

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

*In re* Grant Verification of Contributions by Garrett Moore Jr.

File No. 2014-017

**AGREEMENT CONTAINING A CONSENT ORDER**

The parties, Garrett Moore Jr., hereinafter referred to as “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. Respondent facilitated contributions from himself and other members of his extended family to *Gary for Senate*, the candidate committee of Gary A. Winfield, then a candidate for the 10<sup>th</sup> district seat in the Connecticut state senate.<sup>1</sup>
2. During the course of verifying contributions to the Holder-Winfield candidate committee as part of the grant-application process, audit staff recognized that 15 contributions to the candidate committee were made via the same credit card.
3. The Commission initiated an enforcement action on February 19, 2014, into whether the contributions made to the candidate committee were “straw contributions.”<sup>2</sup>
4. The investigation into the matter revealed that Respondent had used his personal credit card to pay for contributions on behalf of himself and his wife, his father and his wife, and his sister and her husband. He also paid for contributions on behalf of his three children and six nephews, all below the age of 12.<sup>3</sup> In total, Respondent paid for \$200 in aggregate contributions using his credit card on behalf of himself and 14 other family members.

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<sup>1</sup> See SEEC Form 1 – Registration of Candidate Committee (*Gary for Senate*, Jan. 13, 2014) (reflecting establishment of Gary Winfield’s candidate committee); see also SEEC Form 30 – Itemized Campaign Finance Disclosure Statement (*Gary for Senate*, Feb. 3, 2014) (showing contributions by members of Moore family to candidate committee).

<sup>2</sup> Minutes, Conn. State Elections Enforcement Comm’n (Feb. 19, 2014).

<sup>3</sup> See SEEC Form 30 – Itemized Campaign Finance Disclosure Statement (*Gary for Senate*, Feb. 3, 2014) (reflecting following contributions in 2014: Garrett Moore - \$100 on 1/28; Garrett Moore Jr. - \$25 on 1/28; Antoinette Moore - \$10 on 1/28; Emily Moore - \$10 on 1/28; Kelly Keane - \$5 on 1/30; Brian Keane - \$5 on 1/30; Connor Keane - \$5 on 1/30; Nolan Keane - \$5 on 1/30; Logan Keane - \$5 on 1/30; Brennan Keane - \$5 on 1/30; Hunter Keane - \$5 on 1/30; Declan Keane - \$5 on 1/30; Garrett Moore III - \$5 on 1/30; Mason Moore - \$5 on 1/30; and Chase Moore - \$5 on 1/30).

5. According to Respondent as well as the other contributors interviewed as part of this investigation, Respondent was authorized to make these contributions in the names of these individuals via the online contribution portal established by the candidate committee.
6. All 15 contributions that Respondent paid for using his credit card were disqualified from the grant application for *Gary for Senate*.
7. The Commission's investigation also revealed that in order to complete the online form, contributors were required to state that the contribution was made with the contributors "own funds" or on a "credit card ... for which [the contributor had] the legal obligation to pay, and is not made ... on the card of another person."<sup>4</sup>
8. Contributors were also required to state via the online contribution form that they were "at least eighteen years old."<sup>5</sup>
9. General Statutes § 9-622 prohibits the making of contributions in another individual's name.<sup>6</sup> The Commission may impose a civil penalty of as much as \$2,000 per offense on an individual who pays for a contribution in the name of another individual.<sup>7</sup>
10. General Statutes § 9-611 (e) limits contributions from minors under age 18, capping them at an aggregate amount of \$30.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> See Letter from Michael J. Pinto, treasurer – *Gary for Senate*, to SEEC Campaign Disclosure and Audit Unit (Jan. 31, 2014) (Attachment showing online contribution form) (including online form that contributors were required to complete when making contributions via candidate committee's website).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> See General Statutes § 9-622 (7) (designating those who have committed "illegal practice" as "Any person who, directly . . . makes a payment . . . to a campaign treasurer in a name other than the person's own . . .").

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> See General Statutes § 9-611 (e) ("No individual who is less than eighteen years of age shall make a contribution or contributions, in excess of thirty dollars to, for the benefit of, or pursuant to the authorization or request of: (1) A candidate or a committee supporting or opposing any candidate's campaign for nomination at a primary to any office; (2) a candidate or a committee supporting or opposing any candidate's campaign for election to any office; (3) an exploratory committee; (4) any other political committee in any calendar year; or (5) a party committee in any calendar year. Notwithstanding any provision of subdivision (2) of section 9-7b, any individual who is less than eighteen years of age who violates any provision of this subsection shall not be subject to the provisions of subdivision (2) of section 9-7b.")

11. In addition, individuals under the age of 12 may not make “qualifying contributions” of any amount to candidates participating in the Citizens’ Election Program.<sup>9</sup>

12. Respondent violated General Statutes § 9-622 by making contributions for other individuals using his credit card.

13. In addition, Respondent falsely certified on the electronic qualifying contribution form included on the *Gary for Senate* website that the contributions that he was making for other individuals were made from their funds and that the contributors were all above the age of 18.

14. As enumerated in § 9-7b-48 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies:

In its determination of the amount of the civil penalty to be imposed, the Commission shall consider, among other mitigating or aggravating circumstances:

- (1) the gravity of the act or omission;
- (2) the amount necessary to insure immediate and continued compliance;
- (3) the previous history of similar acts or omissions; and
- (4) whether the person has shown good faith in attempting to comply with the applicable provisions of the General Statutes.<sup>10</sup>

15. 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.

16. 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.

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<sup>9</sup> See General Statutes § 9-704 (c) (4) (“(c) The following shall not be deemed to be qualifying contributions under subsection (a) of this section and shall be returned by the campaign treasurer of the candidate committee to the contributor or transmitted to the State Elections Enforcement Commission for deposit in the Citizens’ Election Fund: . . . (4) A contribution made by a youth who is less than twelve years of age.”)

<sup>10</sup> Regs., Conn. State Agencies, § 9-7b-48 (State Elections Enforcement Comm’n).

17. 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.

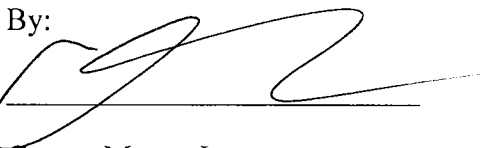
**ORDER**

**IT IS HERERY ORDERED THAT** Respondent pay a civil penalty of \$1,000 and agree henceforth to comply strictly with the requirements of the regulations and statutes related to contributing to candidate committees participating in Connecticut elections as well as the Citizens' Election Program.

The Respondent

For the State of Connecticut

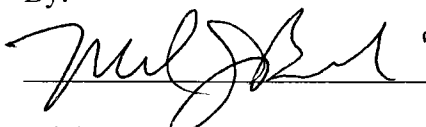
By:



Garrett Moore Jr.  
389 White Deer Rock Rd  
Middlebury, CT 06762-1327

Dated: 11/9/15


By:



Michael J. Brandi, Esq.  
Executive Director and General Counsel and  
Authorized Representative of the  
State Elections Enforcement Commission  
20 Trinity St., Suite 101  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dated: 11/16/15

Adopted this 17 day of Nov, 2015 at Hartford, Connecticut by vote of the Commission.



Anthony J. Castagno, Chairman  
By Order of the Commission

**RECEIVED**  
**STATE ELECTORNS**

**NOV 16 2015**

**ENFORCEMENT DIVISION**