



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR TELEPHONIC MEETING
Via Webex
July 06, 2022
9:30 A.M.

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Penny was present via Webex and called the meeting to order at 9:32 A.M. Commissioners Michael Ajello, Shannon Bergquist, and Greg Picuch were present via Webex. Agency staff was also present and present via Webex.

II. Approval of the Minutes

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of June 15, 2022

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of June 15, 2022. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of June 22, 2022

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of June 22, 2022. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of June 29, 2022

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of June 29, 2022, as amended. So voted by a vote of 3-0-1.

III. Administrative Reports

Executive Director and General Counsel Michael Brandi provided the commission with several updates. Fiscal Year 22 closed on June 30, 2022. The agency had a surplus due to personnel savings related to retirements. We will have final surplus figures in the coming weeks, once final. We have received a certified list of candidates from DAS for the open staff attorney positions. We also welcomed back Charla Vincent, our HR generalist, who is back from maternity leave. We will also be posting for the vacant manager and Election Officer positions in the near future. Today, we also received notice that the Sampson/Markley case has been appealed to the state Supreme Court.

CEP grants continue to come in and staff are working very hard to complete reviews. So far, we have approved 100 grants, not counting the 14 on today's agenda, and 13 more currently under review. Primary grants are taking priority. Compared to prior cycles, we are approximately one-third of the way through the number of anticipated applications. In past cycles, we've received 300-320 applications.

We also are experiencing a slight delay in the processing of wire transfers for those committees with approved grants with the closeout of CORE-CT, as a result of the end-of-the-fiscal year process.

IV. *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)*

1. Recommendation of Counsel: Discussion of Candidate Committee Validation Memoranda

Executive Session was not convened.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to add "*Eric for Simsbury, Eric Wellman*" to the agenda under subsection B. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

A. *New Applications*

1. "*DitaCT22, Dita Bhargava*"

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to approve the grant application for "*DitaCT22, Dita Bhargava*". So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

2. "*Stephanie Thomas for CT, Stephanie Thomas*"

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to approve the grant application for "*Stephanie Thomas for CT, Stephanie Thomas*". So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

3. *"Turk for State Rep.," Christopher Turkington*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to approve the grant application for *"Turk for State Rep.," Christopher Turkington*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

4. *"Aimee4Ridgefield," Aimee Berger-Girvalo*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to approve the grant application for *"Aimee4Ridgefield," Aimee Berger-Girvalo*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

5. *"Friends of Kerry," Kerry Wood*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to continue without prejudice the grant application for *"Friends of Kerry," Kerry Wood*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

6. *"Coelho for Senate," Michelle Coelho*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to approve the grant application for *"Coelho for Senate," Michelle Coelho*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

7. *"Corey 2022," Corey Paris*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to approve the grant application for *"Corey 2022," Corey Paris*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

8. *"Re-elect Haines 2022," Irene Haines*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to approve the grant application for *"Re-elect Haines 2022," Irene Haines*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

9. *“Jane Garibay for House,” Jane Garibay*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to approve the grant application for *“Jane Garibay for House,” Jane Garibay*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

10. *“Meghan McCloat for State Representative,” Meghan McCloat*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to approve the grant application for *“Meghan McCloat for State Representative,” Meghan McCloat*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

11. *“Patricia Dillon,” Patricia Dillon*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to approve the grant application for *“Patricia Dillon,” Patricia Dillon*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

12. *“Aileen for the 78th,” Aileen Abrams*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to continue without prejudice the grant application for *“Aileen for the 78th,” Aileen Abrams*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

13. *“ElectHector.com,” Hector Arzeno*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to approve the grant application for *“ElectHector.com,” Hector Arzeno*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

14. *“Timbro for Wethersfield,” Brianna Timbro*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to continue without prejudice the grant application for *“Timbro for Wethersfield,” Brianna Timbro*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

15. *"Friends of Robin Comey," Robin Comey*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to approve the grant application for *"Friends of Robin Comey," Robin Comey*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

16. *"Khan 2022," Maryam Khan*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to approve the grant application for *"Khan 2022," Maryam Khan*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

B. *Continuation of Prior Applications Awaiting Additional Information to Qualify for a Grant*

1. *"Eric for Simsbury," Eric Wellman*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to approve the grant application for *"Eric for Simsbury," Eric Wellman*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

VI. *Pending Complaints and Investigations*

A. *Public Session*

1. In the Matter of Referral by LeReine Frampton, Newtown

File No. 2022-019

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Ronald Perry

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order and Agreement in File No. 2022-019. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order and Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Consent Order and Agreement in File No. 2022-019. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

2. In re. Commission Initiated Investigation: Roeun 2018
File No. 2021-157
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

Attorney James M. Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order and Agreement in File No. 2021-157. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order and Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Consent Order and Agreement in File No. 2021-157. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

3. In re. Commission Initiated Investigation: Bosak for Senate
File No. 2021-158A
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

Attorney James M. Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order and Agreement in File No. 2021-158A. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order and Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Consent Order and Agreement in File No. 2021-158A. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Thomas L. Brown, Danbury
File No. 2021-121
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

This item was marked off.

VII. 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 Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch at 10:07 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 by a vote of 4-0-0.

Commissioners Penny, Ajello, Bergquist, and Piecuch were present via Webex. Staff members present via Webex were: Michael J. Brandi, Salman Munir, Sheri-Lyn Lagueux, Shannon Clark Kief, Geetha Natarajan, William Smith, James Talbert-Slagle, Lindsey Leung, Joshua Foley, Renata Rydzewski, Ronald Perry, and Stephen Palmer.

The Commission returned to public session at 10:23 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 Recommendation of Counsel dated July 06, 2022 and requested that four (4) matters be moved to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to four (4) complaints File Nos. 2022-029, 2022-030, 2022-031, and 2022-032. So approved by the Commission, 4-0-0. So voted.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Kimberly Agyekum, New Haven
File No. 2021-145
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2021-145. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings and Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2021-145. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0. The Findings and Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Morris R. Patton, Bristol
File No. 2022-013

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Ronald Perry

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2022-013. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings and Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to adopt the Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2022-013. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0. The Findings and Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

VIII. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session

IX. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 AM. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0. Unless otherwise noted, all votes of the commission are unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by,



Sheri-Lyn Lagueur

Clerk of the State Elections Enforcement Commission

July 20, 2022

Date approved

(By the State Elections Enforcement Commission)

The next regular scheduled meeting is July 07, 2022 at 3:30 P.M. via Webex.