

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

In the Matter of a Complaint by
Russell Strilowich, New Fairfield

File No. 2007-374

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Complainant brings this complaint pursuant to C.G.S. § 9-7b and asserts that Ed Spordone, the treasurer of the slate committee Hodge-Oliveri 07, violated the law by placing an advertisement in a local paper, which promoted the success of two candidates for municipal offices but did not contain the attribution required by Connecticut General Statutes § 9-621.

After the investigation of the complaint, the Commission makes the following findings and conclusions:

1. In August of 2007, slate committee named Hodge-Oliveri 07 registered with the Town Clerk of New Fairfield. Ed Spordone was designated as the treasurer of that committee. Hodge-Oliveri 07 is the committee designated as the funding vehicle for John Hodge's campaign for First Selectman and Ron Oliver's campaign for Selectman.
2. General Statutes § 9-607 provides that "[n]o financial obligation shall be incurred by a committee unless authorized by the campaign treasurer, . . ."
3. On September 19, 2007, an advertisement appeared in the Citizen-News, a local New Fairfield newspaper. That advertisement promoted the success of John Hodge's and Ron Oliveri's campaigns. It was paid for with Hodge-Oliveri 07 committee funds.
4. General Statutes § 9-621(a) provides the following in pertinent part:


[N]o . . . committee shall make or incur any expenditure for any written, typed or other printed communication, . . . which promotes the success or defeat of any candidate's campaign for nomination at a primary or election or solicits funds to benefit any political party or committee unless such communication bears upon its face (1) the words "paid for by" and the following: . . . in the case of a committee other than a party committee, the name of the committee and its campaign treasurer; . . .
5. The Commission finds that, while the proper attribution did not appear on the ad printed in the September 19, 2007 edition of the Citizen-News, the attribution was on the original advertisement submitted to the paper by the Committee. When the advertisement was submitted to the printer for publishing, a printer's error caused that attribution to be omitted. A correction notice later appeared in the Citizen-News informing the public of the error and noting the proper attribution.
6. It is therefore concluded that the Respondent has not committed any violations of election laws in connection with the allegations set forth in the complaint.

ORDER

The following Order is recommended on the basis of the aforementioned findings:

That the case be dismissed.

Adopted this 14th day of November, 2007 at Hartford, Connecticut.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen F. Cashman", written over a horizontal line.

Stephen F. Cashman, Chairperson
By Order of the Commission