



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR TELEPHONIC MEETING
Via Webex
September 21, 2022
9:30 A.M.

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Ajello was present via Webex and called the meeting to order at 9:36 A.M. Commissioners Andrew Cascudo, Shannon Bergquist, and Greg Piecuch were present via Webex. Agency staff was also present and present via Webex.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to add the grant applications "*Acri2022*," *Anthony D Acri, III*, "*Timbro for Wethersfield*," *Brianna R. Timbro*, "*Jessica Kordas for Attorney General*," *Jessica A. Kordas*. and "*JessicaDemmoForCT*," *Jessica Demmo* to the agenda under Section V. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

II. Approval of the Minutes

1. *Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of September 07, 2022*

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of September 07, 2022. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

2. *Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of September 08, 2022*

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of September 08, 2022. So voted by a vote of 2-0-2.

3. *Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of September 14, 2022*

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of September 14, 2022. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

III. Administrative Reports

Executive Director and General Counsel Michael Brandi provided the Commission with a few brief updates. Staff are continuing to review the remaining CEP applications. There are presently 26 in process. We had 97 applications come in immediately preceding the Grant Reduction Schedule on August 29th. He thanked Compliance, Audit, and Enforcement unit staff for their tireless efforts.

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We are also looking to hire new personnel in the near future. Interviews for staff attorney positions are ongoing. As many know, today is Kevin Ahern's last commission meeting as he is moving onto a new role in another state agency. We all wish him well in his new endeavor.

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*

A. *New Applications*

1. *"CJ for the 5th," Charles W. Jackson, III*

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to continue without prejudice the grant application for *"CJ for the 5th," Charles W. Jackson, III*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

2. *"Eric Gleissner 110," Eric Gleissner*

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to continue without prejudice the grant application for *"Eric Gleissner 110," Eric Gleissner*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

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

1. *"Stafstrom 2022," Steven Stafstrom*

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

2. *"Butler 2022," Larry B. Butler*

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to approve the grant application for *"Butler 2022," Larry B. Butler*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

3. *“Rocky for CT 19,” Pietro Camardella*

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to approve the grant application for *“Rocky for CT 19,” Pietro Camardella*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

4. *“Greg Hahn for State Senate,” Gregory R. Hahn*

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to approve the grant application for *“Greg Hahn for State Senate,” Gregory R. Hahn*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

5. *“Mark Adams for CT,” Mark Adams*

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to approve the grant application for *“Mark Adams for CT,” Mark Adams*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

6. *“Fonfara 2022,” John W. Fonfara*

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to approve the grant application for *“Fonfara 2022,” John W. Fonfara*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

7. *“Fazio for CT,” Ryan Fazio*

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to approve the grant application for *“Fazio for CT,” Ryan Fazio*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

8. *“Acri2022,” Anthony D Acri, III*

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to approve the grant application for *“Acri2022,” Anthony D Acri, III*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

9. *“Timbro for Wethersfield,” Brianna R. Timbro*

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to approve the grant application for *“Timbro for Wethersfield,” Brianna R. Timbro*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

10. *“Jessica Kordas for Attorney General,” Jessica A. Kordas*

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to approve the grant application for *“Jessica Kordas for Attorney General,” Jessica A. Kordas*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

11. *“JessicaDemmoForCT,” Jessica Demmo*

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to approve the grant application for *“JessicaDemmoForCT,” Jessica Demmo*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

VI. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Julie A.G. Flammia of Terryville and Victoria A. Carey of Plymouth
File No. 2021-182

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

James M. Talbert-Slagle

Legal Investigator:

Stephanie Fish

Attorney James M. Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2021-182. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings and Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to adopt the Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2021-182. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by John Schwarzkopf, Prospect
File No. 2021-183

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

James M. Talbert-Slagle

Legal Investigator:

Ronald Perry

Attorney James M. Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2021-183. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings and Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to adopt the Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2021-183. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

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 Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch at 09:55 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 Ajello, Cascudo, Bergquist, and Piecuch were present via Webex. Staff members present via Webex were: Michael J. Brandi, Sheri-Lyn Lagueux, Shannon Clark Kief, Geetha Natarajan, William Smith, James Talbert-Slagle, Kevin Ahern, Lindsay Leung, Joshua Foley, Stephanie Fish, Scott Branfuhr, Ronald Perry, Paul Brady, Renata Rydzewski, and Stephen Palmer.

The Commission returned to public session at 11:11 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 September 21, 2022 and requested that one (1) matter be moved to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to one (1) complaint File No. 2022-046. So approved by the Commission, 3-0-0. So voted.

Commissioner Ajello noted for the record that Commissioner Cascudo has left the meeting.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Keith Hedrick, Groton
File No. 2021-122B
In the Matter of a Complaint by Deborah DeMuis, Guilford
File No. 2021-174B
In the Matter of a Referral by Newington Registrar of Voters
File No. 2021-176B
In the Matter of a Referral by Newington Registrar of Voters
File No. 2021-177B
In the Matter of a Complaint by Jessica Rodi, Shelton
File No. 2021-179B
In the Matter of a Complaint by Sandra Coppola, Berlin
File No. 2021-180B

In the Matter of a Complaint by Jean-Claude Ambroise, Groton
File No. 2021-184B
In the Matter of a Referral by the Bristol Town Clerk
File No. 2021-185B
In the Matter of a Referral by the New Britain Town Clerk
File No. 2021-186B
In the Matter of a Complaint by Richard Marcone, Stratford
File No. 2021-189B
In the Matter of a Complaint by Timothy Lavoy, Portland
File No. 2021-190
In the Matter of a Complaint by Stephanie Weintraub, South Windsor
File No. 2021-191B
In the Matter of a Complaint by Robert Dempsky, Norwich
File No. 2021-203B
In the Matter of a Complaint by Anne Manusky, Easton
File No. 2021-205
In the Matter of a Complaint by Anthony Simonetti, Shelton
File No. 2021-206B
In the Matter of a Complaint by Anthony Simonetti, Shelton
File No. 2021-207B
In the Matter of a Complaint by Richard Kilby, Bristol
File No. 2021-213B
In the Matter of a Complaint by Michael Ludwick, et al, Enfield
File No. 2022-001B
In the Matter of a Complaint by Scott Nolan, Windsor Locks
File No. 2021-192
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:	Kevin Ahern
Investigator:	Stephanie Fish and Ronald Perry

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaints and Proposed Findings and Conclusions in File Nos. 2021-122B, 2021-174B, 2021-176B, 2021-177B, 2021-179B, 2021-180B, 2021-184B, 2021-185B, 2021-186B, 2021-189B, 2021-190, 2021-191B, 2021-203B, 2021-205, 2021-206B, 2021-207B, 2021-213B, 2022-001B, and 2021-192. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings and Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Findings and Conclusions in File Nos. 2021-122B, 2021-174B, 2021-176B, 2021-177B, 2021-179B, 2021-180B, 2021-184B, 2021-185B, 2021-186B, 2021-189B, 2021-190, 2021-191B, 2021-203B, 2021-205, 2021-206B, 2021-207B, 2021-213B, 2022-001B, and 2021-192. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0. The Findings and Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Christine M. Baptiste-Perez and Erika Castillo, Bridgeport
File No. 2021-212
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

This matter is continued.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda F. Czaplinski, Oxford
File No. 2022-005
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

This matter is continued.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by David B. Lampart, Woodbury
File No. 2022-027
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

This matter is continued.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Pauline Moon, Wethersfield
File No. 2021-170
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

Attorney James Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Request for an Investigatory Subpoena. He recommended that the Commission authorize an investigatory subpoena duces tecum in File No. 2021-170.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to authorize an investigatory subpoena duces tecum in File No. 2021-170. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

VIII. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session

IX. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piccuch at 11:33 A.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0. Unless otherwise noted, all votes of the Commission are unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by,



Sheri-Lyn Lagueux
Clerk of the State Elections Enforcement Commission

October 5, 2022

Date approved
(By the State Elections Enforcement Commission)

The next regular scheduled meeting is September 28, 2022 at 3:30 P.M. via Webex.