

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION**

In the Matter of a Complaint by  
Gregory Morehead, New Haven

File No. 2009-146

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

Complainant brings this complaint, pursuant to General Statutes §9-7b, alleging that Lisa Hopkins violated General Statutes § 9-140 (b) (d) in that she was unauthorized to take possession of an absentee ballot of another pertaining to the November 3, 2009 election in the City of New Haven.

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

1. Complainant was the endorsed Democratic candidate and Lisa Hopkins was a certified write-in candidate for the office Alderman for Ward 22 in the City of New Haven at the November 3, 2009 election.
2. Complainant alleged that Ms. Hopkins solicited and received the unmarked absentee ballot of a Ms. Katie T. Williams, a resident of Ward 22. Furthermore, Complainant alleged that Ms. Hopkins was unauthorized to possess the aforementioned ballot and therefore violated General Statutes § 9-140b.
3. Complainant attached a written statement to his complaint by Ms. Katie T. Williams in support of his allegations detailed in paragraph 2 above. Complainant did not otherwise provide specific information to corroborate his allegations.
4. Ms. Hopkins denies the allegations of this complaint and that she ever possessed an absentee ballot as alleged.
5. General Statutes § 9-140b, provides in pertinent part:

**(d) *No person shall have in his possession any official absentee ballot or ballot envelope for use at any primary, election or referendum except the applicant to whom it was issued***, the Secretary of the State or his or her authorized agents, any official printer of absentee ballot forms and his designated carriers, the United States Postal Service, any other carrier, courier or messenger service recognized and approved by the Secretary of the State, any person authorized by a municipal clerk to receive and process official absentee ballot forms on behalf of the municipal clerk, any

authorized primary, election or referendum official *or any other person authorized by any provision of the general statutes to possess a ballot or ballot envelope.*

[Emphasis added.]

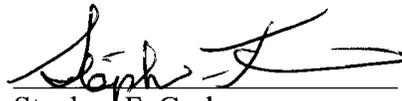
6. Upon investigation, Ms. Williams identified her signature on the witness statement, described in paragraph 3 above as her own, although she could not recognize the handwriting, and could not identify Ms. Hopkins by photo. Finally, Ms. Williams indicated that the Complainant identified Lisa Hopkins to her as the individual who allegedly left with her ballot, only *after* the aforementioned incident occurred.
7. Additionally, the Commission finds that Ms. Williams claims to have voted in-person at the polls and does not vote by absentee ballot. Furthermore, the Commission finds that records indicate that Ms. Williams has voted in person at elections and primaries in New Haven since 2008, and the absentee ballot issued to her pertaining to the November 3, 2009 election was not in fact returned to the New Haven City Clerk's office.
8. The Commission notes that after extensive field investigation and witness interviews, that the evidence is insufficient to establish the identity of any individual who possessed Ms. Williams absentee ballot, or otherwise corroborate Complainant's allegations regarding Lisa Hopkins soliciting, receiving and possessing Ms. Williams' absentee ballot pertaining to the Ward 22 November 3, 2009 election in the City of New Haven.
9. The Commission, for lack of evidence supporting Complainant's allegations, or establishing a violation of General Statutes §9-140b (d), dismisses this complaint.

#### ORDER

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

That the complaint is dismissed.

Adopted this 25<sup>th</sup> day of July of 2012 at Hartford, Connecticut.



Stephen F. Cashman

Chairperson

By Order of the Commission