



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

MINUTES OF THE
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION'S
REGULAR MEETING
20 Trinity Street, 5th Floor Conference Room
July 16, 2008

I. Call to Order

Chairman Cashman called the meeting to order at 9:09 A.M. Commissioners Gerratana, Jenkins, and Bozzuto were present. Agency staff was present.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the July 10, 2008 Regular Meeting

It was moved by Commissioner Gerratana and seconded by Commissioner Bozzuto to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2008 regular meeting. So voted.

III. Consideration of Applications for a Public Grant from the Citizens' Election Fund

1. "Re-elect Clemens 08" Charles Clemons

It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana to approve the grant application for "Re-elect Clemens 08." So voted.

2. "Re-Elect Ayala 2008" Andres Ayala

It was moved by Commissioner Gerratana and seconded by Commissioner Bozzuto to approve the grant application for "Re-Elect Ayala 2008." So voted.

3. "Jeanne Stevens for General Assembly" Jeanne Stevens

It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana to approve the grant application for "Jeanne Stevens for General Assembly." So voted.

4. "Friends of Chris Wright," Christopher Wright

It was moved by Commissioner Gerratana and seconded by Commissioner Bozzuto to approve the grant application for "Friends of Chris Wright." So voted.

5. "Abe Giles '08," Abraham Giles
It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana to approve the grant application for "Abe Giles '08." So voted.
6. "Clif Thompson '08," Clifton Thompson
It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana to continue without prejudice the application for "Clif Thompson '08." So voted.
7. "Elect Johnson '08," Susan Johnson
It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana to approve the grant application for "Elect Johnson '08." So voted.
8. "Kathy Hale for South Windsor" Kathy Hale
It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana to continue without prejudice the grant application for "Kathy Hale for South Windsor." So voted.
9. "Carlos Silva for State Rep. '08" Carlos Silva
It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to continue without prejudice the grant application for "Carlos Silva for State Rep." So voted.
10. "Friends of Tom Kehoe," Thomas Kehoe
It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana to approve the grant application for "Friends of Tom Kehoe." So voted.
11. "Ackert for the 8th" Tim Ackert
It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana to approve the grant application for "Ackert for the 8th." So voted.
12. "Tim Legeyt for the 17th District" Tim Legeyt
It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana to approve the grant application for "Tim Legeyt for the 17th District." So voted.
13. "Re-Elect Genga 2008" Henry Genga
It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana to continue without prejudice the grant application for "Re-Elect Genga 2008." So voted.
14. "Hachey 2008" Joseph Hachey
It was moved by Commissioner Gerratana and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to approve the grant application for "Hachey 2008." So voted.

15. "Friends of George Colli" George Colli
It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana to continue without prejudice the grant application for "Friends of George Colli." So voted.
16. "Martinez for State Rep. 2008" Lydia Martinez
It was moved by Commissioner Gerratana and seconded by Commissioner Bozzuto to continue without prejudice the grant application for "Martinez for State Rep. 2008." So voted.
17. "Friends of Keely 2008" Robert Keely
It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Bozzuto to approve the grant application for "Friends of Keely 2008." So voted.
18. "Diana Urban 2008" Diana Urban
It was moved by Commissioner Gerratana and seconded by Commissioner Bozzuto to approve the grant application for "Diana Urban 2008." So voted.
19. "Backer '08" Terry Backer
It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to continue without prejudice the grant application for "Backer '08." So voted.

IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Isaac Ruiz, Chester
File No. 2007-356
Proposed Findings and Conclusions
Investigator: Atty. Shannon Bergquist
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Attorney Andrews summarized the above referenced complaint and the proposed Findings and Conclusions recommending that the matter be dismissed.

It was moved by Commissioner Gerratana and seconded by Commissioner Bozzuto to adopt the proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2007-356. 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.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Judy Aron, West Hartford
File No. 2008-074
Proposed Findings and Conclusions
Investigator: Atty. Shannon Bergquist
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Attorney Andrews summarized the above referenced complaint and the proposed Findings and Conclusions recommending that the matter be dismissed.

It was moved by Commissioner Gerratana and seconded by Commissioner Bozzuto to adopt the proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2008-074. 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.

V. Referral by Elections Officer/Audit and Disclosure Unit: Delinquent Filer

Find Reason to Believe Recommendations & Designation of Hearing Officer

File No. 2007-240NF

Hartford Democratic Town Committee

Respondent: Paul Ritter, Treasurer

Investigator: Attorney Shannon Bergquist

Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Recommendation: Find Reason to Believe that Respondent Paul Ritter Violated Connecticut General Statutes §§9-608 and 9-623.

It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins that the Commission finds reason to believe that the Respondent in the above captioned case violated the statutes indicated and a hearing officer be designated for these matters. So voted. Chairman Cashman designated Attorney Jeffrey Garfield as Hearing Officer for File No. 2007-240NF.

VI. Consideration of Proposed Declaratory Ruling- Citizens' Election Program: Use of Nominating Petitions for Grant Eligibility

Ms. Rotman indicated the comment period has closed and that we have received a favorable letter from Andy Sauer, Executive Director of Common Cause urging adoption of the declaratory ruling. The ruling clarifies that a minor party candidate who already has ballot status, can still be affiliated with the minor party and use a nominating petition to gather signatures to qualify for a grant. The ruling responds to questions concerning a minor party candidate whose party in the previous election garnered between one percent (1%) and ten percent (10%) of the total votes cast in such election. The ruling clarifies that the nominating petitions being distributed by the Secretary of the State will be counted for the purpose of grant qualification.

It was moved by Commissioner Gerratana and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to approve Declaratory Ruling 2008-01. Declaratory ruling 2008-01 is adopted. So voted.

VII. Agency Unit Reports

Mr. Garfield commented that with the Commissions action today with the grant applications we have issued grants to a total of fifty three (53) candidates. That constitutes more than twenty five (25) percent of candidates that have thus far signified their intent to participate in the Citizens' Election Program. That is a

positive indication. Mr. Garfield also shared some compelling statistics from the Information Technology Unit and Audit Unit who were here until midnight on the eve of the filing date to support the eCRIS system, and that it was an unqualified success. We had two hundred seventy five (275) committees that used the electronic filing system to file their July 10, 2008 reports. The breakdown is significant to show who is using the eCRIS system. The candidate committees and exploratory committees comprise fifty one percent (51) of all of the electronically filed reports. So candidates appear to like the system and are using it. Twenty seven percent (27) were party and town committees and PAC's number twenty two (22) percent of the total eCRIS filing. eCRIS trainings will now continue now that IT is free to move on to other projects having successfully supported the filing date. The IT Unit has also successfully developed a tracking system in house to follow the progress of candidate status and reporting. We have also acquired another application that is being used to record legal questions that have come in so that we provide consistent responses as well as document who is calling in for legal compliance. We are also looking into the possibility of providing online training for town committees as well as candidates who intend to participate in the program and for those who do not intend on participating. Commissioner Gerratana remarked she was very pleased to be informed of this progress because the public financing system is holding up and that our agency is doing the follow-up work to ensure the integrity of the system. Mr. Garfield stated we are rapidly reaching our deadline for grant applications of candidates involved in the primary. The deadline is Friday, July 18, 2008. There will probably be a need for another meeting for applications in the primary that were unable to be processed for the Wednesday, July 23, 2008 meeting. We are keeping on pace with the applications coming in due to the extremely hard work of the Audit and Public Financing Unit and that the candidates are being paid on time as well. Mr. Garfield thanked Jean Love, Hy Ly and Kathleen Skomro in the Fiscal, Administrative and Grant Payments Unit for their hard work.

Ms. Rotman stressed the importance of getting the grant applications in on time because the typical one week turnaround will be now only be one day to correct any discrepancies due to the grant deadlines. There will be no primary grant if these discrepancies are not corrected prior to the deadline. Ms. Rotman informed the Commission of the proactive approach the agency is taking. The Election Officers have reached out and called every single Town Clerk or Registrar for information on primaries so that we have accurate information. Candidates have also been called so they are aware they need to opt in or out of the program. Citizens' Election Program trainings are continuing and the schedule can be viewed on the State Elections Enforcement Commission website.

Ms. Kulmacz indicated there are presently additional grant applications that have been submitted. Ms. Kulmacz asked Nancy Staniewicz, Elections Officer to give a brief report on the current volume of work in maintaining the disclosure and repository functions at the agency.

Ms. Staniewicz thanked Evelyn Gratacos, Yamilet Santiago and Ryan Preble for their hard work in maintaining the repository function. Ms. Staniewicz informed the Commission that they have processed over four hundred thirty registrations

(430) and amendments this year. They are also maintaining the candidate tracking system and current candidates and PAC's that are listed on the State Elections Enforcement Commission website. Ms. Staniewicz also indicated most filings are scanned and up on the system with a few days. The work has been voluminous but due to the progressive approach we have taken and the hard work of the staff, we have been able to make great strides in scanning the information provided to us so that it is available for public viewing in a timely manner. Mr. Garfield expressed his thanks to Ms. Staniewicz for her invaluable experience and assistance towards the successful operation to the entire agency.

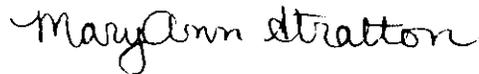
Ms. Andrews indicated we have been hard at work assisting the Attorney General regarding the Green Party lawsuit. The Attorney General has filed a motion for summary judgment this week and that we have an oral argument date in October 2008. Additional information should follow in the next packet provided to the Commission.

VIII. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Gerratana and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins at 10:12 A.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted. Unless otherwise indicated, all votes of the Commission were unanimous.

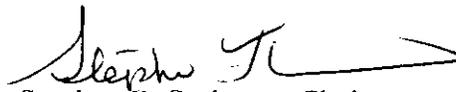
The next meeting will be a Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, July 23, 2008 at 4:00 P.M., 5th Floor Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,



MaryAnn Stratton
Acting Clerk of the Commission

Adopted this 23rd day of July, 2008, at Hartford, Connecticut.



Stephen F. Cashman, Chairman
By Order of the Commission