



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

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**MINUTES**  
**STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR TELEPHONIC MEETING**  
**Via Webex**  
**June 15, 2022**  
**9:30 A.M.**

***I. Call to Order***

Commissioner Penny was present via Webex and called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. Commissioners Michael Ajello 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 01, 2022***

It was moved by Commissioner Picuch and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of June 01, 2022. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Picuch and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of June 08, 2022. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

***III. Administrative Reports***

Executive Director Brandi provided the commission with the following administrative updates. The agency is finishing out the current fiscal year, which closes on June 30. We will have a decent surplus, which will be returned to the General Fund. We are actively recruiting new personnel, specifically the vacant attorney positions. We are also glad to have Alyssa Torres back part-time from medical leave and we also have two staff out on maternity leave.

Like previous meetings, our agenda today is very active with CEP grants. We are averaging 20-25 grants per week. We had 60 PARs this spring and those formal applications are coming in. We are on pace to approve 100 grants by the end of June. As we get closer to August, those candidates in a primary will take priority. Statewide candidates are also coming in with their grants. Staff continue to work diligently to get them through the process. Like past cycles, enforcement unit staff

will soon be busy as well. It is a “all hands on deck” period for staff and everyone is pitching in to help out candidates and their committees. To date, we have approved approximately \$2.5 million in grants so far. New deposits into the CEF will be coming July 1 with the arrival of the new fiscal year. The current balance of the fund is approximately \$35 million.

**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***

Executive Director Brandi noted that one item will be added under Section B. “David Michel 2022”, David Michel submitted sufficient documentation to meet thresholds and will be added to the agenda. Without objection, the item was placed on the agenda.

**A. *New Applications***

1. “Donna Meier 4 CT,” Donna Meier

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for “Donna Meier 4 CT,” Donna Meier. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

2. “Friends of Dominique Johnson 2022,” Dominique Johnson

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for “Friends of Dominique Johnson 2022,” Dominique Johnson. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

3. “Jennifer Leeper 2022,” Jennifer Leeper

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for “Jennifer Leeper 2022,” Jennifer Leeper. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

4. *"Matt Harper for CT," Matthew Harper*

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

5. *"Stavens for CT," David Stavens*

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

6. *"Tim Gavin 2022," Timothy Gavin*

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application for *"Tim Gavin 2022," Timothy Gavin*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

7. *"Walker for the 60<sup>th</sup>," Lenworth Walker*

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for *"Walker for the 60<sup>th</sup>," Lenworth Walker*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

8. *"Maher 2022," Cecilia Maher*

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

9. *"Nuccio 2022," Tammy Nuccio*

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

10. *"Susan Haas State Representative," Susan Haas*

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application for *"Susan Haas State Representative," Susan Haas*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

11. *"Cohen for Senate," Christine Cohen*

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

12. *"Cristin McCarthy Vahey 2022," Cristin McCarthy Vahey*

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for *"Cristin McCarthy Vahey 2022," Cristin McCarthy Vahey*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

13. *"Jen for the 79<sup>th</sup>," Jen Van Gorder*

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for *"Jen for the 79<sup>th</sup>," Jen Van Gorder*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

14. *"Rojas2022," Jason Rojas*

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for *"Rojas2022," Jason Rojas*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

15. *"Trenee McGee for State Rep," Trenee McGee*

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application for *"Trenee McGee for State Rep," Trenee McGee*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

16. *"TZ 2022," Tammy Zawistowski*

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for *"TZ 2022," Tammy Zawistowski*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

17. *"Brown 2022," Marcus Brown*

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

18. *"Napoli 2022," Ronald Napoli*

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

19. *"Re-Elect Senator Henri Martin," Henri Martin*

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for *"Re-Elect Senator Henri Martin," Henri Martin*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

20. *"Friends of John-Michael," John Michael Parker*

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for *"Friends of John-Michael," John Michael Parker*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

21. *"Friends of Christine Palm," Christine Palm*

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

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

**1. "Heather for House," Heather Maguire**

2. It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for "Heather for House," Heather Maguire. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

**3. "BobHforthe58<sup>th</sup>," Robert Hendrickson**

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for "BobHforthe58<sup>th</sup>," Robert Hendrickson. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

**4. "David Michel 2022", David Michel**

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for "David Michel 2022", David Michel. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

**VI. Pending Complaints and Investigations**

**A. Public Session**

*Public Session was not convened.*

**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 Ajello at 9:56 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 Picuch were present via Webex. Staff members present via Webex were: Michael J. Brandi, Salman Munir, Sheri-Lyn Lagueux, Shannon Clark Kief, Geetha Natarajan, Lisa Drew, William Smith,

James Talbert-Slagle, Kevin Ahern, Lindsey Leung, Joshua Foley, Scott Branfuhr, Stephanie Fish, and Stephen Palmer.

The Commission returned to public session at 11:01 A.M.

Returning to public session, the Commission took the following action:

1. In the Matter of a Referral by the Milford Registrars of Voters  
File No. 2021-135B  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2021-135B. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings and Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2021-135B. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0. The Findings and Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

2. In the Matter of a Referral by the Hampton Registrars of Voters  
File No. 2022-004  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: William B. Smith  
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

This matter is continued.

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

This matter is continued.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Joseph Quaranta and Meredith Quaranta, New Milford  
File No. 2021-030  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney James M. Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2021-030. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings and Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2021-030. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0. The Findings and Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

5. 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 matter is continued.

6. *In re: Commission Initiated: Gannon for 3*

File No. 2021-215

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

James M. Talbert-Slagle

Legal Investigator:

Ronald Perry

This matter is continued.

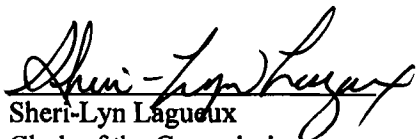


**VIII. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session**


**IX. Adjournment**

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adjourn the meeting at 11:07 AM. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0. Unless otherwise noted, all votes of the commission are unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sheri-Lyn Laguëux  
Clerk of the Commission

Adopted this 6<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2022 at Hartford, Connecticut.

  
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Stephen T. Penny  
By Order of the Commission

***The next regular scheduled meeting is June 22, 2022 at 3:30 P.M. via Webex.***