

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

In the Matter of a Complaint by  
Paul J. Roczynski, East Hartford

File No. 2007-372

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Complainant brings this complaint pursuant to C.G.S. § 9-7b and asserts that a large purple and white "Susan Kniep for Mayor" sign located at 825A Silver Lane in East Hartford was more than thirty-two square feet and that the sign did not have the proper attribution indicating who paid for it.

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

1. The complainant submitted photographs of the sign in question along with his complaint. Individuals appear in the complaint photographs holding a tape measure to the sign and measuring it. The photographs attached to the complaint reveal that the surface area of the sign is 4' by 8'¼.

2. General Statutes § 9-621 provides in pertinent part:

(a) No individual shall make or incur any expenditure with the cooperation of, at the request or suggestion of, or in consultation with any candidate, candidate committee or candidate's agent, and no candidate or committee shall make or incur any expenditure for any written, typed or other printed communication, or any web-based, written communication, which promotes the success or defeat of any candidate's campaign for nomination at a primary or election or solicits funds to benefit any political party or committee unless such communication bears upon its face (1) the words "paid for by" and the following: (A) In the case of such an individual, the name and address of such individual; (B) in the case of a committee other than a party committee, the name of the committee and its campaign treasurer; or (C) in the case of a party committee, the name of the committee, and (2) the words "approved by" and the following: (A) In the case of an individual making or incurring an expenditure with the cooperation of, at the request or suggestion of, or in consultation with any candidate, candidate committee or candidate's agent, the name of such individual; or (B) in the case of a candidate committee, the name of the candidate.

....

(d) The provisions of subsections (a), . . . do not apply to . . . (4) signs with a surface area of not more than thirty-two square feet.

3. Commission staff went to 825A Silver Lane and measured the sign in question. The sign has uneven edging and there are portions of the surface area of the sign that measure 4' x 8' ¼ and there are portions of the surface area of the sign that measure 4' x 8'. As a result of the uneven edges, it is difficult to ascertain the square footage of the surface area of the sign.

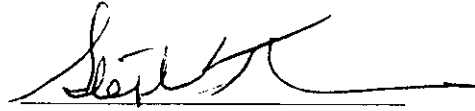
4. The treasurer of "Kniep for Mayor" provided a copy of the invoice for signs that she ordered from Hi-Point, Inc., a printing company located in East Hartford on or about September 19, 2001. The invoice reflects that the treasurer ordered four 4' x 8' coroplast signs which would not have required an attribution as required by General Statutes § 9-621. Hi-Point, Inc. is no longer in business.
5. Due to the uneven measurements along the edges of the sign, the surface area of sign is difficult to ascertain. The surface area of the sign does measure slightly more than 32 square feet in some places. However, it is concluded that based on the facts in this case, the treasurer of "Kniep for Mayor" did not commit a violation of General Statutes § 9-621 because the committee ordered a sign in compliance with the statutory requirement and because the surface area measurements of the sign differ between requiring an attribution and not requiring an attribution.

**ORDER**

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

That the case be dismissed.

Adopted this 14th day of November, 2007 at Hartford, Connecticut.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen F. Cashman", written over a horizontal line.

Stephen F. Cashman, Chairperson  
By Order of the Commission