

# State Elections Enforcement Commission

## Press Release



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### **STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION ISSUES PENALTIES TO TWO CAMPAIGNS THAT WERE DENIED GRANTS FROM THE CITIZENS' ELECTION PROGRAM**

**HARTFORD, CT**—May 27, 2009— The Commission approved the settlement of two separate cases for violations of campaign finance laws and Citizens' Election Program requirements. First, the State Elections Enforcement Commission approved a settlement of a case involving the campaign of John Cusano, candidate for State Representative in the 28<sup>th</sup> district, and imposed a civil penalty of \$6,000 for violations by his brother and solicitor Samuel Cusano. After a comprehensive audit validation process conducted by the Commission into the campaign's application for Citizens' Election Program grant funds, the Commission denied the application and initiated an investigation concerning improper campaign contributions. The Commission's investigation revealed that the candidate's brother had provided his own funds to the campaign while misrepresenting such funds to the treasurer as coming from other individuals.

Second, the State Elections Enforcement Commission approved a settlement of a case involving the campaign of Senator Joseph J. Crisco, and imposed a civil penalty against Senator Crisco of \$4,000 for his violations of campaign finance laws. During review of the grant application for his 2008 re-election campaign, Commission staff identified flaws in the application which it denied due to material noncompliance. In the settlement, Senator Crisco acknowledged that he failed to properly designate a treasurer or deputy treasurer; acted as his own treasurer, received contributions and made expenditures without a properly formed committee and submitted forms without legally sufficient oaths and/or signatures. Finally, the Commission has referred the notary public involved, Concetta Coppola, to the Secretary of State for consideration of whether she should retain her credentials as a notary public.

The Commission views these violations to be serious, and maintains that the appropriate safeguards are in place to protect the Citizens' Election Program. Both campaigns fully cooperated in the investigations.

#### **Commission Decisions**

[In the Matter of Crisco – 2008-082.1](#)

[In the Matter of Crisco – 2008-082.2 Coppola](#)

[In the Matter of Cusano – 2008-148](#)

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