

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

In the Matter of a Complaint by
Kenneth W. Gronbach, Haddam

File No. 2012-149

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Complainant Kenneth W. Gronbach brings this complaint pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b alleging that the candidate committee of Philip Miller failed to report expenditures that the committee incurred during the course of the 2012 election. After the investigation of the Complainant's complaint, the Commission makes the following findings and conclusions:

1. Complainant filed this complaint on October 18, 2012, alleging that *Miller for 36th*, the candidate committee of Philip Miller, had failed to report certain expenditures. At the time of the complaint, the Miller committee was applying for a grant from the Citizens' Election Fund.
2. According to the complaint, Miller had distributed campaign materials at a Labor Day event. The complainant alleged that Miller's committee had not reported making expenditures to pay for any campaign literature up to that point.
3. The *Miller for 36th* candidate committee was formed on May 31, 2012, with Carla Feroni as treasurer. See SEEC Form 1A – Registration by Candidate (Philip Miller, May 31, 2012). On July 16, 2012, Frederick Vollono, the respondent to this complaint, replaced Feroni as treasurer of *Miller for 36th*. See SEEC Form 1A – Registration by Candidate (Philip Miller, July 11, 2012) (amended registration statement naming Vollono as treasurer).
4. Upon becoming treasurer for *Miller for 36th*, Vollono filed the committee's July 10th quarterly report, albeit late, on September 3, 2012. See SEEC Form 30 – Itemized Campaign Finance Disclosure Statement (*Miller for 36th*, rec'd Sept. 5, 2012).
5. The Miller candidate committee subsequently filed an application for a grant through the Citizens' Election Program on October 10, 2012. The grant application included a campaign finance disclosure statement that reflected payment an expenditure of \$2,010.01 to Farina Consulting of Manchester, Connecticut on October 3, 2012. The invoice from Farina Consulting, dated September 4, 2012, indicated that the group produced 5,000 pieces of campaign literature. See Invoice 107 from Farina Group to *Miller for 36th* candidate committee.

6. General Statutes § 9-608 requires treasurers of candidate committees to submit campaign finance disclosure reports each quarter, with the report due on October 10 reflecting the time period of July 1 through September 30. *See* General Statutes § 9-608 (a) (1) (requiring campaign treasurers to file quarterly campaign finance disclosure statements in months of January, April, July, and October).
7. General Statutes § 9-706 (c) requires a campaign treasurer to file with an application for a grant from the Citizens' Election Fund "a cumulative itemized accounting of all funds received, expenditures made and expenses incurred but not yet paid by the candidate committee as of three days preceding the day the application is filed." General Statutes § 9-706 (c).
8. *Miller for 36th* applied for a grant on October 10, 2012, and the itemized accounting was current through October 9, 2012. *See* SEEC Form 30 – Itemized Campaign Finance Disclosure Statement (*Miller for 36th*, October 10, 2012) (designated as both "October 10 Filing" and "Initial Itemized Statement accompanying application for Public Grant"). The disclosure statement filed on October 10, 2012 included all activity between July 1, 2012 and October 9, 2012. *Id.*
9. The filing that accompanied the public grant application was the first filing that would have covered the relevant time period in which the candidate committee had purchased the campaign literature.
10. Based on the preceding findings, the Commission should dismiss the complaint.

ORDER

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

That the complaint be dismissed.

Adopted this 19 day of June of 2013 at Hartford, Connecticut.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony J. Castagno", written over a horizontal line.

Anthony J. Castagno

By Order of the Commission