its deadline. Nancy Nicolescu has been extremely helpful and he is pleased to report all of our bills have been voted out of committee in one form or another. The Commission discussed the bills and their possible impact on the Commission.

V. Administrative Reports

Mr. Garfield stated that Commissioner Dolan's appointment to the Commission will end on June 30, 2008. Commissioner Dolan has informed him that due to his added responsibilities, he will not be seeking reappointment. The Governor has been notified and is currently looking for a replacement. Commissioner Cashman stated that he hopes that Commissioner Dolan will be present for the last meeting in June before the end of his term.

Mr. Garfield requested that the June 3rd Commission Meeting be rescheduled to June 17th due to the fact that the end of the General Assembly session in on June 3rd. The Commissioners agreed.

VI. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Gerratana and seconded by Commissioner Bozzuto at 11:52 A.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted. Unless otherwise indicated, all votes of the Commission were unanimous.

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday May 6, 2009 at 9:00 A.M., in the 5th Floor Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted

Lois E. Blackburn

Lois E. Blackburn
Clerk of the Commission

Adopted this 6th Day of May, 2009 at Hartford, Connecticut

Stephen F. Cashman, Chairman
By Order of the Commission