



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 2, 2008

I. Call to Order

Chairman Cashman called the telephonic meeting to order at 4:07 P.M. Commissioners Gerratana was present and Commissioners Jenkins, Dolan, and Bozzuto were present via telephone conference call. Agency staff was present.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the June 25, 2008 Regular Meeting

It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2008 regular meeting. So voted.

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

1. "Crisco 2008" Joe Crisco

Director of Public Financing, Beth Rotman noted that present today representing the Crisco Campaign was Attorney Joseph Quinn, attorney for the Senate Democratic Caucus. Chairman Cashman informed Mr. Quinn that he would be given an opportunity to address the Commission following Ms. Rotman's statements.

Ms. Rotman stated that Commission staff is recommending denial of the application of the "Crisco 2008" Campaign because the "Crisco 2008" campaign submitted a flawed affidavit of intent to abide which failed to meet the statutory requirements of §9-703, Connecticut General Statutes.

Attorney Quinn briefly thanked the Commission staff for the courtesy extended to him and Sen. Crisco during the early stages of the application process. He requested that the application be continued without prejudice for a period of three weeks. He stated that Senator Crisco's treasurer has submitted a resignation and the campaign is now without a treasurer. Attorney Quinn requested more time to give the campaign the ability to cure the defects of the application in order to satisfy the requirements. In the alternative, Attorney Quinn indicated that if the State Elections Enforcement Commission were to deny the application that it be

done without prejudice to Senator Crisco's right to either re-apply for grant funds, or withdraw from the Citizens' Election Program.

Ms. Rotman clarified that the Commission staff's recommendation is based on the issue of an improper submission and not the fact that there is no treasurer. Ms. Rotman stated that the Commission has the option of continuing without prejudice as a legal option for the correction of ministerial errors or other curable issues and it is within the discretion of the Commission to make that decision. Commission staff's position is that the application be rejected based on the impropriety of the submission.

Chairperson Cashman asked Attorney Quinn whether Senator Crisco would reapply if the Commission was to reject his application, and Attorney Quinn responded that Senator Crisco would like to reserve his right to do so.

Commissioner Gerratana addressed Attorney Quinn's request stating that she had read this over very carefully and spent considerable time trying to understand whether there were mitigating circumstances and she doesn't believe that there are. Having served in the General Assembly, she knows what is involved in being a candidate and is very much aware that when we apply to be a candidate when we sign a form, an affidavit, it is our name there and we are responsible for it. It is very important that at that point, there has to be an appearance of validity before the electorate that what you are doing by giving your signature is abiding by and taking an oath. More importantly, this is public money. She stated that in this matter, it is that if you are going to take public money and you are taking an oath, that you are the candidate and that you are going to abide by the program that it is very, very important for you to do so. Therefore, with regret, Commissioner Gerratana stated that she felt the Commission had to disapprove the grant application.

Following a discussion by the Commissioners and further statements by Attorney Quinn, it was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Dolan to reject with prejudice the grant application of the "Crisco 2008" Campaign. So voted. The vote was unanimous; the application is rejected with prejudice.

Campaign Disclosure and Audit Unit Director, Dianna Kulmacz, presented the analysis of her unit's review of the grant applications referred to below, and offered her recommendations. After discussion, the Commission took the following action.

2. "Friends of Deb 08" Deb Heinrich
It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana to approve the grant application for "Friends of Deb 08". So voted.
3. "McLachlan for Senate" Michael McLachlan
It was moved by Commissioner Gerratana and seconded by Commissioner Bozzuto to approve the grant application for "McLachlan for Senate". So voted.

4. "Aman for South Windsor 2008," Bill Aman
It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Dolan to approve the grant application for "Aman for South Windsor 2008." So voted.
5. "McGrath 2008," Theresa McGrath
It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Bozzuto to approve the grant application for "McGrath 2008." So voted.
6. "Joan Lewis for State Representative," Joan Lewis
It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Dolan to approve the grant application for "Joan Lewis for State Representative." So voted.
7. "Bruschi for State Rep." Susan Bruschi
It was moved by Commissioner Gerratana and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to approve the grant application for "Bruschi for State Rep." So voted.
8. "Nardello 08," Vicki Nardello
It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Dolan to approve the grant application for "Nardello 08." So voted.
9. "Elect William F.L. Rodgers State Rep. for the 106th" William Rodgers
It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana to approve the grant application for "Elect William F.L. Rodgers State Rep. for the 106th." So voted.
10. "Re-Elect Clemons 08," Charles Donald Clemons
It was moved by Commissioner Gerratana and seconded by Commissioner Bozzuto to continue without prejudice the grant application for "Re-Elect Clemons 08." So voted.
11. "John Hartwell 2008" John Hartwell
It was moved by Commissioner Dolan and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to approve the grant application for "John Hartwell 2008." So voted.
12. "Brenner for 08" Dennis Brenner
It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Dolan to approve the grant application for "Brenner for 08." So voted.
13. "Matt Lesser for State Representative" Matt Lesser
It was moved by Commissioner Gerratana and seconded by Commissioner Bozzuto to approve the grant application for "Matt Lesser for State Representative." So voted.
14. "Grogins for State Representative" Auden Grogins

It was moved by Commissioner Gerratana and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to approve the grant application for “Grogins for State Representative.” So voted.

IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations

Executive Session per C.G.S. §§1-200(6)(B) and (E), and 1-210(b)(3) and (4)

It was moved by Commissioner Gerratana and seconded by Commissioner Bozzuto at 4:30 P.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 1 through 3 on the agenda. So voted. Commissioners Cashman, Jenkins, Gerratana, Dolan and Bozzuto were present. Staff members present were: Mr. Garfield, Mr. Lenge, Ms. Andrews, Mr. Smith, Ms. Bergquist, Mr. Ahern, Ms. Blackburn, Ms. Stratton, Ms. Love, Ms. Nicolescu, Ms. Kief, Ms. Sadowski, Mr. Talbert-Slagle, Ms. Montgomery, Ms. Leibenhaut, Mr. Urso, Ms. Adams, Ms. Zaccagnino and Ms. Kulmacz.

It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana at 4:40 P.M. to return to public session. So voted.

Returning to Public Session, the Commission took the following action:

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Diana Reyes, et al., Hartford
File No. 2007-341
Investigator: Atty. Shannon Bergquist and Gilberto Oyola,
Lead Legal Investigator
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews
- 2.1 In the Matter of a Complaint by Elsie Ortiz and Serafin Mendez, Hartford
File No. 2007-342
Investigator: Shannon Bergquist and Gilberto Oyola,
Lead Legal Investigator
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews
3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Solomon Hall, Hartford
File No. 2007-343
Investigator: Shannon Bergquist and Gilberto Oyola,
Lead Legal Investigator
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Ms Andrews stated the three above referenced complaints have been consolidated.

It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commission Dolan to refer the petition circulator respondents in File Nos. 2007-341, 342 and 344 to the Chief State’s Attorney’s Office for further action and to continue the matter with

respect to the respondent Democratic Registrar of Voters of the City of Hartford. So voted.

V. *Consideration of Draft Declaratory Ruling- Citizens' Election Program: Use of Nominating Petitions for Grant Eligibility*

Ms. Rotman stated that Commission staff has prepared a proposed declaratory ruling relating to the Citizen's Election Program and the use of nominating petitions for grant eligibility. The purpose of the proposed ruling is in response to general questions that have been received and the need to clarify that candidates of minor parties whose candidates in the most recent regular election received more than one percent (1%) but less than ten percent (10%) of the votes cast may utilize nominating petitions for the purpose of qualifying for a public grant. These individuals would otherwise not be able to attempt to qualify for a public grant as a member of a minor party. The majority of minor political activity in this state in the past election falls in that category. There are candidates collecting signatures and looking for guidance from the Commission on whether they can participate in the program.

It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana to initiate the declaratory ruling process and asking for a ten day comment period due to the urgency in the current election cycle. So voted.

VI. *Consideration of whether to Initiate Investigation Executive Session per CGS §§ 9-7b (a) 1-200 (6), (b), (E) and 1-210 (b) (3), (4)*

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana at 4:45 P.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 VI on the agenda. So voted. Commissioners Cashman, Jenkins, Gerratana, Dolan and Bozzuto were present. Staff members present were: Mr. Garfield, Mr. Lenge, Ms. Andrews, Ms. Rotman, Mr. Smith, Ms. Bergquist, Mr. Ahern, Ms. Blackburn, Ms. Stratton, Ms. Love, Ms. Nicolescu, Ms. Kief, Ms. Sadowski, Mr. Talbert-Slagle, Ms. Montgomery, Ms. Leibenhaut, Mr. Urso, Ms. Adams, Ms. Zaccagnino and Ms. Kulmacz.

It was moved by Commissioner Dolan and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana at 5:00 P.M. to return to public session. So voted.

Returning to Public Session, the Commission took the following action:

In was moved by Commissioner Gerratana and seconded by Commissioner Bozzuto that the SREC initiate an investigation into the "Crisco 2008" Campaign pursuant to §9-7ba(1), Connecticut General Statutes to determine whether any election laws were violated. So voted. The vote was unanimous and the matter is referred to the Legal Enforcement Unit.

VI. *Administrative Updates*

Mr. Garfield stated that the Citizens Election program training continues with a training session tonight. There has been a large response to the July 10th filing date using the new eCRIS system. The IT Unit is prepared to give tech support and the Audit Unit is ready to answer reporting questions. Ms. Kulmacz stated thirty-two filers have filed electronically for the July 10th and there are six applications for grants so far today. Ms. Rotman stated that the July 10th filing can be combined with the grant application as one filing.

Ms. Rotman informed the Commission that presently, there are one hundred ninety-four (194) participating candidates in the Citizens' Election Program, forty (40) in the Senate, one hundred fifty-four (154) State Representatives participating and the number continues to grow.

Attorney Andrews informed the Commission that the first Citizens' Election Program related complaint has been received and it will be coordinated with the various units.

VII. *Adjournment*

It was moved by Commissioner Gerratana and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins at 5:07 P.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted. Unless otherwise indicated, all votes of the Commission were unanimous.

The next meeting will be a Regular Telephonic Meeting held on Thursday, July 10, 2008 at 4:00 P.M., 5th Floor Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,



Lois E. Blackburn
Clerk of the Commission

Adopted this 10th day of July, 2008, at Hartford, Connecticut.



Stephen F. Cashman, Chairman
By Order of the Commission