



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

DRAFT MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
5th Floor Conference Room
October 16, 2013
9:00 A.M.

I. *Call to Order*

Chairman Anthony Castagno was present and called the meeting to order at 9:04 A.M. Commissioners Stephen Penny and Salvatore Bramante were both present, agency staff was also present.

II. *Approval of the Minutes*

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of September 18, 2013

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to approve the Minutes of the September 18, 2013 regular meeting. So voted.

III. *Administrative Reports*

Mr. Brandi updated that with regard to personnel, SEEC received 497 applications for the Clerk Typist position. SEEC is in the process of trying to hire for this position and hoping to hire in the next few weeks.

Budget wise, the agency is on target. We are working with OGA and with our own fiscal crew to make sure that all of the needs of SEEC are met.

Our IT crew is doing a wonderful job with eCRIS and moving forward with our programs internally.

Our audit unit has been making diligent progress on the audits. We expect that within the next two months we should complete our audit process for the 2012 election as well as the remaining items from the statewide elections in 2010.

We have Municipal elections coming up, so our legal compliance unit has been busy answering questions with our elections officers and addressing multiple questions coming in from all over the state.

We are formulating our legislative agenda. We are not anticipating a lot of activity at the GAE. SEEC is focusing on four key items, the first, is the Citizens' Election Fund fix. SEEC is looking forward to future grant seasons to make sure that the fund has enough whether we increase the statutory funding that goes directly into

20 Trinity Street • Hartford, Connecticut • 06106—1628

Phone: (860) 256-2940 • Toll Free-CT Only: 1-866-SEEC-INFO • Email: SEEC@ct.gov • Internet: www.ct.gov/seec

Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity Employer

the account every year or whether SEEC adopts a form of overdraft protection. The second item is our municipal pilot program. SEEC was able to get the item passed through the House this past session, however ran out of time with the Senate. Another change we are looking to propose is a minor change to the method of the audit system and the need to fine tune it for all committees. If we can get the Committees to submit their bank statements it will allow us to make sure that all surpluses have been returned. What we'd like to do is obtain bank statements as the committees terminate to help them along and make sure that they have properly terminated. The fourth item on our agenda relates to Public Act 13-180 and was the change in part of disclosure and penalties that increased the fine and took out the criminal penalty. We are looking to still have the criminal penalty as part of the act.

Attorney Kief updated that SEEC has proposed Declaratory ruling 2013-01. SEEC has sent notice to all those who have requested it, are receiving comments and will bring those to next month's meeting along with suggested changes to the draft based on those comments.

SEEC has received one or more requests based on new law 13-180 and clarifications as to how it works for political committees versus those making independent expenditures.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante that with respect to the request for declaratory ruling the Commission approves that the staff give notice and also post to the website. So voted.

IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Tina Gardner and Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Wilton
File No. 2012-170
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement
Respondent: Iris M. Farmer
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern

Attorney Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2012-170. He recommended adoption of the proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2012-170. So voted. The Proposed Consent Order & Agreement is available on our website under Commission Decisions.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Carmen Cordero, Hartford
File No. 2011-141
Proposed Consent Agreement

Respondent: Angel Morales
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2011-141. He recommended adoption of the proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2011-141. The proposed Consent Order & Agreement was approved by a 2-0-1 vote with Commissioner Bramante abstaining. So voted. The Proposed Consent Order & Agreement is available on our website under [Commission Decisions](#)

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Hector L. Lopez and David Bedell, New Canaan
File No. 2013-018
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondents: George F. Cody and
Kathleen Redman
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigators: Gilberto Oyola & Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2013-018. He recommended adoption of the proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2013-018. So voted. The Proposed Consent Order & Agreement is available on our website under [Commission Decisions](#).

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Stephen S. Stambaugh-Walter, Seymour
File No. 2013-019
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondents: Ronald A. Skurat, Elsie J.
Woods and Wesley L. Nelson, Jr.
Attorney: William B. Smith
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2013-019. He recommended adoption of the proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2013-019, as amended. So voted. The Proposed Consent Order & Agreement is available on our website under [Commission Decisions](#).

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Darlene F. Burrell and Lynn F. Joyal, Suffield
File No. 2013-075

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent: Jonna V. Albert
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2013-075. He recommended adoption of the proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2013-075, as amended. So voted. The Proposed Consent Order & Agreement is available on our website under [Commission Decisions](#).

6. In re: SEEC Initiated "Friends of Victor Cuevas," Hartford
File No. 2012-136

Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Attorney: William B. Smith
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2012-136. He recommended adoption of the proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2012-136. So voted. The Proposed Findings & Conclusions is available on our website under [Commission Decisions](#).

7. In the Matter of a Complaint by Stanley H. Heller, et al, West Haven
File No. 2013-017

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent: JoAnn Callegari, Michelle P. Hufcutt
and Cheryl Corbally
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigators: Gilberto Oyola and Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2013-017. He recommended adoption of the proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2013-017. So voted. The Proposed Consent Order & Agreement is available on our website under Commission Decisions.

8. In the Matter of a Complaint by Pete Bass, New Milford
File No. 2012-157
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement
Respondent: Ian Neal
Attorney: Patrick J. Lamb
Lead Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

Attorney Lamb summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2012-157. He recommended adoption of the proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2012-157. So voted. The Proposed Consent Order & Agreement is available on our website under Commission Decisions.

9. In the Matter of a Complaint by Edward R. Whitbread, Milford
File No. 2012-156
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement
Respondent: Stamford Professional Firefighters
Association, International
Association of Firefighters,
Local 786
Attorney: Patrick J. Lamb

Attorney Lamb summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2012-156. He recommended adoption of the proposed Consent Order & Agreement upon receipt within ten days.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2013-156, upon receipt within ten days. So voted. The Proposed Consent Order & Agreement will be available, upon receipt, on our website under Commission Decisions.

10. In the Matter of a Complaint by Cynthia McCorkindale, Bethel
File No. 2013-103

Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Respondent: Peter S. Olson
Attorney: Patrick J. Lamb
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Lamb summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2013-103. He recommended adoption of the proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2013-103. So voted. The Proposed Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

V. *Executive Session per General Statutes §§ 1-200(6)(B) and (E), and 1-210(b)(1),(3),(4),(10) and General Statutes §9-7a, as amended by Public Act 11-48 §300*

(Preliminary draft and agency consideration of enforcement action and exempt records relative thereto)

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante at 9:38 A.M. to proceed into Executive Session pursuant to C.G.S. §§ 1-200(6)(B) and (E), and 1-210(b)(1),(3),(4) and (10) to discuss strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims and exempt records. So voted.

Commissioners Castagno, Penny and Bramante and were present. Staff members present were Michael Brandi, Shannon Kief, Evelyn Gratacos, William Smith, James Talbert-Slagle, Patrick Lamb, Kevin Ahern, Gilberto Oyola, Scott Branfuhr, Charlie Urso, Joshua Foley, Linda Waterman, Mann Hasen, and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante at 11:00 A.M. to return to public session. So voted.

Returning to public session, the Commission took the following action:

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Georgiana Holloway, Hartford
File No. 2010-048

Proposed Consent Order

Respondent: Olga Iris Vasquez
Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle

Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2010-048. He recommended adoption of the proposed Consent Order & Agreement as to respondent Olga Iris Vasquez.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2010-048 as to respondent Olga Iris Vasquez. The proposed Consent Order & Agreement was approved by a 2-0-1 vote with Commissioner Bramante abstaining. So voted. The Proposed Consent Order & Agreement is available on our website under Commission Decisions

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Georgiana Holloway, Hartford
File No. 2010-048

Proposed Consent Order

Respondent: Gary Coleman
Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2010-048. He recommended adoption of the proposed Consent Order & Agreement as to respondent Gary Coleman.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to reject the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2010-048 as to respondent Gary Coleman. The proposed Consent Order & Agreement was rejected by a 2-0-1 vote with Commissioner Bramante abstaining. So voted.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Janina Morales, Bridgeport
File No. 2012-088

Request for Investigatory Subpoena

Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle
Lead Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

Attorney Talbert-Slagle requested the Commission authorize a request for an Investigatory Subpoena.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to authorize the issuance of an Investigatory Subpoena. So voted.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Caleb Kleppner

File No. 2010-002

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

James M. Talbert Slagle

Lead Legal Investigator:

Charlie Urso

The matter is continued.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Dana Ozimek, Mansfield Center

File No. 2013-009

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Kevin M. Ahern

Legal Investigators:

Gilberto Oyola and Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2013-009. He recommended adoption of the proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2013-009. So voted. The Proposed Findings & Conclusions is available on our website under Commission Decisions.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Anthony Santino, Hamden

File No. 2013-042

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Kevin M. Ahern

Lead Legal Investigator:

Charlie Urso

Attorney Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Settlement Agreement with Respondents Thomas C. Foley and Voters for Good Government, Inc. in File 2013-042. He recommended that the Commission accept the Agreement, conditional upon receipt of originals within 7 days, no later than October 23, 2013. *See attached statement.*

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the proposed Settlement Agreement as summarized by Attorney Ahern in File No. 2013-042, conditional upon receipt of the originals within 7 days. So voted. The Proposed Settlement Agreement is available on our website under Commission Decisions.

7. In re: Christina Ayala and Santa Ayala, Hartford
File No. 2012-237
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney:

Kevin M. Ahern

Attorney Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2012-237. He recommended referral of Respondents Christina Ayala and Santa Ayala to the Office of the Chief States Attorney. *See attached statement.*

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to refer to the office of the chief states attorney, File No. 2012-237, for criminal investigation and to keep the matter open at the Commission and that staff be permitted to conduct further investigation under those statutes in Title 9 under which the Commission has civil jurisdiction. So voted.

8. In the Matter of a Complaint by Melissa A. Rickard, Windsor
File No. 2012-196
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney:
Lead Legal Investigator:

Kevin M. Ahern
Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued.

9. In the Matter of a Complaint by Beth Lazar, Bridgeport
File No. 2013-120
In the Matter of a Complaint by Kim McLaughlin, Bridgeport
File No. 2013-121
In the Matter of a Complaint by Joel Gonzalez, Bridgeport
File No. 2013-122
In the Matter of a Complaint by Beth Lazar, Bridgeport
File No. 2013-123
Request for Subpoena
Attorney:
Legal Investigator:

Kevin M. Ahern
Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ahern requested the Commission authorize a request for an Investigatory Subpoena.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to authorize the issuance of an Investigatory Subpoena. So voted.

10. Pursuant to Section 9-7b-35 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, a Request for a Finding of Reason to Believe Violations of General Statutes § 9-608 Have Been Committed.

Pursuant to section 9-7b-35 of the Regulations of Connecticut agencies, it was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny that the Commission finds that it has reason to believe the following respondent violated the election laws as described:

In File No. 2013-097MNF, Respondent Kathleen Echevarria, Treasurer of the Mehdi 2012 committee violated General Statutes section 9-608 (a) (1) regarding the January 10, 2013 filing. So voted.

11. In the Matter of a Complaint by James D. Smith, et al, Bridgeport
File No. 2013-021

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigators:

Gilberto Oyola & Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

12. In re: SEEC Initiated "Friends of Victor Cuevas," Hartford

File No. 2012-137

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Lead Legal Investigator:

Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued.

13. In the Matter of a Complaint By Jonathan Pelto, Storrs

File No. 2012-190

Stipulation of Settlement

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Lead Legal Investigator:

Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Stipulation of Settlement in File No. 2012-190. He recommended adoption of the proposed Stipulation of Settlement.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the proposed Stipulation of Settlement in File No. 2012-190. So voted. The Proposed Stipulation of Settlement is available on our website under Commission Decisions.

14. Recommendation of Counsel: Necessary to Investigate Determination pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b (a) (1)

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to move to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to 11 complaints in File Nos.: 2013-126, 2013-127, 2013-128, 2013-129, 2013-130, 2013-131, 2013-132, 2013-133, 2013-1344, 2013-135 and 2013-136. So voted.

Consideration of Draft Audit Reports

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to initiate an investigation with respect to Item 1, “Goff for the 34th” and refer the matter to the enforcement unit. So voted.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to approve the issuance of the following committee draft Audit Report numbers 2-39 on this agenda as Final Audit reports. So voted.

1. “Goff for the 34th,” Christopher J. Goff
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
2. “Wyman 2010,” Nancy Wyman
Examiner: Salman Munir
3. “Wilson-Foley For Lieutenant Governor,” Lisa Wilson Foley
Examiner: Salman Munir
4. “Team Tong 2012,” William Tong
Examiner: Karen Moreira
5. “Joe Verrengia For State Rep.,” Joe Verrengia
Examiner: Matthew Lombardi
6. “Odle 2012,” Dennis Odle
Examiner: Karen Moreira
7. “Paulmeno For State Representative,” Stephanie Paulmeno
Examiner: Dinorah Collado
8. “Flanagan 2012,” John Flanagan
Examiner: Dinorah Collado
9. “Sirard For Enfield,” Thomas J. Sirard
Examiner: Dinorah Collado
10. “Moukawsher 2012,” Edward Moukawsher
Examiner: Dinorah Collado

11. "Perillo 2012," Jason Perillo
Examiner: Dinorah Collado
12. "Harry For 41st," Harry Watson
Examiner: Dinorah Collado
13. "Blankley For State Representative," John Blankley
Examiner: Dinorah Collado
14. "Charity for Simsbury," Charity Folk
Examiner: Kristina Corbett
15. "Friends Of Jim," James Gambardella
Examiner: Dinorah Collado
16. "Friends Of Jack Hennessy," John (Jack) F. Hennessy
Examiner: Kristina Moreira
17. "Miller 2012," Lawrence G. Miller
Examiner: Dinorah Collado
18. "Ritter 2012," Matthew Ritter
Examiner: Kristina Corbett
19. "Sampson 2012," Robert Sampson
Examiner: Kristina Corbett
20. "Elect Walko 2012," Stephen Walko
Examiner: Dinorah Collado
21. "Ziobron2012," Melissa Ziobron
Examiner: Matthew Lombardi
22. "Backer 2012," Terry Backer
Examiner: Dinorah Collado
23. "Case For State Rep.," Jay Case
Examiner: Dinorah Collado
24. "Demicco 2012," Michael Demicco
Examiner: Karen Moreira
25. "Kim Fawcett 2012," Kim Fawcett
Examiner: Karen Moreira

26. "Geoff 2012," Geoff Luxenburg
Examiner: Kristina Corbett
27. "Friends of Kathy," Kathy Tallarita
Examiner: Karen Moreira
28. "Davis 2012," Christopher Davis
Examiner: Matthew Lombardi
29. "Devanney 2012," Timothy Devanney
Examiner: Kristina Corbett
30. "Joe D. For State Senate," Joseph Dinunzio
Examiner: Karen Moreira
31. "Doyle For State Senate," Paul Doyle
Examiner: Dinorah Collado
32. "Friends of David Dwyer," David Dwyer
Examiner: Matthew Lombardi
33. "Haddad 2012," Gregory Haddad
Examiner: Matthew Lombardi
34. "Committee To Elect Craig Miner," Craig Miner
Examiner: Karen Moreira
35. "Sandy Nafis 2012," Sandy Nafis
Examiner: Dinorah Collado
36. "Sear 2012," Brian Sear
Examiner: Karen Moreira
37. "Wright For Representative," Elissa Wright
Examiner: Kristina Corbett
38. "Committee To Elect Terry Masters," Terry Masters
Examiner: Kristina Corbett
39. "Smithhouse108," Richard Smith
Examiner: Dinorah Collado

VI. *Executive Session per General Statutes §§ 1-231 and 1-200(6)(E) and 1-210(b)(1), and (e)(1)*
(discussion of personnel matters)

No votes were taken.

VII. *Adjournment*

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante at 11:21 A.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted. Unless otherwise indicated, all votes of the Commission were unanimous.

The next regular scheduled meeting is November 20, 2013 in the 5th Floor Conference room.