MINUTES OF THE
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
5th Floor Conference Room
January 14, 2009
9:00 A.M.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Cashman called the meeting to order at 9:17 A.M. Commissioners Jenkins, Gerratana and Bozzuto were also present. Commissioner Dolan was present via teleconference. Agency staff were also present.

II. Approval of the Minutes

A. Approval of the Minutes of the December 17, 2008 Regular Meeting

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Bozzuto to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2008 Regular Meeting. So voted.

B. Approval of the Minutes of the December 18, 2008 Special Emergency Teleconference Meeting

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Bozzuto to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2008 Special Emergency Meeting. So voted.

III. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Shirley Surgeon, Hartford
File No. 2007-336
Proposed Consent Agreement and Order
Respondent: Ben Dowdell
Investigator: Attorney Marc Crayton
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Attorney Andrews summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Consent Agreement and Order. Respondent Dowdell has signed the agreement and paid the $200.00 civil penalty. She recommended adoption of the proposed agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to adopt the proposed Consent Agreement and Order in File No. 2007-336. 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 Jermaine Matheson, Bloomfield
File No. 2007-408
Request to Withdraw Complaint
Investigator: Gilberto Oyola, Lead Legal Investigator
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Attorney Andrews summarized the above referenced complaint and the complainant's request to withdraw the complaint. She had no objection to the withdrawal.

In was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana to permit the complainant withdrawal of his complaint in File No. 2007-408. So voted. The complaint is withdrawn.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Marie G. Hamilton, Hartford
File No. 2008-093
Proposed Consent Agreement and Order
Respondent: David Canuel
Investigator: Gilberto Oyola and Charles Urso, Lead Legal Investigators
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Attorney Andrews summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Consent Agreement and Order with respect to Respondent Canuel. Respondent Canuel has a meeting with his attorney at 4:30 P.M. this afternoon to sign the agreement. She recommended adoption of the proposed agreement contingent upon receipt of the above mentioned agreement and penalty within seven days.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana to adopt the proposed Consent Agreement and Order in File No. 2008-093, contingent upon receipt of the original agreement and penalty within seven days. 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 Nicholas Paonessa, New Britain
File No. 2008-097
Proposed Consent Agreement and Order
Respondent: Cheryl Blogoslawski
Investigator: Attorney Marc Crayton
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Attorney Andrews summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Consent Agreement and Order. Respondent Blogoslawski has signed the agreement and paid the $50.00 civil penalty. She recommended adoption of the proposed agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to adopt the proposed Consent Agreement and Order in File No. 2008-097. So voted. A copy of the Consent Agreement and Order is attached and incorporated herein as part of these minutes.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Robert Kalechman, Simsbury
File No. 2008-156
Proposed Findings and Conclusions
Investigator: Attorney William Smith
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 Jenkins to adopt the proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2008-156. So voted. 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 Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins at 9:28 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 item V. (five) on the agenda. So voted. Commissioners Cashman, Jenkins, Gerratana and Bozzuto were present. Commissioner Dolan present via teleconference. Staff members present were Mr. Garfield, Ms. Andrews, Mr. Smith, Mr. Crayton, Ms. Stratton, Ms. Blackburn, Ms. Love, Ms. Rotman, Ms. Kief, Ms. Sadowski, Mr. Foley, Mr. Talbert-Slagle, Mr.Urso, Ms. Adams, Ms. Lagueux and Mr. Gebo and Assistant Attorney General Perry Zinn- Rothorn was invited into executive session by the Commission.

It was moved by Commissioner Gerratana and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins at 9:42 A.M. to return to public session. So voted.

Returning to Public Session the Commission took the following action:

V. Litigation

Green Party v. Garfield

Gonzalez v. State Elections Enforcement Commission

No votes were taken.

It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins at 9:42 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, Jenkins, Gerratana and Bozzuto were present. Commissioner Dolan present via teleconference. Staff members present were Mr. Garfield, Ms. Andrews, Mr. Smith, Mr. Crayton, Ms. Stratton, Ms. Blackburn, Ms. Love, Ms. Rotman,

Ms. Kief, Ms. Sadowski, Mr. Foley, Mr. Talbert-Slagle, Mr.Urso, Ms. Adams, Ms. Laguex and Mr. Gebo.

It was moved by Commissioner Dolan and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins at 10:19 A.M. to return to public session. So voted.

Returning to Public Session the Commission took the following action:

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Michael P. Lawlor, East Haven
File No. 2008-124
Investigator: Attorney William Smith and Charles Urso, Lead Legal Investigator
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

This matter was continued.

7. In the Matter of a Complaint by Aleta Looker, Cheshire
File No. 2008-125
Investigator: Attorney Marc Crayton
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

This matter was continued.

8. In the Matter of a Complaint by John McNamara, New Britain
File No. 2008-134
Investigator: Attorney Shannon Bergquist
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

This matter was continued.

9. In the Matter of a Complaint by Kenneth Johnson and Craig Yarde, Bristol
File No. 2008-145
Investigator: Attorney William Smith
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 Jenkins to adopt the proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2008-145. So voted. A copy of the Findings and Conclusions is attached and incorporated herein as part of these minutes.

IV. Referrals by Elections Officer/Audit and Disclosure Unit for Failure to File Candidate Committee Registration

Find Reason to Believe Recommendations & Designation of Hearing Officer

10. File No. 2008-089CNF
Respondent: Charles Pia
Investigator: Attorney William Smith
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Recommendation: Find Reason to Believe that Respondent Charles Pia Violated Connecticut General Statutes §9-602, §9-604 and §9-623

It was moved by Commissioner Gerratana and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins that the Commission finds reason to believe that Respondent Charles Pia violated Connecticut General Statutes §9-602, §9-604 and §9-623 and that a Hearing Officer be designated for this matter. So voted. Chairman Cashman designated Attorney Garfield as Hearing Officer for File No. 2008-089CNF.

11. File No. 2008-117NF
20th District Council
Respondent: Anthony J. Ford
Investigator: Attorney William Smith
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Recommendation: Find Reason to Believe that Respondent Anthony J. Ford Violated Connecticut General Statutes §9-608 and §9-623

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Bozzuto that the Commission finds reason to believe that Respondent Anthony Ford violated Connecticut General Statutes §9-608 and §9-623 and that a Hearing Officer be designated for this matter. So voted. Chairman Cashman designated himself as Hearing Officer for File No. 2008-117NF.

VI. Legislation

Mr. Garfield notified the Commission that the Governor's second budget deficit mitigation plan would be voted on today by both chambers.

Mr. Garfield expressed his appreciation to the Appropriations Committee for their invitation to discuss the impact of the Governor's proposed plan on the Citizens' Election Program and their acceptance of his proposed alternative recommendation on returning funds from the Citizen's Election Program to aid the Governor's request for deficit reduction.

Mr. Garfield addressed previously proposed Legislative recommendations with the Commission and complimented Attorney James Talbert-Slagle for his work on the proposed draft bill concerning legal defense funds but has decided that he will not pursue this bill.

Ms. Rotman discussed changes with the Commission on the proposed legislation for the Citizen's Election Program.

It was moved by Commissioner Gerratana and seconded by Commissioner Bozzuto to approve the submission of an Act Concerning the Citizens' Election Program. So voted.

VII. Administrative Reports

Mr. Garfield informed the Commission that the January 12, 2009 eCRIS filings went well with two hundred and ninety six filers (296) using the electronic system.

The Citizens' Election Fund is receiving surplus funds from candidates that participated in the program.

Litigation preparation continues for the March 11, 2009 and March 12, 2009 hearings.

VIII. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana at 11:34 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 February 11, 2009 at 9:00 A.M., in the 5th Floor Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

MaryAnn Stratton
Acting Clerk of the Commission

Adopted this 11th day of February, 2009 at Hartford, Connecticut.

Stephen F. Cashman
By Order of the Commission