

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

In the Matter of a Complaint by
Willie D. Greene, New Haven

File No. 2007-276

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Complainant filed this complaint, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 9-7b, and alleged that John DeStefano's 2007 mayoral candidate committee "Committee to Re-elect the Mayor" (hereinafter "CRM") violated campaign finance laws pertaining to a May 9, 2007 fundraiser at Lighthouse Park in New Haven. Specifically, Complainant alleged: (1) That the fundraiser was widely attended by city employees and that department heads for the City of New Haven promoted and solicited tickets for the above event; (2) That CRM failed to disclose expenditures for above event such as a rental facility; (3) That CRM failed to disclose expenditures for reimbursements for the above event for expenditures outlaid by the city; and (4) city department heads were enlisted to conduct a door-to-door canvas to solicit support for the Mayor.

After the investigation of the Complainant's complaint, the Commission makes the following findings and conclusions:

1. The Complainant was a petitioning mayoral candidate in the City of New Haven for the November 6, 2007 municipal election.
2. Approximately twelve individuals who were City of New Haven employees contributed to CRM by purchasing tickets to the May 9, 2007 Lighthouse Park Fundraiser.
3. Connecticut General Statutes § 9-622(12), provides in pertinent part:
The following persons shall be guilty of illegal practices and shall be punished in accordance with the provisions of section 9-623:

(12) Any municipal employee who solicits a contribution on behalf of, or for the benefit of, any candidate for state, district or municipal office, any political committee or any political party, from (A) an individual under the supervision of such employee, or (B) the spouse or a dependent child of such individual; ...
4. The Commission concludes that although the approximately one dozen New Haven employees that purchased tickets to the May 9, 2007 also attended the fundraiser, the investigation has not revealed that any employee solicited an individual under their supervision.
5. Connecticut General Statutes § 9-608, provides in pertinent part:
(A) Filing dates. (1) Each campaign treasurer of a committee, other than a state central committee, shall file a statement, sworn under penalty of false statement with

the proper authority in accordance with the provisions of section 9-603, (A) on the tenth calendar day in the months of January, April, July and October, provided, if such tenth calendar day is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the statement shall be filed on the next business day ...

(3)(c) Content of statements. (1) Each statement filed under subsection (a), (e) or (f) of this section shall include, but not be limited to: (A) *An itemized accounting of each contribution*, if any, including the full name and complete address of each contributor and the amount of the contribution; (B) in the case of anonymous contributions, the total amount received and the denomination of the bills; (C) an itemized accounting of each expenditure, if any, including the full name and complete address of each payee, including secondary payees whenever the primary or principal payee is known to include charges which the primary payee has already paid or will pay directly to another person, vendor or entity, the amount and the purpose of the expenditure, the candidate supported or opposed by the expenditure, whether the expenditure is made independently of the candidate supported or is an in-kind contribution to the candidate, and a statement of the balance on hand or deficit, as the case may be ... [Emphasis added.]

6. The investigation revealed that an individual directly paid \$41 for the rental of the pavilion for the May 9, 2007 CRM fundraiser, and that CRM failed to disclose the same as an in-kind contribution on its original July 10, 2007 statement filed with City of New Haven Town Clerk's office, in violation of General Statutes § 9-608(c).
7. The Commission further finds that CRM amended its original July 10th filing on July 13, 2007 with the City of New Haven Town Clerk's office, disclosing an in-kind contribution from Mr. Michael DePalma in the amount of \$41 for the rental of the pavilion for the May 9, 2007 Lighthouse Park fundraiser. This filing was received by the town clerk's office three days after the original statement and before the July 18, 2007 receipt of this complaint by the Commission.
8. The Commission concludes therefore that there was voluntary compliance by CRM when it amended its July 10, 2007 filing on July 13, 2007.
9. The Commission has limited jurisdiction under General Statutes § 9-610(d) to review claimed expenditures of public funds to promote an individual's election, which does not extend to Complainant's allegations in (3) and (4), above. There are no other campaign finance laws implicated by the Complainant's complaint and accordingly, the complaint is dismissed.

ORDER

The following Order is issued on the basis of the aforementioned findings:

That the complaint is dismissed.

Adopted this 29 th day of May 2008 at Hartford, Connecticut.



Stephen F. Cashman
Chairman
By Order of the Commission