



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

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MINUTES  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR TELEPHONIC MEETING  
Via Webex  
September 7, 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, 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 Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to add the grant applications “Carlson for Senate 10,” John Carlson and “Jeff Gordon for CT,” Jeff Gordon to the agenda under Section V. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

**II. Approval of the Minutes**

*1. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of August 17, 2022*

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of August 17, 2022. So voted by a vote of 4-0-1.

*2. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of August 24, 2022*

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of August 24, 2022. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

*3. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of August 31, 2022*

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of August 31, 2022. So voted by a vote of 4-0-1.

**III. Administrative Reports**

Executive Director and General Counsel Michael Brandi provided the commission with a few brief administrative updates. Fiscal staff is continuing its work on developing the agency’s proposed budget to submit to OPM. We are also continuing

to interview for the open Staff Attorney II positions and hope to fill those positions in the near future.

Kudos and thanks to the Compliance, Audit, and Investigative staff who have worked tirelessly on the influx of applications received in the last several weeks. The commission will have 45 or more applications to consider at its meeting tomorrow, which bring us to a total of 290 applications thus far this CEP season. We are on target with past election cycles and expect to see some additional applications in the coming weeks.

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

1. *“Farouk Rajab 2022,” Farouk Rajab*

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for *“Farouk Rajab 2022,” Farouk Rajab*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

2. *“Robert Bell for Norwich,” Robert Bell*

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for *“Robert Bell for Norwich,” Robert Bell*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

3. *“Hubert Delany for State Representative,” Hubert Delany*

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for *“Hubert Delany for State Representative,” Hubert Delany*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

4. *“Carlson for Senate 10,” John Carlson*

It was moved by Commissioner Piccuch and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for *“Carlson for Senate 10,” John Carlson*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

5. *“Jeff Gordon for CT,” Jeff Gordon*

It was moved by Commissioner Piccuch and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for *“Jeff Gordon for CT,” Jeff Gordon*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

**VI. Pending Complaints and Investigations**

*A. Public Session*

1. In the Matter of a Referral by Dayna Arriola and Mary Oliver, Hampton Registrars of Voters  
File No. 2022-003  
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Respondent:         | Shannon Haddad   |
| Attorney:           | William B. Smith |
| Legal Investigator: | Ronald Perry     |

This item is marked off.

2. In the Matter of a Referral by Dayna Arriola and Mary Oliver, Hampton Registrars of Voters  
File No. 2022-004A  
Proposed Findings & Conclusions

|                     |                                     |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Respondent(s):      | William Pearl and<br>Shannon Haddad |
| Attorney:           | William B. Smith                    |
| Legal Investigator: | Ronald Perry                        |

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2022-004A. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings and Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Piccuch and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2022-004A. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

3. In the Matter of a Referral by Dayna Arriola and Mary Oliver, Hampton Registrars of Voters  
File No. 2022-004B  
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement  
Respondent(s): Shannon Haddad  
Attorney: William B. Smith  
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

This item is marked off.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Kevin Coughlin, Branford  
File No. 2021-165  
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement  
Respondent(s): Dennis Flanigan  
Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle  
Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

Attorney James M. Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2021-165. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Picuch and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2021-165. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by James Johnson, Leesburg, Fla.  
File No. 2021-168  
Proposed Findings & Conclusions  
Respondent(s): Denise Merrill  
Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle  
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

Attorney James M. Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2021-168. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Picuch and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2021-168. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Pauline Moon, Wethersfield  
File No. 2021-175  
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement  
Respondent(s): Amanda Drew

Attorney:  
Legal Investigator:

James M. Talbert-Slagle  
Stephanie Fish

Attorney James M. Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2021-175. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2021-175. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

**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 Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo at 10:00 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 5-0-0.

Commissioners Penny, Ajello, Cascudo, 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, Kevin Ahern, Lindsay Leung, Joshua Foley, Stephanie Fish, Scott Branfuhr, Ronald Perry, and Stephen Palmer.

The Commission returned to public session at 10:46 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

This item is marked off.

2. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State  
File No. 2019-024  
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:  
Investigator:

Kevin M. Ahern  
Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2019-024. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings and Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2019-024. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

Chairman Penny noted for the record that Commissioner Cascudo has left the meeting.

3. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State  
File No. 2019-121  
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern  
Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2019-121. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings and Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2019-121. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

4. In the Matter of a Referral by the Groton Town Clerk  
File No. 2021-148  
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern  
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2021-148. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings and Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2021-148. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by John F. Malsbenden, Colchester  
File No. 2021-178  
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle  
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

This matter is continued.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Christine Giaquinto, Mary Jo Nosal and Joseph Soucie, Old Lyme  
File No. 2021-200  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle  
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

This matter is continued.

7. In the Matter of a Referral by Stonington Registrars of Voters  
File No. 2017-010  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: William B. Smith

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2017-010. He recommended that 1) the commission find that there is a reason to believe that the Respondent violated General Statutes 9-360 and 9-159o and 2) that the Chair appoint a hearing officer for a hearing on the matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2017-010. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

Chairman Penny appointed Commissioner Piecuch as the hearing officer in this matter.

8. In the Matter of a Complaint by Patricia Bollettieri and Arthur J. Penna, Jr., West Haven  
File No. 2021-149  
Recommendation of Counsel (Commission Dismissal)  
Attorney: William B. Smith  
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2021-149. He recommended adoption of the Recommendation of Counsel.

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Recommendation of Counsel as to a dismissal in File No. 2021-149. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

9. In re: Commission Initiated Investigation into “Weber for CT,” Brock Weber  
File No. 2022-036  
Recommendation of Counsel (Subpoena Authorization Request)  
Attorney: William B. Smith  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced Commission Initiated investigation and Proposed Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2022-036. He recommended that the commission authorize investigatory subpoenas on certain unnamed individuals.

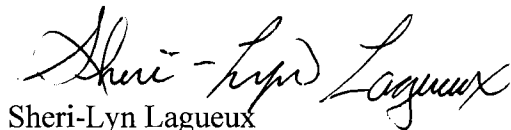
It was moved by Commissioner Picuch and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Recommendation of Counsel to authorize investigatory subpoenas in File No. 2022-036. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

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

***IX. Adjournment***

It was moved by Commissioner Picuch and seconded by Commissioner Ajello at 11:02 A.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0. Unless otherwise noted, all votes of the Commission are unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by,



Sheri-Lyn Lagueux  
Clerk of the State Elections Enforcement Commission

**September 21, 2022**

Date approved  
(By the State Elections Enforcement Commission)

***The next regular scheduled meeting is September 8, 2022 at 3:30 P.M. via Webex.***