



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR TELEPHONIC MEETING

Via Webex
July 3, 2024
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 Bergquist, Picuch and Asare were present via Webex. Agency staff was also present via Webex.

II. Approval of the Minutes

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of June 26, 2024

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of June 26, 2024 as amended. So voted by a vote of 3-0-1 with Commissioner Bergquist abstaining.

III. Administrative Reports

Legal Program Director Kief welcomed the two new fiscal trainees, Megan Jakubowski and Kendra Hill along with the new paralegal, Victoria Hively.

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)

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist at 9:34 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, Bergquist, Asare, and Picuch were present via Webex. Staff members present via Webex were Shannon Kief, Legal Program Director, Salman Munir, Director of Audit & Disclosure, Krysta Palozie, Associate Accounts Examiner, William B. Smith, Johnny Ross, III, Ron Perry, Patricia Mwilwa, Maryam Bitar, Melissa Moore-Ward, Stephen Palmer, Victoria R. Hively, Sheri-Lyn Lagueux and Renata Rydzewski.

The Commission returned to public session at 9:39 A.M.

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

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

No action was taken

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

A. New Applications

1. *"Godfrey 24," Bob Godfrey*

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *"Godfrey 24," Bob Godfrey*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

2. *"Team Eleni for CT," Eleni Kavros DeGraw*

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *"Team Eleni for CT," Eleni Kavros DeGraw*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

3. *"Bronko for Naugatuck," Seth Bronko*

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to continue without prejudice the grant applications for *"Bronko for Naugatuck," Seth Bronko; "Shellye Davis for Senate," Shellye Davis; "Desmarais 2024," Jeffrey Desmarais; "Gibson 2024," Bobby Gibson; "Re Elect Carol Hall 59th," Carol Hall; "Citizens for Rick, 59th," Richard Leborious; "Martin Looney for State Senate," Martin Looney; "Manny 2024," Manny Sanchez*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

4. *"Shellye Davis for Senate," Shellye Davis*
5. *"Desmarais 2024," Jeffrey Desmarais*
6. *"Gibson 2024," Bobby Gibson*
7. *"Re Elect Carol Hall 59th," Carol Hall*
8. *"Citizens for Rick, 59th," Richard Leborious*
9. *"Martin Looney for State Senate," Martin Looney*
10. *"Manny 2024," Manny Sanchez*

Commissioner Penny made a motion to add to the Agenda to Section V.B. Continuation of Prior Applications to Section B as follows:

- #7) *"Reddy for CT Senate," Christopher Reddy*
- #8) *"Campaign for Jane," Jane Wisialowski*

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to add these items to the Agenda. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

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

1. *“DeFronzo 2024,” David DeFronzo*

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *“DeFronzo 2024,” David DeFronzo*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

2. *“Mary for the 79th,” Mary Fortier*

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *“Mary for the 79th,” Mary Fortier*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

3. *“Gilchrest 2024,” Jillian Gilchrest*

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *“Gilchrest 2024,” Jillian Gilchrest*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

4. *“Harrison for the 132nd,” Alex P. Harrison*

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *“Harrison for the 132nd,” Alex P. Harrison*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

5. *“Jen Pope for CT,” Jennifer Pope*

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

6. *“Lisa for CT Senate,” Lisa Seminara*

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

7. *“Reddy for CT Senate,” Christopher Reddy*

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

8. *“Campaign for Jane,” Jane Wisialowski*

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *“Campaign for Jane,” Jane Wisialowski*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

VI. *Pending Complaints and Investigations*

A. *Public Session*

No matters were taken up.

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 Asare and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist at 9:50 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, Bergquist, Asare, and Piecuch were present via Webex. Staff members present via Webex were Shannon Kief, Legal Program Director, Salman Munir, Director of Audit & Disclosure, Krysta Palozie, Associate Accounts Examiner, William B. Smith, Johnny Ross, III, Ron Perry, Patricia Mwilwa, Maryam Bitar, Melissa Moore-Ward, Stephen Palmer, Victoria R. Hively, Sheri-Lyn Lagueux and Renata Rydzewski.

The Commission returned to public session at 11:09 A.M.

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

1. Recommendation of Counsel: Progress Update cases involving Bridgeport related primary and elections

No action taken.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Christine Bartlett-Josie, New Haven
File No. 2023-058

Recommendation of counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Ronald Perry

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint in File No. 2023-058. He recommended to administratively close the file.

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to administratively close File No. 2023-058. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0. A Notice of Case Closure will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Carmen L. Nieves, Bridgeport
File No. 2023-059

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Ronald Perry

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint in File No. 2023-059. He recommended to administratively close the file.

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to administratively close File No. 2023-059. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0. A Notice of Case Closure will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Kevin G. Monks, Bridgeport
File No. 2023-090

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint in File No. 2023-090. He recommended the matter be referred to the Office of the Chief State's Attorney.

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve and adopt the following motion: Pursuant to its authority under General Statutes § 9-7b (a) (8), the Commission authorizes counsel to refer this matter for consultation to the Office of the Chief State's Attorney any evidence of possible criminal violations related to potential elections law violations discovered in the course of the Commission's investigation into the matter docketed as File No. 2023-090. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Lauren Blaha, Killingworth

File No. 2023-084

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

The matter is continued.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Erin Cowles, Southington

File No. 2023-014

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Johnny Ross, III

Legal Investigator:

Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

The matter is continued.

7. Recommendation of Counsel: Pending Litigation Update on SC 20726 (Markley v. SEEC); File 2014-170

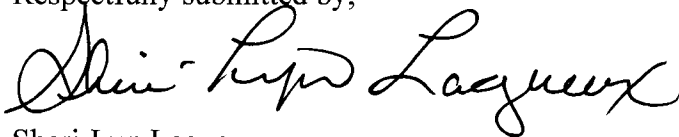
No action taken

VIII. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session

IX. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist at 11:15 A.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted by,



Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

Clerk of the State Elections Enforcement Commission

July 17, 2024

Date approved

(By the State Elections Enforcement Commission)