



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

DRAFT MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
5th Floor Conference Room
October 17, 2018
9:30 A.M.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of September 19, 2018

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the minutes of September 19, 2018. So voted 3-0-1. Commissioner Penny abstained.

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of September 26, 2018

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the minutes of September 26, 2018. So voted 4-0-0.

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of October 3, 2018

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the minutes of October 3, 2018. So voted 4-0-0.

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of October 11, 2018

The matter was tabled to October 19, 2018.

III. Administrative Reports

Executive Director Brandi noted that we are reaching the conclusion of the 2018 grant application season with more than 300 grant applications being approved to date.

Executive Director Brandi also added that the commission consider approving a meeting schedule for 2019 that includes 2 regular meetings per month. While two meetings may not always be necessary, the option of two regular meetings will allow

the commission the most flexibility with managing the one year limit the staff have to close a newly filed complaint.

Executive Director Brandi reported that there have already been 80 complaints filed in 2018 and more are expected as the 2018 general election comes and goes. Staff have been working hard to monitor and move the cases falling under this one year provision, and are currently focused on those complaints which came in during the first quarter of 2018.

Commissioners suggested that the SEEC suggest a legislative change to allow for more time when a case goes to hearing.

IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

1. *In re. Audit of Robbins for Representative*

File No. 2014-051

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent:

John R. Hall

Attorney:

James Talbert-Slagle

Lead Legal Investigator:

Charlie Urso

Attorney James Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2014-051. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement upon receipt within 10 days.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2014-051 upon receipt in 10 days. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

2. *In re. Audit of Hall 138*

File No. 2015-142

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent:

Richard Kovacs

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. 2015-142. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2015-142. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

3. In the Matter of Complaint by Noreen Clough, East Haven

File No. 2016-095

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent:	Linda Hennessey
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. 2016-095. 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. 2016-095. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

4. *In re. Audit of Colon for State Representative*

File No. 2015-143

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent:	Eugene R. Klimaszewski
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. 2015-143. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2015-143. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Danelle Feeley, East Haven

File No. 2015-122

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent:	Jan Lougal
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. 2015-122. 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. 2015-122. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Arnold Skretta, Hartford
File No. 2014-114A
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent: Larry J. Lawrence
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns

The matter was moved to executive session as item no. 11. Returning from executive session the Commission took the following action:

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2014-114A. 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. 2014-114A. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

7. In the Matter of a Complaint by Indra K. Nooyi (Self Report), Greenwich
File No. 2018-057
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent: Indra K. Nooyi
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is marked off.

8. In the Matter of a Complaint by Bruce Wandelmaier (Self Report), Brookfield
File No. 2018-063
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent: Bruce Wandelmaier
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Alfonso Vazquez

The matter is marked off.

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

Proposed Request for Reason to Believe
Respondents:

Loreen G. Hegan, Geoff
Luxenberg and Michael
Farina
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator:

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Request for Reason to Believe in File No. 2018-001. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Request for Reason to Believe.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the Reason to Believe in File No. 2018-001. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. Commissioner Ajello is appointed as hearing officer.

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 Penny at 10:05 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.

Commissioner Bramante was present. Commissioners Penny and Ajello were also present. Commissioner Cascudo was present via teleconference. Staff members present were Kevin M. Ahern, Ryan M. Burns, James Talbert-Slagle, William B. Smith, Gilberto Oyola, Scott Branfuhr, Alfonso Vazquez, Lindsey Leung, Joshua Foley, Douglas Frost, Linda Waterman, Shannon Kief, Michael J. Brandi, Sarah Clark and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

Returning to public session at 12:35 P.M. the Commission took the following action:

1. 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 October 10, 2018 and requested that thirteen (13) matters be moved to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to thirteen (13) complaints File Nos.: 2018-074, 2018-075, 2018-076, 2018-077, 2018-078, 2018-079, 2018-080, 2018-081, 2018-082, 2018-083, 2018-084, 2018-085 and 2018-086. So approved by the Commission 4-0-0. So voted.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Gary Bolles and Mike Camillo, Newington File No. 2018-052
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: William B. Smith

The matter is continued.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Mary L. Kalencik, Brooklyn File No. 2017-068

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Lead Legal Investigator:

Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued.

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

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Lead Legal Investigator:

Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued.

5. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State
File No. 2016-038

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Kevin M. Ahern

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

6. In the Matter of a Referral by Raquel Calderon, Hartford
File No. 2018-064

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. 2018-064. 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. 2018-064. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

7. In the Matter of a Referral by Preston Democratic Registrar of Voters
File No. 2018-054

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Kevin M. Ahern

Legal Investigators:

Scott Branfuhr and

Alfonso Vazquez

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2018-054. 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. 2018-054. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

8. In the Matter of a SEEC Initiated Investigation of the Steve Obsitnik for Connecticut Committee and the Fix CT, Inc. Committee
File Nos. 2018-050 & 2018-051

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Ryan M. Burns and
William B. Smith

Legal Investigators:

Gilberto Oyola, Scott
Branfuhr & Alfonso Vazquez

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and requested authorization to issue an investigatory subpoena in File No. 2018-051.

Pursuant to General Statutes §9-7b and §9-7b-28 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the Commission authorizes counsel to issue an investigatory subpoena to Richard Foley to provide testimony and evidence relevant to the investigation of issues raised in the investigation of In Re: Commission Initiated Investigation into Solicitations and Contributions received by “Steve Obsitnik for Connecticut” and “Steve Obsitnik for Governor,” File No. 2018-051.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to authorize an investigatory subpoena in File No. 2018-051. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2018-050.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement and collection of \$8,000.00 civil penalties assessed herein be suspended pending Respondent Grants continued cooperation in File No. 2018-050 pending receipt of all settlement documents including settlement check within 10 days of this order. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

9. In the Matter of a Complaint by Richard D. Ireland, Plainville
File No. 2018-020

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Ryan M. Burns

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

10. Recommendation of Counsel: Discussion of Candidate Committee Validation Memoranda

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

A. New Applications

1. "Vote Kerouac," A.J. Kerouac

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application for "Vote Kerouac," A.J. Kerouac. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

2. "Lockwood for Norwich," Andrew Lockwood

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for "Lockwood for Norwich," Andrew Lockwood. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

3. "R 92," Joshua Rose

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application for "R 92," Joshua Rose. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

B. Continuation of Prior Applications Awaiting Additional Information to Qualify for a Grant

1. "Tim Walczak for Simsbury," Tim Walczak

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for "Tim Walczak for Simsbury," Tim Walczak. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

2. "Friends of Chris Perone," Chris Perone

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for "Friends of Chris Perone," Chris Perone. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

3. "Kurt for CT," William Miller

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Penny to approve the grant application for “Kurt for CT,” William Miller. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

4. “Ray for Rep,” Kennard Ray

No action taken.

C. Release of General Election Grant Monies of Previously Approved Applications

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Penny at 1:29 P.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.

Commissioner Bramante was present. Commissioners Penny and Ajello were also present. Commissioner Cascudo was present via teleconference. Staff members present were Joshua Foley, Ryan M. Burns, James Talbert-Slagle, Marianne Sadowski, Scott Branfuhr, Gilberto Oyola, Alfonso Vazquez, Kevin Ahern, Doug Frost, Sheri-Lyn Lagueux, Sarah Clark, Linda Waterman, Shannon Kief, Michael J. Brandi.

Commissioner Cascudo left the meeting at 1:30 P.M.

Returning to public session at 1:40 P.M. the Commission took the following action:

1. “Attorney Dennis Bradley for State Senate,” Dennis Bradley

The matter is continued.

VII. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session

VIII. Adjournment

The commission announced that the meeting for September 18, 2018 is being cancelled.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello at 1:41 P.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted. Unless otherwise indicated, all votes of the Commission were unanimous.

The next regular scheduled meeting is October 19, 2018 at 3:30 P.M. in the 5th Floor Conference room.