

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

In the Matter of a Complaint by Matthew Smith,
New Haven

File No. 2010-031

AGREEMENT CONTAINING A CONSENT ORDER

The parties, Chris Randall, of the City of New Haven, State of Connecticut, hereinafter referred to as the Respondent, and the undersigned authorized representative of the State Elections Enforcement Commission enter into this agreement as authorized by Connecticut General Statutes § 4-177 (c) and Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies § 9-7b-54. In accordance with those provisions, the parties agree that:

1. Complainant Smith filed this complaint with the Commission on February 22, 2010. The complaint alleged that Respondent had falsely certified signatures on a town committee primary ballot petition in January 2010. Respondent was a candidate in 2010 for the 8th Ward representation on the New Haven Democratic Town Committee along with Carmen Rodriguez. The petition that Respondent circulated was for this Randall-Rodrigucz slate, on which Respondent was a candidate.
2. The Complainant alleged that some of the signatures on the petition appeared to have been written in the same handwriting, making the signatures invalid and rendering the certification that the circulators signed invalid.
3. General Statutes § 9-410(c) General Statutes § 9-410 (c) requires that each circulator of a petition page certify that all of the signatures on the page were signed before that circulator. Specifically, the statute requires, in relevant part:

Each separate sheet of such petition shall contain a statement as to the authenticity of the signatures thereon and the number of such signatures, and shall be signed under the penalties of false statement by the person who circulated the same, setting forth such circulator's address and the town in which such circulator is an enrolled party member and attesting that each person whose name appears on such sheet signed the same in person in the presence of such circulator, that the circulator either knows each such signer or that the signer satisfactorily identified the signer to the circulator and that the spaces for candidates supported,

offices or positions sought and the political party involved were filled in prior to the obtaining of the signatures.

General Statutes § 9-410 (c) (Emphasis added).

4. General Statutes § 9-453j also requires a statement on each page of a nominating petition to contain language attesting that “each person whose name appears on such page signed the same in person in the presence of such circulator and that either the circulator knows each such signer or that the signer satisfactorily identified himself to the circulator.” *Id.*
5. The Commission investigated these allegations against the circulators of the slate petition, interviewing individuals whose signatures looked suspicious.
6. Although most of the signatures were validated by the persons alleged to have signed the document, one woman told investigators that she had signed three signatures on the page – one of which was hers and the other two on behalf of her two children.
7. Dorothy Brodie, who signed the petition circulated by Respondent, told investigators that the signatures for her son, Roderic Brodie, and her daughter, Rachelle Brodie, were not signed by her children. She said that she had signed those signatures, not her children.
8. Dorothy Brodie said that while the Respondent waited at the door, she took the petition sheets back into her apartment, signed her name as well as her children’s, and then returned to the front door of her apartment where she gave the petition back to the Respondent.
9. When completing the ballot petition and submitting it to the town clerk, Respondent certified that all the signatures on the petition were signed in his presence and that he knew all of the signatories who signed the document or that the signatory provided adequate identifying documentation. *See Circulator’s Statement of Authenticity of Signatures*, Jan. 13, 2010, (executed by Chris Randall and acknowledged by Margaret L. Rogers in New Haven).
10. Respondent admits all jurisdictional facts and agree that this Agreement and Order shall have the same force and effect as a final decision and order entered into after a full hearing and shall become final when adopted by the Commission.

11. 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.

12. Upon the Respondent's agreement to comply with the Order hereinafter stated, the Commission shall not initiate any further proceedings against him concerning this matter.

13. It is understood and agreed by the parties to this Agreement that the Commission will consider this Agreement at its next meeting and, if the Commission rejects it, the Agreement will be withdrawn and may not be used as an admission by the Respondent in any subsequent hearing, if one becomes necessary.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT Respondent pay a civil penalty of \$200 and also agree henceforth to comply strictly with the requirements of General Statutes § 9-453j (e).

The Respondent

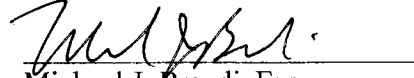
For the State of Connecticut

By:



Christopher Randall
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New Haven, CT

By:



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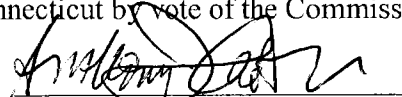
Dated:

5/12/13

Dated:

11/20/13

Adopted this 20th day of Nov, 2013 at Hartford, Connecticut by vote of the Commission.



Anthony J. Castagno, Chairman
By Order of the Commission

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ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION