



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
20 Trinity Street Hartford, Connecticut 06106—1628

**MINUTES OF THE
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
April 09, 2008**

I. Call to Order

Chairman Cashman called the meeting to order at 9:07 A.M. Commissioners Jenkins, Gerratana and Bozzuto were present. Agency staff was also present.

II. Approval of the Minutes

A. Approval of the Minutes of the March 12, 2008 Regular Meeting

Commissioner Gerratana noted a few technical corrections to be made in the minutes and by consensus, they were corrected. It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2008 minutes as corrected. So voted.

III. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Paula B. Ray, Farmington
File No. 2007-200
Proposed Consent Agreement and Order or
Reason to Believe Findings
Respondents: Salvatore Iritano
Investigator: Attorney Kevin Ahern
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Attorney Andrews stated that Attorney Ahern has successfully negotiated a settlement agreement with Respondent Iritano. Mr. Iritano has signed the proposed Consent Agreement. He is ordered to pay a civil penalty of one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) to the Commission in four monthly installments of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00). The first payment of \$250 has been received. Attorney Andrews recommended its adoption.

It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana to adopt the proposed Consent Agreement and Order in File No. 2007-200. 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 Joan B. Taf, Naugatuck
File No. 2007-226
Proposed Consent Agreement and Order
Respondents: Mary Lou Sharon
Investigator: Attorney Shannon Bergquist
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Attorney Andrews summarized the above referenced complaint and the proposed Consent Agreement and Order. She stated that Respondent Sharon has signed the agreement and she recommended its adoption.

It was moved by Commission Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana to adopt the proposed Consent Agreement and Order in File No. 2007-226. 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 Rae Tramontano and Sharon Ferrucci, ROV(s), New Haven
File No. 2007-375
Proposed Consent Agreement and Order
Respondent: Yasmin A. Ramadan
Proposed Findings and Conclusions
Respondents: Zenaida Barranco and Hoa-Khanh Maskell
Investigator: Attorney William Smith
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Attorney Andrews summarized the above referenced complaint and the proposed Findings and Conclusions with regards to Respondents Barranco and Maskell. She explained the reasons for recommending the matter be dismissed.

It was moved by Commissioner Gerratana and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to adopt the proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2007-375 dismissing the matter with regards to Respondents Barranco and Maskell for the reasons stated. So voted. A copy of the Findings and Conclusions is attached and incorporated herein as part of these minutes.

Attorney Andrews summarized the proposed Consent Agreement and Order with Respondent Ramadan. She stated that Ms. Ramadan has signed the agreement and paid the civil penalty of \$500. She recommended its adoption.

It was moved by Commissioner Gerratana and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to adopt the proposed Consent Agreement and Order in File No. 2007-375 with regard to Respondent Ramadan. So voted. A copy of the Consent Agreement and Order is attached and incorporated herein as part of these minutes.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by John J. Ahern, III, Windsor Locks
File No. 2007-378
Proposed Findings and Conclusions
Respondents: Eleanor H. Leonard
Investigator: Attorney Marc W. Crayton
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Attorney Andrews summarized the above referenced complaint and the proposed Findings and Conclusions recommending the matter be dismissed. She recommended its adoption.

It was moved by Commission Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to adopt the proposed Findings and Conclusions dismissing the matter for the reasons stated. So voted. A copy of the Findings and Conclusions is attached and incorporated herein as part of these minutes.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Timothy H. Thompson, Lebanon
File No. 2007-389
Proposed Consent Agreement and Order
Respondents: Wayne Budney
Investigator: Gilberto Oyola, Lead Legal Investigator
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Attorney Andrews summarized the above referenced complaint and the proposed Consent Agreement and Order. She stated that Respondent Budney has signed the agreement and paid the civil penalty of \$750. She recommended its adoption.

It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to adopt the proposed Consent Agreement and Order in File No. 2007-389. So voted. A copy of the Consent Agreement and Order is attached and incorporated herein as part of these minutes.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Irene M. Curtis, East Hampton
File No. 2007-407
Proposed Consent Agreement and Order (2)
Release impoundment orders
Respondents: David Simko and Margaret Jacobson
Investigator: Attorney Shannon Bergquist
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Attorney Andrews summarized the above referenced complaint and the two proposed Consent Agreements and Orders with Respondents Simko and Jacobson. She stated that both respondents have signed their agreements and Respondent Simko has paid a civil penalty of \$350. Attorney Andrews recommend their adoption.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Bozzuto to adopt the proposed Consent Agreement and Order with regard to Respondent

Simko. So voted. A copy of the Consent Agreement and Order is attached and incorporated herein as part of these minutes.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana to adopt the proposed Consent Agreement and Order with regard to Respondent Jacobson. So voted. A copy of the Consent Agreement and Order is attached and incorporated herein as part of these minutes.

Attorney Andrews explained that the investigation has been completed and she requested that the previously authorized impoundment order for the ballots and other materials related to the November 6, 2007 election in East Hampton be dissolved thereby releasing the ballots and materials, including the “components and processes” at LHS .

It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana to lift the remaining impoundment orders in File No. 2007-407. So voted.

7. In the Matter of a Complaint by August A. Palmer III, Oxford
File No. 2007-422
Proposed Consent Agreement and Order
Respondents: Faith Williams
Investigator: Attorney William Smith
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Attorney Andrews summarized the above referenced complaint and the proposed Consent Agreement and Order. Attorney Smith stated that Respondent Williams has represented to him that she intends to sign the agreement and pay the civil penalty of \$400. Attorney Andrews recommended its adoption.

It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to adopt the proposed Consent Agreement and Order in File No. 2007-422 contingent upon receipt of the signed original and the civil penalty of \$400 within 7 days. So voted. A copy of the Consent Agreement and Order is attached and incorporated herein as part of these minutes.

8. In the Matter of a Complaint by George Pleau, Harwinton
File No. 2008-011
Proposed Consent Agreement and Order
Respondents: Peter Brazaitis
Investigator: Attorney Marc Crayton
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Attorney Andrews summarized the above referenced complaint and the proposed Consent Agreement and Order. Respondent Brazaitis has indicated that he has signed and mailed the agreement. Attorney Andrews recommended its adoption.

It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commission Jenkins to adopt the proposed Consent Agreement and Order in File No. 2008-011 contingent upon receipt of the signed original within 7 days. So voted. A copy of

the Consent Agreement and Order is attached and incorporated herein as part of these minutes.

Attorney Andrews noted for clarification that Item IV. on the agenda will be discussed in executive session pursuant to C.G.S. 1-200(6)(B) and (E) and 1-220(b)(3) and (4).

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 Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Bozzuto at 9:30 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 9 through 13 on the agenda and the discussion of strategy and negotiations with respect to pending litigation. So voted. Commissioners Cashman, Jenkins, Gerratana and Bozzuto were present. Attorney Maura Murphy-Osborne from the Office of the Attorney General was present for the discussion of the pending litigation. Staff members present were: Mr. Garfield, Mr. Lenge, Ms. Andrews, Mr. Smith, Mr. Crayton, Ms. Bergquist, Mr. Ahern, Mr. Oyola, Ms. Blackburn, Ms. Stratton, Ms. Rotman, Ms. Nicolescu, Ms. Keif, Ms. Sadowski, Mr. Talbert-Slagle, Mr. Urso, Ms. Zaccagnino, Mr. Cascudo, Ms. Kulmacz and Mr. Neumon.

It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana at 10:55 A.M. to return to public session. So voted.

At 11:15 A.M. the Commission returned to public session and took the following action:

9. In the Matter of a Complaint by James W. Bruno, Branford
File No. 2006-153
Investigator: Gilberto Oyola, Lead Legal Investigator
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

This matter was continued.

10. In the Matter of a Complaint by Margaret Potts, Oxford
File No. 2007-351
Investigator: Attorney Marc Crayton
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

This matter was continued.

11. In the Matter of a Complaint by Carl Ruggiero, East Haven
File No. 2007-368
Investigator: Gilberto Oyola, Lead Legal Investigator
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

This matter was continued.

12. In the Matter of a Complaint by Myrna E. Watanabe, Harwinton
File No. 2007-386
Investigator: Attorney Kevin Ahern
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

This matter was continued.

13. In the Matter of a Complaint by Helen G. Lech, Berlin
File No. 2007-421
Investigator: Attorney Shannon Bergquist
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Attorney Andrews summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Findings and Conclusions dismissing the complaint. She recommended its adoption.

It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana to adopt the proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2007-421. 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.

IV. *Pending Litigation*

1. Minnie Gonzalez v. State Elections Enforcement Commission
2. Green Party v. Garfield

These matters were discussed in Executive Session pursuant to C.G.S. 1-200(6)(B) and (E) and 1-220(b)(3) and (4). No votes were taken.

V. *Administrative Reports*

Mr. Garfield stated that significant progress has been made in reaching the agency's ultimate goal of having everything in place by the time the 2008 General Assembly Session adjourns and the first applications for the Citizens Election Program for the 2008 election arrive. He thanked everyone involved in working on the two comprehensive guides books which are now complete and available on the Commissions' website and via hardcopy. He was pleased to report that the General Assembly has enacted the SEEC proposals that change and improve the CEP and other provisions of the campaign finance laws. The guides will need to be changed to reflect the new changes. Mr. Garfield has prepared a meeting schedule for the purpose of the Commission's approval or disapproval of grants for those who file applications for grants. He asked the Commissioners to review the schedule to be sure that there is a quorum available on each of these dates.

Ms. Nicolescu briefly summarized the progress of the pending bills and proposals that have provisions which will affect this Commission.

Mr. Garfield stated that Senate Bill 447 includes the electronic filing provision, which is so important to the success of the Commission's ability to have the information required to make an informed decision on who will be approved for the CEP grants. He reported that there have been 96 committee treasurers to date who have committed to filing their April 10th reports on the new system. He congratulated the IT team for all their hard work. The Legal Compliance Unit is extremely busy responding to request for advice and there have been continued training sessions for the candidates and treasurers. Ms. Rotman complimented her

unit for their hard work and briefed the Commissioners on the training sessions that her unit is working on.

VI. *Adjournment*

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana at 11:55 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 14, 2008 at 9:00 A.M., 5th floor Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois E. Blackburn
Clerk of the Commission

Adopted this 14th day of May, 2008, at Hartford, Connecticut.

Stephen F. Cashman
Chairman
By Order of the Commission