



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
5th Floor Conference Room
January 15, 2020
9:30 A.M.

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Penny was present and called the meeting to order at 9:32 A.M. Commissioner Cascudo was present. Commissioner Bramante was present via teleconference.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of December 18, 2019

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to approve the minutes of December 18, 2019. So voted 3-0-0.

III. Administrative Reports

Director Brandi reported on personnel matters. The SEEC is in the process of hiring the Accounts Examiner and expects to complete this process tomorrow. Regarding the Staff Attorney position, the position has been posted with a close date of January 29, 2020.

Director Brandi advised that the SEEC is constantly monitoring where we are with budget as we expect major IT needs for the end of this year. Doug has been carefully monitoring from federal and other state sources regarding cybersecurity. We are watching to make sure that our systems are protected as best as we can.

Budget wise, as we head into session, we are aware of the usual message of being careful to watch our budget, which we have been and will be dedicating what we can particularly to the areas of IT and cybersecurity.

Director Brandi reviewed an administrative closure of two cases which were referred criminally and the SEEC will be closing the matters administratively. The two matters referenced are: *In the Matter of a Commission Initiated Investigation of Newton for Senator*, File No. 2012-118; and *In the Matter of a Referral by the New Britain Registrar of Voters*, File No. 2016-004.

IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Enrico F. Melita, New Haven
File No. 2017-050A

Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Respondent:

Attorney:

Ryan M. Burns

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2017-050A. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusion in File No. 2017-050A. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Enrico F. Melita, New Haven
File No. 2017-050B

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent:

Attorney:

Ryan M. Burns

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2017-050B. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2017-050B. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Enrico F. Melita, New Haven
File No. 2017-050C

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent:

Attorney:

Ryan M. Burns

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2017-050C. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2017-050C. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Jose Ramirez, Hartford
File No. 2019-093

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent:

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Lead Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-093. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-093. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

V. Executive Session per General Statutes §§ 1-200(6)(B) and (E), and 1-210(b)(1), (3),(4),(10) and General Statutes §9-7a, as amended by Public Act 11-48 §300 (Preliminary draft and agency consideration of enforcement action and exempt records relative thereto)

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bramante at 9:41 A.M. to proceed into Executive Session pursuant to General Statutes §§ 1-200(6)(B) and (E), and 1-210(b)(1),(3),(4),(10) to discuss strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims and exempt records. So voted.

Commissioners Penny and Cascudo were present. Commissioner Bramante was present via teleconference. Staff members present were James Talbert-Slagle, William B. Smith, Ryan M. Burns, Kevin M. Ahern, Scott Branfuhr, Gilberto Oyola, Joshua Foley, Linda Waterman, Douglas Frost, Shannon Kief, Michael J. Brandi, Subrina Persaud and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

Returning to public session at 11:03 A.M. the Commission took the following action:

1. Recommendation of Counsel: Necessary to Investigate Determination pursuant to General Statutes §9-7a, as amended by Public Act 11-48 §300

Attorney Smith summarized the Recommendation of Counsel dated December 10, 2019 and requested that ten (10) matters be moved to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to ten (10) complaints File Nos.: 2019-090, 2019-162, 2019-164, 2019-165, 2019-166, 2019-167, 2019-168, 2019-173 and 2019-174. So approved by the Commission 3-0-0. So voted.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Mayce Torres, New Haven
File No. 2019-115

Proposed Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2019-115. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusion in File No. 2019-115. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

3. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State
File No. 2015-100

Proposed Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Kevin M. Ahern

Lead Legal Investigator:

Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2015-100. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement upon receipt in 14 days.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2015-100 upon receipt in 14 days. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by James Millington, Fairfield
File No. 2017-075

Proposed Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Kevin M. Ahern

Lead Legal Investigator:

Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued.

5. In the Matter of a Referral by East Haddam Town Clerk Debra Denette
File No. 2018-103

Proposed Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Kevin M. Ahern

Legal Investigator:

Alfonso Vasquez

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2018-103. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement upon receipt in 14 days.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2018-103 upon receipt in 14 days. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Marcus Paca, New Haven
In the Matter of a Complaint by Justin Elicker, New Haven
File Nos. 2017-062 & 2019-030
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Ryan M. Burns

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced matter in File Nos. 2017-062 & 2019-030. He recommended authorization for an investigatory subpoena.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to authorize an investigatory subpoena for any video recording from the Superintendent of Schools for the Town of Enfield and/or its contractors related to the entrance and exit of the polling place of the Enfield Street School on November 5, 2019. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

7. In the Matter of a Complaint by Elisabeth Hines, Hartford
File No. 2019-037
Proposed Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

James Talbert-Slagle

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

The matter is marked off.

8. In the Matter of a Complaint by Molly E. Spino, Torrington
File No. 2016-080
Proposed Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

James Talbert-Slagle

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

The matter is marked off.

9. In re: SEEC Initiated Failure to Appoint a Treasurer – Chris Dorio for State Representative
File No. 2016-102NT

Proposed Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

James Talbert-Slagle

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

The matter is marked off.

10. In re: SEEC Initiated Grant Application for Ingraham for Branford

File No. 2016-075

Proposed Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

James Talbert-Slagle

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

The matter is marked off.

11. In re: Audit of Candelaria 2016

File No. 2018-034

Proposed Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

James Talbert-Slagle

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney James Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2018-034. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement upon receipt in 14 days.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2018-034 upon receipt in 14 days. So voted by a vote 2-0-1 with Commissioner Cascudo abstaining.

12. Consideration of Draft Audit Reports

1. "Zullo for State Representative," Joseph H. Zullo

Examiner: Karen Walauskas

2. "Kennedy 2018," Kathleen Kennedy

Examiner: Matthew Lombardi

3. "Cheeseman for the 37th," Holly H. Cheeseman

Examiner: Matthew Lombardi

4. "Carney 2018," Devin R. Carney

Examiner: Krysta Palozie

5. "John Fusco for State Rep.," John Fusco

Examiner: Ergys Guni

6. "Shaun for State Rep 2018," Shaun M. Mastroianni
Examiner: Matthew Lombardi
7. "Sujata for Connecticut," Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox
Examiner: Karen Walauskas
8. "Reelect Baker," Andre F. Baker
Examiner: Nicole Petit
9. "Tillett for CT," Theresa Tillett
Examiner: Dinorah Collado

Linda Waterman provided an overview of the audits and recommended that the Commission make audit numbers 1 through 9 final. So moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bramante. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

10. "Zupkus 2018," Lezlye Zupkus
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle

Attorney James Talbert-Slagle provided an overview of the audit and recommended that the Commission refer to enforcement audit number 10, "Zupkus 2018," Lezlye Zupkus. So moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bramante. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

11. "Ganim for Governor," Joseph Ganim
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle

Attorney James Talbert-Slagle provided an overview of the audit and recommended that the Commission refer to enforcement audit number 11, "Ganim for Governor," Joseph Ganim. So moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bramante. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

12. "Make Way for State Rep Holloway 2018," Ernestine Holloway
Attorney: William B. Smith

Attorney William B. Smith provided an overview of the audit and recommended that the Commission refer to enforcement audit number 12, "Make Way for State Rep Holloway 2018," Ernestine Holloway. So moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bramante. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

13. "The Committee to Elect Wendy Tyson-Wood," Wendy Tyson-Wood
Attorney: William B. Smith

Attorney William B. Smith provided an overview of the audit and recommended that the Commission refer to enforcement audit number 13, "The Committee to Elect Wendy Tyson-Wood," Wendy Tyson-Wood. So moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny. So voted by a vote 2-0-1.

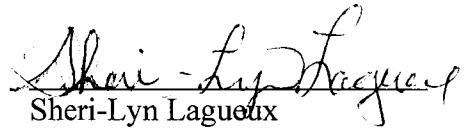
13. SEEC 2020 Legislative Proposals

VI. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session

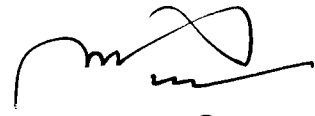
VII. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bramante at 11:15 AM to adjourn the meeting. So voted. Unless otherwise indicated, all votes of the Commission were unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,


Sheri-Lyn Lagueux
Clerk of the Commission

Adopted this 5th day of February, 2020 at Hartford, Connecticut.



Stephen Penny
By Order of the Commission

The next regular scheduled meeting is February 5, 2020 at 9:30 A.M. in the 5th Floor Conference room.