



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

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MINUTES  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
September 19, 2018  
9:30 A.M.

**I. Call to Order**

Commissioner Bramante was present and called the meeting to order at 9:32 A.M.. Commissioner Ajello was present and Commissioner Cascudo were present via teleconference.

Commissioner Bramante moved matter IV.A.01. the Hearing Officer Report to executive session. Commissioner Bramante also moved matters IV.B. 03, 05, & 08 File No. 2016-086, File No. 2017-041 and File No. 2016-088 into Executive Session

**II. Approval of the Minutes**

*Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of August 15, 2018*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the August 15, 2018 minutes by a 3-0-0 vote. So voted.

*Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of August 22, 2018*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the August 22, 2018 minutes by a 2-0-1 vote. Commissioner Bramante abstained. So voted.

*Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of August 29, 2018*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the August 29, 2018 minutes by a 2-0-1 vote. Commissioner Bramante abstained. So voted.

*Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of September 6, 2018*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the August 22, 2018 minutes by a 2-0-1 vote. Commissioner Bramante abstained. So voted.

*Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of September 12, 2018*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the August 22, 2018 minutes by a 3-0-0 vote. So voted.

**III. *Administrative Reports***

Executive Director and General Counsel Michael J. Brandi gave the Commission an update on the 2018 Citizens' Election Program. At this point 285 public grants have been approved and additional 45 applications are pending with a few more applications expected. These are record setting numbers, with a comparison of having approved 287 grants for the entire grant cycle in 2014. Executive Director Brandi extended his appreciation to the staff for their hard work through an intensely busy season.

On personnel updates, Executive Director Brandi extended his congratulations to Evelyn Gratacos on her retirement. The agency is looking to refill her paralegal position as soon as possible in hopes of continuing to provide the needed support to the enforcement unit. Overall the agency has four open positions: a Staff Attorney, an Elections Officer, a Clerk Typist, a Paralegal. The Elections Officer and Clerk Typist are being left vacant to help the agency stay under budget, the Staff Attorney is with the union and the Paralegal is in the process of being filled.

Director Brandi advised that staff are preparing materials for the agency's annual budget submissions.

**IV. *Pending Complaints and Investigations***

**A. *Hearing Officer Report***

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Bruce Suchinski

Proposed Final Decision

Respondents:

Michael Cronin

Gregg Cogswell

Hearing Officer:

Michael Ajello

Prosecutors:

James Talbert Slagle,

William B. Smith

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2018-019. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2018-019. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

*B. Public Session*

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Complaint of Mary Ann Orzell, Morris  
File No. 2018-019  
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement  
Respondents: Erica Dorsett-Mathews  
Thomas Weik  
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. 2018-019. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2018-019. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

2. *In re. Audit of Dru Georgiadis 2016*  
File Nos. 2017-089  
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement  
Respondent: Dru Georgiadis  
Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney James Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2017-089A and 2017-089B. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2017-089A and 2017-089B. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

3. In the Matter of Complaint by Joseph R. Romano, Jr., Branford  
File No. 2016-086  
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement  
Respondent: Dianna J. Kulmacz  
Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Returning from Executive Session, Attorney James Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2016-086. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement upon receipt in 10 days.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2016-086 upon receipt in 10 days. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

4. *In re. Audit of Berger 2012*

File No. 2014-050

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent:

James J. Mathews

Attorney:

James M. Talbert-Slagle

Lead Legal Investigator:

Charlie Urso

Attorney James Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2014-050. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2014-050. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

5. *In re. Audit of Laura Devlin for State Representative*

File No. 2017-041

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondents:

Loretta J. Chory and

Laura M. Devlin

Attorney:

James M. Talbert-Slagle

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Returning from Executive Session, Attorney James Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2017-041. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2017-041. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

6. *In re. Audit of Committee to Elect Joe Doering*

File No. 2016-001

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent:

J. Christopher Kervick

Attorney:

James M. Talbert-Slagle

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

The matter is marked off.

7. In the Matter of a Complaint by Martin M. Looney, New Haven

File No. 2016-082  
Proposed Findings & Conclusions  
Respondent:

Connecticut Business &  
Industry Association  
James M. Talbert-Slagle  
Scott Branfuhr

Attorney:  
Legal Investigator:

Attorney James Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2016-082. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2016-082. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

8. In the Matter of a Complaint by Michael Nicastro, Bristol  
File No. 2016-088

Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Respondent:

Gregg Cogswell

Attorney:

James M. Talbert-Slagle

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney James Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2016-088. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2016-088. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

9. In the Matter of a Referral by the Greenwich Registrars of Voters  
File No. 2018-004

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Attorney:

Ryan M. Burns

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2018-004. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2018-004. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

10. In the Matter of a Complaint by Daniel H. Bley, Westport  
File No. 2018-045

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondents: Daniel Bley and  
Kari Bley  
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2018-045. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2018-045. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

11. In the Matter of a Complaint by Jeffrey Caggiano, Bristol  
File No. 2018-031

Proposed Findings & Conclusions / Consent Order & Agreement  
Respondents: Kevin Fuller and  
Krystal Meyers  
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns  
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Ryan Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2018-031. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2018-031. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

***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 Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo at 9:58 A.M. to proceed into Executive Session pursuant to General Statutes §§ 1-200(6)(B) and (E), and 1-210(b)(1),(3),(4),(10) to discuss strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims and exempt records. So voted.

Commissioners Bramante and Ajello were present. Commissioner Cascudo, was present via teleconference. Staff members present were Joshua Foley, William B. Smith, James Talbert-Slagle, Ryan M. Burns, Kevin M. Ahern, Gilberto Oyola, Alfonso Vazquez, Doug Frost, Shannon Kief, Michael J. Brandi and Sarah Clark.

Returning to public session at 11:12 A.M. the Commission took the following action:

12. 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 September 10, 2018 and requested that eleven (11) matters be moved to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to eleven (11) complaints File Nos.: 2018-063, 2018-064, 2018-065, 2018-066, 2018-067, 2018-068, 2018-069, 2018-070, 2018-071, 2018-072 and 2018-073. So approved by the Commission 3-0-0. So voted.

13. In the Matter of a Complaint by William Shortell, New Britain  
File No. 2017-055

Proposed Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Lead Legal Investigator:

Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued.

14. In the Matter of a Complaint by Thomas Brummett, Canterbury  
File No. 2018-001

Proposed Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Lead Legal Investigator:

Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued.

15. In the Matter of a Complaint by Gary Bolles and Mike Camillo, Newington  
File No. 2018-052

Proposed Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

The matter is continued.

16. In the Matter of a Complaint by Indra K. Nooyi, Self-Report  
File No. 2018-057

Proposed Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

17. In The Matter of a Complaint by Bruce Wandelmaier, Self-Report  
File No. 2018-063  
Proposed Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: William B. Smith  
Legal Investigator: Alfonso Vazquez

The matter is continued.

18. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State  
File No. 2016-038  
Proposed Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

19. In the Matter of a Complaint by Arnold Skretta, Hartford  
File No. 2014-114  
Proposed Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns

The matter is continued.

20. In re: Audit of Teresa Davidson for the 128<sup>th</sup>  
File No. 2016-017  
Proposed Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

21. *In re*. SEEC Initiated Contributions to *John Scott 2016*  
SEEC File No. 2016-035  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

## ***VI. Consideration of Application for Public Grants from the Citizens' Election Fund***

### ***A. New Applications***



1. "Jose Goncalves for State Representative," Jose Goncalves

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to continue without prejudice the grant application for "Jose Goncalves for State Representative," Jose Goncalves. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

2. "Cathy for CT Senate 2018," Catherine De Carli

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to continue without prejudice the grant application for "Cathy for CT Senate 2018," Catherine De Carli. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

3. "Ferrucci III for 71<sup>st</sup>," Stephen Ferrucci

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to continue without prejudice the grant application for "Ferrucci III for 71<sup>st</sup>," Stephen Ferrucci. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

4. "Friends of Chris Perone," Chris Perone

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to continue without prejudice the grant application for "Friends of Chris Perone," Chris Perone. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

5. "Make Way for State Rep Holloway 2018," Ernestine Holloway

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to continue without prejudice the grant application for "Make Way for State Rep Holloway 2018," Ernestine Holloway. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

6. "Mase for State Representative 86<sup>th</sup> District," Vincent Mase

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to continue without prejudice the grant application for "Mase for State Representative 86<sup>th</sup> District," Vincent Mase. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

7. "R 96," Eric Mastroianni

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to continue without prejudice the grant application for "R 96," Eric Mastroianni. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

8. "Roeun 2018," Veasna Roeun

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to continue without prejudice the grant application for "Roeun 2018," Veasna Roeun. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

9. "Santiago for State Representative," Hilda Santiago

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for "Santiago for State Representative," Hilda Santiago. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

10. "Tercyak 2018," Peter Tercyak

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to continue without prejudice the grant application for "Tercyak 2018," Peter Tercyak. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

11. "Tim Walczak for Simsbury," Tim Walczak

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to continue without prejudice the grant application for "Tim Walczak for Simsbury," Tim Walczak. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

***B. Continuation of prior applications awaiting additional information to qualify for a grant***

1. "Bosak for Senate," Gerald Bosak

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for "Bosak for Senate," Gerald Bosak. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

2. "Hwang4Senate," Anthony Hwang

No action taken.

3. "Brian for the 45<sup>th</sup>," Brian Lanoue

No action taken.

4. "Siegrist 2018," Robert Siegrist

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for "Siegrist 2018," Robert Siegrist. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

5. "Steinberg for State Rep," Jonathan Steinberg

No action taken.

6. "Abercrombie for State Rep.," Catherine Abercrombie

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for "Bosak for Senate," Gerald Bosak. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

7. "Ziogas 18," Christopher Ziogas

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for "Ziogas 18," Christopher Ziogas. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

8. "Elect DePalma 116th," Richard DePalma

No action taken.

9. "Perrier 2018," John Perrier

No action taken.

10. "Boyd 2018," Pat Boyd

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for "Boyd 2018," Pat Boyd. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

11. "Andrew Lanciatto for State Representative," Andrew Lanciatto

No action taken.

12. "Henrie for 61<sup>st</sup>," John Henrie

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for "Henrie for 61<sup>st</sup>," John Henrie. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

13. "Laura Bush for the 56<sup>th</sup>," Laura Bush

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for "Laura Bush for the 56<sup>th</sup>," Laura Bush. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

14. "Porter 2018," Robyn Porter

No action taken.

15. "Butler 2018," Larry Butler

No action taken.

16. "delacruz 2018," Joseph de la Cruz

No action taken.

17. "Jesse 2018," Jesse MacLachlan

No action taken.

18. "Josh for State Representative," Joshua Elliott

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for "Josh for State Representative," Joshua Elliott. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

19. "Lemar2018," Roland Lemar

No action taken.

20. "Rebekah for Newtown," Rebekah Harriman-Stites

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for "Rebekah for Newtown," Rebekah Harriman-Stites. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

21. "Arthur O'Neill State Representative," Arthur O'Neill

No action taken.

22. "Cava 2018," Greg Cava

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for "Cava 2018," Greg Cava. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

23. "Charamut for Senator," Edward Charamut

No action taken.

24. "Committee to Elect Alphonse Paolillo," Alphonse Paolillo

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for "Committee to Elect Alphonse Paolillo," Alphonse Paolillo. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

25. "Dennis Leadership," Dennis Milanovich

No action taken.

26. "Fonfara 2018," John Fonfara

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for "Fonfara 2018," John Fonfara. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

27. "James Krochko for 131," James Krochko

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for "James Krochko for 131," James Krochko. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

28. "Kelly for Senate 2018," Kevin Kelly

No action taken.

29. "Liz for the 42<sup>nd</sup>," Elizabeth Schwebel

No action taken.

30. "Rich Deecken for State Senate 2018," Rich Deecken

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for "Rich Deecken for State Senate 2018," Rich Deecken. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

31. "Rogers 2018," Ryan Rogers

No action taken.

32. "Rosario 2018," Christopher Rosario

No action taken.

33. "Vote Vail," Kurt Vail

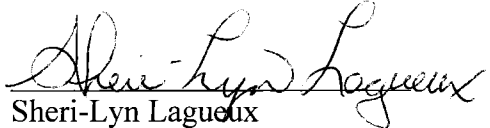
No action taken.

***VII. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session***

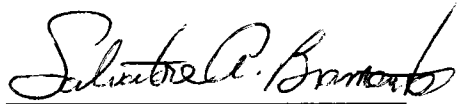
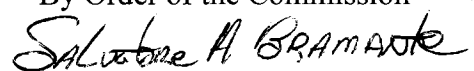
**VIII. Adjournment**

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo at 11:37 A.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted. Unless otherwise indicated, all votes of the Commission were unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sheri-Lyn Lagoux  
Clerk of the Commission

Adopted this 17<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2018 at Hartford, Connecticut.

  
By Order of the Commission *Vice*  


***The next regular scheduled meeting is September 26, 2018 at 3:30 P.M. in the 5th Floor Conference room.***