



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

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MINUTES  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
November 16, 2016  
9:30 A.M.

**I. Call to Order**

Commissioner Castagno was present and called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. Commissioners Ajello, Bramante and Penny were present. Commissioner Stankevicius was present via teleconference. Agency staff was also present.

**II. Approval of the Minutes**

*Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of October 12, 2016*

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to approve the October 12, 2016 minutes by a 5-0-0 vote. So voted.

*Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of October 13, 2016*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to approve the October 13, 2016 minutes by a 5-0-0 vote. So voted.

*Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of October 19, 2016*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to approve the October 19, 2016 minutes by a 5-0-0 vote. So voted.

*Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of October 21, 2016*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to approve the October 21, 2016 minutes by a 5-0-0 vote. So voted.

**III. Administrative Reports**

1. Review of Proposed 2017-2018 Legislative Agenda

**IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations**

**A. Public Session**

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Sheila Hayes, Norwich

File No. 2014-141  
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement  
Respondent: Steven Everett  
Attorney: William B. Smith  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2014-141. 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. 2014-141. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Catherine A. Thomas, Grosvenordale  
File No. 2014-137

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement  
Respondents: John E. French and  
Charles L. Pennewill  
Attorney: William B. Smith  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2014-137. 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. 2014-137. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Alison Heimer, New Haven  
File No. 2013-111D

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement  
Respondent: Tara Esposito  
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns  
Legal Investigators: Gilberto Oyola, Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2013-111D. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2013-111D. So

voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions upon receipt in thirty days.

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)***

4. In re: SEEC Initiated *Ayala for State Rep.*  
File No. 2013-104  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle  
Lead Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

The matter is continued.

5. In re: SEEC Initiated, *Goff for the 34<sup>th</sup> – Audit Findings*  
File No. 2014-011  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle  
Lead Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

The matter is continued.

6. In re: SEEC Initiated, *Dauplaise for Connecticut – Audit Findings*  
File No. 2014-014  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: James M. Talbert Slagle  
Lead Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

The matter is continued.

7. In re: SEEC Initiated, *Andres Ayala 2012 – Audit Findings*  
File No. 2014-055  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle  
Lead Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

The matter is continued.

8. In the Matter of a Complaint by Joel Gonzales, Bridgeport  
File No. 2014-043  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle  
Lead Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

The matter is continued.

9. In the Matter of a Referral by the Andover Registrar of Voters  
File No. 2014-071  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

10. In the Matter of a Complaint by Kaitlyn L. Fydenkevez, West Hartford  
File No. 2016-024A  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2016-024A. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2016-024A. So voted by a vote 4-0-1. Commissioner Bramante recused himself during discussion and abstained from voting. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

11. In the Matter of a Complaint by Kaitlyn L. Fydenkevez, West Hartford  
File No. 2016-024B  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

12. In the Matter of a Complaint by Karen Jackson, Bridgeport  
File No. 2016-042  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns  
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2016-042. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2016-042. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

13. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State  
File No. 2016-043  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

14. In re: Referral by Brian S. Ashbee, Norwich  
File No. 2014-155  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2014-155. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2014-155. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

15. In the Matter of a Complaint by Arleen C. Kline, Farmington  
File Nos. 2014-136, 2014-144 and 2014-149  
Proposed Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: William B. Smith  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaints and Proposed Stipulated Agreement in File Nos. 2014-136, 2014-144 and 2014-149. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Stipulated Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Stipulated Agreement in File Nos. 2014-136, 2014-144 and 2014-149. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Stipulated Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

16. In the Matter of a Complaint by Bruce Suchinski, Bristol  
File No. 2014-143  
Proposed Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: William B. Smith  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint in File No. 2014-143. He recommended that the Commission find that there is a reason to believe that Respondent Gregg G. Cogswell violated General Statutes under the jurisdiction of the Commission and that the Chair of the Commission appoint a hearing officer for a hearing on the matter in File No. 2014-143.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to find that there is a reason to believe that Respondent Gregg G. Cogswell violated General Statutes in File No. 2014-143. Commissioner Ajello has been appointed as hearing officer on the matter. So voted by a vote 5-0-0.

17. In the Matter of a Complaint by Edward Schwing, Haddam  
File No. 2015-177

Proposed Recommendation of Counsel

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

The matter is continued.

18. Recommendation of Counsel: Necessary to Investigate Determination  
pursuant to General Statutes §9-7a, as amended by Public Act 11-48 §300

Attorney Smith summarized the Recommendation of Counsel dated November 3, 2016 and requested that thirteen (13) matters be moved to investigate.

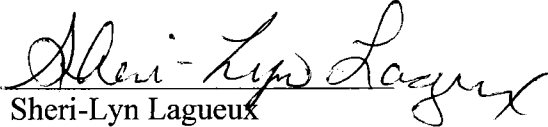
It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to twelve (12) complaints File No.:2016-080, 2016-081, 2016-082, 2016-083, 2016-084, 2016-085, 2016-086, 2016-087, 2016-088, 2016-089, 2016-090, and 2016-091. So approved by the Commission, 5-0-0.

## ***VI. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session***

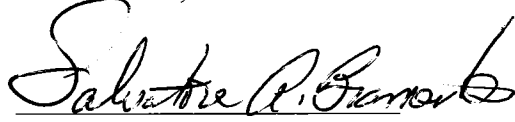
**VII. Adjournment**

It was moved by Commissioner Stankevicius and seconded by Commissioner Ajello at 4:28 P.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted. Unless otherwise indicated, all votes of the Commission were unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sheri-Lyn Lagueux  
Clerk of the Commission

Adopted this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2016 at Hartford, Connecticut.

  
Salvatore Bramante  
By Order of the Commission

***The next regular scheduled meeting is December 14, 2016 at 9:30 A.M. in the 5th Floor Conference room.***