

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

In the Matter of a Commission Initiated Complaint

File No. 2012-136

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

The Commission on September 6, 2012 initiated this complaint and investigation as authorized pursuant to §9-7b, General Statutes, based on possible prohibited “straw” contributions received by a candidate committee that were self-reported reported by Mr. Victor Cuevas pertaining to his candidacy for State Representative for the 75<sup>th</sup> General Assembly District at the August 14, 2012 primary in the City of Waterbury.

After an investigation of this matter, the following findings and conclusions are made:

1. Mr. Cuevas contacted Commission staff with an inquiry regarding possible contributions in the amount of \$330.00 that were attributed to various individuals but allegedly were made in the name of another by a single individual.
2. Mr. Cuevas sought advice from the Commission based on his concerns that possible “straw” contributions were made to his committee on behalf of individuals who attended a fundraising event held by his candidate committee *Friends of Victor Cuevas*.
3. Therefore, Mr. Cuevas as a candidate self-reported credible information regarding possible violations of General Statutes Chapters 155 and 157. Specifically, § 9-622 prohibits contributions made in the name of another. The Commission initiated this investigation by motion and pursuant to its authority at its September 6, 2012 meeting.
4. Specifically, § 9-622 prohibits contributions made in the name of another and provides and provides that the following persons shall be guilty of illegal practices:

...

*(7) Any person who, directly or indirectly, individually or through another person, makes a payment or promise of payment to a campaign treasurer in a name other than the person's own, and any campaign treasurer who knowingly receives a payment or promise of payment, or enters or causes the same to be entered in the person's accounts in any other name than that of the person by whom such payment or promise of payment is made; ...*

[Emphasis added]

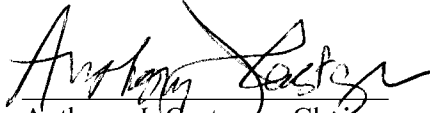
5. After investigation, it was determined that any potential violations were unsubstantiated and that Mr. Cuevas' initial claims and report to Commission staff could not be corroborated or verified.
6. The Commission finds that in an abundance of caution Mr. Cuevas self-reported his concerns regarding possible straw contributions by a group of individuals to a fundraiser in support of his candidacy, though no such evidence was uncovered by Commission staff upon investigation. Therefore, the Commission finds that this complaint warrants no further action or investigation by the Commission.

### ORDER

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

The complaint is hereby dismissed.

Adopted this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2013, at Hartford, Connecticut.

  
Anthony J. Castagno, Chair  
By Order of the Commission