

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION**

Complaint of Sonia Cruz,  
Hartford

File No. 2012-031

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

The Complainant Sonia Cruz, of Hartford, Connecticut, brings this complaint pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 9-7b and alleged that Maria Ayala of Hartford, Connecticut, submitted a consent form containing Complainant's purported signature, that Complainant did not in fact sign. After the investigation of the complaint, the Commission makes the following findings and conclusions:

1. The Complainant, a resident of Hartford, Connecticut, alleged that her neighbor Maria Ayala submitted to the City of Hartford Registrars' of Voters office a *Statement of Consent of Candidates* for the Municipal Democratic Town Committee Primary, March 6, 2012, in the City of Hartford 3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District on which Complainant consented to be a qualified candidate pursuant to General Statutes § 9-409.
2. Complainant denies having signed the consent form described in paragraph 1 above. Further, Complainant pursuant to General Statutes § 9-430 submitted a written withdrawal to the Hartford City Clerk's Office on March 1, 2012, thus effectively withdrawing any candidacy attributed to her at the March 6, 2012, primary for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District.
3. The gravamen of this complaint is Complainant did *not* consent to appear as a candidate in the primary described in paragraph 1 above, and therefore Ms. Ayala could not have filed the Statement of Consent of Candidates on *behalf* of Complainant as required by General Statutes § 9-406.
4. General Statutes § 9-406, provides in pertinent part:

A candidacy for nomination by a political party to a municipal office or *a candidacy for election as a member of a town committee may be filed by or on behalf of any person whose name appears upon the last-completed enrollment list of such party within the municipality* or within the political subdivision, senatorial district or assembly district within which a person is to be nominated or a town committee member is to be elected, ... [Emphasis added.]


5. Upon investigation, the Commission finds that Maria Ayala denies signing Complainant's name on the candidate consent form that is subject of this complaint. Further, the Commission finds that there are no identifying characteristics on the aforementioned consent form identify it as having been submitted by Ms. Ayala.
6. Additionally, the Commission finds that Complainant admits that she cannot with certainty identify Ms. Ayala, or *any other* individual, as having signed her name to the aforementioned petition and upon further consideration cannot with certainty deny that she may have unwittingly affixed her name to the consent form described in paragraph 1 above.
7. While not dismissing the troublesome nature of Complainant's allegations, the Commission notes that Complainant was successful in effectuating a resolution to her lack of consent to be a candidate in the primary discussed herein by submitting her withdrawal in a timely fashion to the Hartford City Clerk's office pursuant to General Statutes § 9-430, and described in paragraph 2 above.
8. In light of Complainant's failure to provide evidence to substantiate her allegations, her inability to provide a concise and explicit statement bearing on the violation asserted, and the insufficiency of evidence supporting such claims, the Commission dismisses this complaint for lack of evidence to support a violation of General Statutes § 9-406.

**ORDER**

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

That the case is dismissed.

Adopted this 27 day of JUNE, 2012 at Hartford, Connecticut.

  
Stephen F. Cashman, Chairperson  
By Order of the Commission