

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION**

Complaint of Lisa Carver,
New Britain

File No. 2008-032

**AGREEMENT CONTAINING CONSENT ORDER
FOR A VIOLATION OF GENERAL STATUTES § 9-613**

This agreement, by and between Lafayette Square, LLC and its' president, Victor M. Basile, of the City of Bristol, County of Hartford, State of Connecticut (hereinafter referred to as the Respondent) and the authorized representative of the State Elections Enforcement Commission is entered into in accordance with § 9-7b-54 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and § 4-177(c) of the General Statutes of Connecticut. In accordance herewith, the parties agree that:

1. Complainant filed the instant complaint with the Commission alleging various campaign finance law violations in connection with the November 6, 2007 City of New Britain municipal election and the Wyskiewicz for Mayor (hereinafter the Wyskiewicz Committee) candidate committee, the funding vehicle for Jim Wyskiewicz's candidacy for Mayor of the City of New Britain. James Wyskiewicz was the Democratic candidate for Mayor and Timothy Stewart was the Republican candidate for Mayor.
2. As far as allegations regarding the Respondent, Complainant specifically alleged that a prohibited business entity contribution was made to the Wyskiewicz Committee by virtue of the provision of free rent from a business entity. Allegations with respect to other Respondents and allegations relating to them will be addressed in a separate document.
3. Victor M. Basile is the President of Lafayette Square, LLC. Lafayette Square, LLC is a business entity as that term is defined in General Statutes § 9-601.
4. Lafayette Square, LLC is the owner of record of 450 Main Street in New Britain. 450 Main Street is a building that is 23,788 square feet and is used as an office building. As of December 17, 2008, the first floor tenants included a bank and a social service agency; the second floor tenants include law firms and or law practices and insurance agencies. The second floor also includes a vacant office space and a vacant space.
5. In early October 2007, Victor Basile was approached by Olga Jiantonio, the treasurer of the Wyskiewicz Committee regarding the vacant space located on the second floor of 450 Main Street.
6. Ms. Jiantonio is employed by one of the second floor law practices and was aware that rental checks for the office space were made payable to Mr. Basile. Ms. Jiantonio inquired about using the vacant space as the campaign headquarters for the Wyskiewicz Committee for a short period of time.

RECEIVED
STATE ELECTIONS
ENFORCEMENT
COMMISSION
FEB 02 2010

7. The Respondent allowed the Wyskiewicz Committee to use the vacant space as campaign headquarters for somewhere between 30 and 35 days, from early October 2007 to shortly after the November 6, 2007 City of New Britain municipal election.
8. Ms. Jiantonio disclosed the use of the office space as an in-kind contribution from Victor Basile individually on the October 30, 2007 "Wyskiewicz Committee" campaign finance disclosure statement. Ms. Jiantonio was unaware of the fact that a business entity, Lafayette Square LLC was the owner of the building.
9. General Statutes § 9-601a provides in pertinent part:
 - (a) As used in this chapter and sections 9-700 to 9-716, inclusive, "**contribution**" means:
 - (1) **Any gift, subscription, loan, advance, payment or deposit of money or anything of value, made for the purpose of influencing the nomination for election, or election, of any person or for the purpose of aiding or promoting the success or defeat of any referendum question or on behalf of any political party; [Emphasis added.]**
10. General Statutes § 9-613, provides in pertinent part:
 - (a) **No business entity shall make any contributions or expenditures to, or for the benefit of, any candidate's campaign for election to any public office or position subject to this chapter or for nomination at a primary for any such office or position, or to promote the defeat of any candidate for any such office or position. No business entity shall make any other contributions or expenditures to promote the success or defeat of any political party, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section. No business entity shall establish more than one political committee. A political committee shall be deemed to have been established by a business entity if the initial disbursement or contribution to the committee is made under subsection (b) of this section or by an officer, director, owner, limited or general partner or holder of stock constituting five per cent or more of the total outstanding stock of any class of the business entity. [Emphasis added.]**
11. Mr. Basile maintains that he did not know Mr. Wyskiewicz and did not know that he was a candidate for the office of Mayor in the New Britain municipal election held on November 6, 2007. Mr. Basile also maintains that he did not know that Ms. Jiantonio was the treasurer of the Wyskiewicz Committee. Nevertheless, Mr. Basile was aware that Ms. Jiantonio asked to use the office space for campaign headquarters for the campaign she was working for.
12. The Commission concludes Mr. Basile, President of Lafayette Square, LLC, caused Lafayette Square, LLC to make a prohibited business entity contribution by allowing

the Wyskiewicz Committee to use the vacant space located at 450 Main Street, free of charge. As such, Lafayette Square, LLC violated General Statutes § 9-613.

13. The Respondent admits all jurisdictional facts and agrees that this agreement and Order shall have the same force and effect as a final decision and Order entered after a full hearing and shall become final when adopted by the Commission. The Respondent shall receive a copy hereof as provided in § 9-7b-56 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.
14. It is understood and agreed that this agreement will be submitted to the Commission at its next meeting and, if it is not accepted by the Commission, it is withdrawn by the Respondent and may not be used as an admission in any subsequent hearing, if the same becomes necessary.
15. The Respondent waives:
 - (a) Any further procedural steps;
 - (b) The requirement that the Commission's decision contain a statement of findings of fact and conclusions of law, separately stated; and
 - (c) All rights to seek judicial review or otherwise to challenge or contest the validity of the Order entered into pursuant to this agreement.
16. Upon the Respondent's compliance with the Order hereinafter stated, the Commission shall not initiate any further proceedings against the Respondent pertaining to this matter.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) to the Commission on or before March 11, 2009;

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that the Respondent shall henceforth comply with General Statutes § 9-613.

For the State of Connecticut:

BY:

Joan M. Andrews
Joan M. Andrews, Esq.
Director of Legal Affairs and Enforcement
& Authorized Representative of the
State Elections Enforcement Commission
20 Trinity St., Suite 101
Hartford, CT

Dated: 3-16-10

For The Respondent:

Victor M. Basile
Victor M. Basile, President
Lafayette Square, LLC
Bristol, CT

Dated: 2-2-2010

Adopted this 24th day of March of 2010 at Hartford, Connecticut

Stephen F. Cashman
Stephen F. Cashman, Chairman
By Order of the Commission