

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

In the Matter of a Commission Initiated Complaint

File No. 2012-137

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Commission on September 6, 2012 initiated this complaint and investigation as authorized by §9-7b, General Statutes, based on credible information from a federal law enforcement agency that a vote buying scheme existed or possible vote buying occurred in relation to the candidacy of Mr. Victor Cuevas for State Representative for the 75th General Assembly District prior to the August 14, 2012 primary in the City of Waterbury.

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

1. The Commission on September 6, 2012 initiated this investigation relating to the August 14, 2012 Waterbury Democratic Primary based on credible information received from a federal law enforcement agency regarding a vote buying scheme or possible vote buying prior to that primary, which is prohibited by General Statutes § 9-622 (1).
2. By way of background, on January 12, 2012, Mr. Cuevas registered the candidate committee Friends of Victor Cuevas for the November 6, 2012 election for the State Representative for the 75th General Assembly District. Further, Mr. Cuevas appeared on the August 14th primary ballot in the City of Waterbury as the endorsed Democratic candidate for that office.
3. This investigation included an inquiry into any connection between Mr. Victor Cuevas, his agents and/or supporters and possible violations of General Statutes § 9-622 (1) prior to the August 14, 2012 primary in Waterbury.
4. General Statutes § 9-622 prohibits paying an individual for voting for or against any person in a primary and provides that the following persons shall be guilty of illegal practices:
 - (1) *Any person who*, directly or indirectly, individually or by another person, *gives or offers or promises to any person any money*, gift, advantage, preferment, entertainment, aid, emolument or other valuable thing *for the purpose of inducing or procuring any person* to sign a nominating, primary or referendum petition or *to vote* or refrain from voting *for or against any person* or for or against any measure *at any* election, caucus, convention, *primary* or referendum; ... [Emphasis added]

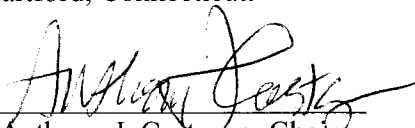
5. After investigation and field interviews by Commission staff, it was determined that the identity of individuals with knowledge of, or participating in, any potential vote buying scheme could not be ascertained. Further, it was determined that there is little likelihood that continued investigation of this matter at this time will change the aforementioned determination.
6. The Commission finds, for the reasons detailed herein, that this matter should be dismissed without prejudice for lack of information pertaining to possible vote buying or a vote buying scheme, in Waterbury regarding the August 14, 2012 primary and Mr. Victor Cuevas and/or his agents and supporters, as prohibited by General Statutes § 9-622 (1).
7. The Commission reserves the right to reopen this investigation should credible evidence be obtained pertaining to the possible violations and matters detailed herein.

ORDER

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

The complaint is hereby dismissed without prejudice.

Adopted this 20th day of November, 2013, at Hartford, Connecticut.



Anthony J. Castagno, Chair
By Order of the Commission