



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

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MINUTES  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR TELEPHONIC MEETING  
Via WebEx  
July 21, 2021  
9:30 A.M.

**I. Call to Order**

Commissioner Stephen Penny was present via Webex and called the meeting to order at 9:31 A.M. Commissioners Michael Ajello, Shannon Bergquist and Andrew Cascudo were present via Webex. Agency staff was also present.

**II. Approval of the Minutes**

*Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of July 7, 2021*

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of July 7, 2021. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

*Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of July 14, 2021*

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of July 14, 2021. So voted by a vote of 3-0-1, with Commissioner Bergquist abstaining.

**III. Administrative Reports**

Director Brandi updated the commission that the SEEC is very early into the new budget year and that there is nothing new to report yet. Brandi did note that the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and the Office of Labor Relations (OLR) recently approved raises for managers. He also highlighted a new statute, recently passed by the General Assembly, that ties raises for managers with those similar raises negotiated by state employee unions.

Director Brandi advised that he hopes to fill an Accounts Examiner position with the agency along with a new posting for a Fiscal Administrator position.

Director Brandi reported that the U.S. Department of Justice will be soon issuing guidance to elections officials nationwide concerning recent threats made to said election officials in other states. He noted recently reported threats made against elections officials nationally.

**IV. Consideration of Application for Public Grants from the Citizens' Election Fund**

1. "Fazio for CT," Ryan Fazio

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application for "Fazio for CT," Ryan Fazio. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

**V. Pending Complaints and Investigations**

*A. Public Session*

1. No items for discussion.

**VI. 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 Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello at 9:37 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 Stephen Penny, Michael Ajello, Andrew Cascudo and Shannon Bergquist were present via Webex. Staff members present via teleconference were, James Talbert-Slagle, William Smith, Kevin Ahern, Scott Branfuhr, Stephanie Fish, Ronald Perry, Alyssa Torres, Lisa Drew, Chelsea Ruzzo, Lindsey Leung, Joshua Foley, Paul Brady, Stephen Palmer, Linda Waterman, Shannon Kief, Michael J. Brandi and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

The Commission returned to public session at 11:08 A.M.

Returning to public session 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 William B. Smith summarized the Recommendations of Counsel dated July 16, 2021 and July 21, 2021 and requested that ten (10) matters be moved to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to

seven (7) complaint File Nos.: 2021-136, 2021-137, 2021-138, 2021-139, 2021-140, 2021-141, 2021-142. So approved by the Commission, 4-0-0. So voted.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to three (3) complaint File Nos 2021-143, 2021-144 and 2021-145. So approved by the Commission, 4-0-0. So voted.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Kimberly Agyekum, New Haven  
File No. 2021-118

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Stephanie Fish

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2021-118. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Findings & Conclusions as to a dismissal in File No. 2021-118. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

3. In re: Commission Initiated Investigation into "Larry Groh Jr. for 51st District,"  
File No. 2018-061

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Kevin M. Ahern

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by John Flynn, Norwalk  
File No. 2021-032

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Kevin M. Ahern

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2021-032. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Findings & Conclusions as to a dismissal in File No. 2021-032. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

5. Request For A Finding of Reason to Believe A Violation of General Statutes §§ 9-604, 9-608, or 9-712 Has Been Committed Pursuant to Section 9-7b-35 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies  
File No. 2020-033, Respondent Laura Woodie  
File No. 2021-026, Respondent Fabio Mazo  
File No. 2021-036, Respondent Meredith Devanney  
File No. 2021-037, Respondent Alan Shaw  
File No. 2021-038, Respondent Dorian Benitez  
File No. 2021-039, Respondent Robert Farrington  
File No. 2021-040, Respondent Robert Keeley  
File No. 2021-002, Respondent Andrew Ziemba  
File No. 2021-005, Respondent Farouk Rajab  
File No. 2021-010, Respondent Kristyn Hanewicz  
File No. 2021-011, Respondent Pamela Allen  
File No. 2021-013, Respondent Hannah M. Bandy  
File No. 2021-015, Respondent Catherine A. Vargati  
File No. 2021-019, Respondent Rebeqa G. Abrams  
File No. 2020-023, Respondent Alan Shaw  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Request for Reason to Believe a Violation of General Statutes §§ 9-604, 9-608 and 9-712 in File Nos. 2020-033, 2021-026, 2021-036, 2021-037, 2021-038, 2021-039, 2021-040, 2021-002, 2021-005, 2021-010, 2021-011, 2021-013, 2021-015, 2021-019 and 2020-023.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to Find a Reason to Believe in File Nos. 2020-033, 2021-026, 2021-036, 2021-037, 2021-038, 2021-039, 2021-040, 2021-002, 2021-005, 2021-010, 2021-011, 2021-013, 2021-015, 2021-019 and 2020-023. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. Commissioner Ajello has been appointed as hearing officer for these matters.

6. In the Matter of a complaint by Paula Gallo, Fairfield  
File No. 2020-085  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns  
Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2020-085. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Findings & Conclusions as to a dismissal in File No. 2020-085. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

7. In the matter of a Complaint by Nicoletta Bleuins, Hartford  
File No. 2020-065  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle  
Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

The matter is continued.

8. In the matter of a Complaint by Joseph Angland, Greenwich  
File No. 2020-068  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle  
Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

The matter is continued.

9. Consideration of Draft Audit Reports

1. "Albis 2018," James M. Albis  
Accounts Examiner: Karen Walauskas
2. "Colin Hosten Election Committee," Colin Hosten  
Accounts Examiner: Ergys Guni
3. "Harding 2018," Stephen G. Harding  
Accounts Examiner: Matthew Lombardi
4. "Friends of Madeleine," Madeline M. Levielle  
Accounts Examiner: Dinorah Collado
5. "Napoli 2018," Ronald A. Napoli  
Accounts Examiner: Ergys Guni

Linda Waterman summarized the above referenced Draft Audit Reports and recommended the draft reports become final.


It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt as final 5 audit reports as listed above. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

***VII. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session***

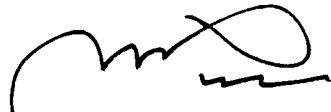
**VIII. Adjournment**

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and Seconded by Commissioner Cascudo at 11:35 A.M. to adjourn the meeting. Unless otherwise noted, all votes of the Commission are unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sheri-Lyn Lagueux  
Clerk of the Commission

Adopted this 4<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021 at Hartford, Connecticut.

  
Stephen T. Penny  
By Order of the Commission

***The next regular scheduled meeting is August 4, 2021 at 9:30 A.M. via WebEx.***