

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

In the Matter of a Complaint by Russell Gomes
Old Lyme

File No. 2014-082

FINDINGS & CONCLUSIONS

Complainant Russell Gomes of Old Lyme filed this Complaint pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 9-7b alleging that the candidate committee of Vicki Lanier had violated Connecticut's campaign finance statutes by failing to itemize all expenditures made by the candidate committee. The commission docketed the matter, naming candidate Lanier and the treasurer of her candidate committee, Judith Read, as respondents in the matter. After investigating the allegations raised in the complaint the Commission makes the following findings and conclusions:

1. Complainant alleged in his complaint that the Lanier candidate committee had made several expenditures that it had failed to report properly.¹ Specifically, Complainant alleged that the Lanier committee had:
 - Failed to reflect all costs associated with a fundraising event held in April 2014;
 - Failed to include a receipt for cheese platters purchased for May 2014 fundraiser; and
 - Failed to report expenditures for campaign paraphernalia, palm cards, and stationary to promote the candidate.²

Complainant implied that these alleged violations listed in his complaint could portend additional problems with the candidate committee's documentation and reporting.³

2. Lanier formed her candidate committee on February 22, 2014, naming Read as the committee's treasurer.⁴ The committee applied for a grant on July 2, 2014.⁵ The committee received a primary grant on July 15, 2014, which totaled \$11,086.⁶

¹ See Complaint by Russell Gomes, Old Lyme, SEEC File No. 2014-082 (Complaint filed on July 11, 2014).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ See SEEC Form 1A – Registration by Candidate (Victoria K. Lanier) (Rec'd Feb. 25, 2014) (creating *Elect Vicki Lanier State Rep.* candidate committee and naming Read as treasurer).

⁵ See SEEC Form CEP 15 – Citizens' Election Program Application for Public Grant Dollars (*Elect Vicki Lanier State Rep.*, July 2, 2014) (reflecting Lanier committee's initial application for public financing grant in 2014).

⁶ See SEEC 30 – Itemized Campaign Finance Disclosure Statement – First Weekly Supplemental Filing Primary (*Elect Vicki Lanier State Rep.*, July 23, 2014) (showing receipt of grant from Citizens' Election Fund).

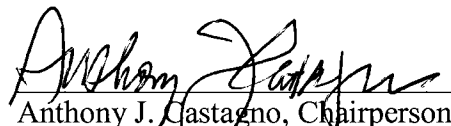
3. The Commission conducted a random lottery to select districts that would be included in the post-election audit of candidate committees. Candidate committees in the 23rd General Assembly district were included among those that the Commission's audit staff would examine.
4. The audit of *Elect Vicki Lanier State Rep.* revealed no improprieties that would necessitate the initiation of an enforcement action against the committee, its treasurer, or the candidate.⁷
5. The specific allegations raised in this complaint were remedied by Respondent Read, treasurer of the Lanier committee, after the complaint was filed, and the Commission's audit staff conducted an investigatory audit of the Lanier committee based on the allegations raised in the complaint.
6. The allegations raised in the complaint, did not rise to the level that would have necessitated an enforcement action had the post-election audit first identified these problems with the committee's filings.
7. Given the nature of these flaws in the committee's filings as well as the post-election review conducted by the Commission's audit staff of the entirety of the committee's filings, the Commission will take no further action on this matter.

ORDER

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

That no further action be taken on this matter and that this case will be closed.

Adopted this 15th day of September, 2015 at Hartford, Connecticut.


Anthony J. Castagno, Chairperson
By Order of the Commission

⁷ See Final Summary of Examination, "Elect Vicki Lanier State Rep" (State Elections Enforcement Comm'n, Sept. 15, 2015).