

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

In the Matter of a Complaint by Kim Fawcett
Fairfield

File No. 2012-235

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Complainant Kim Fawcett of Fairfield filed this Complaint pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 9-7b, alleging that Respondents Richard Santalesa, Joseph DeMartino, and Christopher DeSanctis improperly coordinated campaign expenditures between a political committee for which Santalesa served as treasurer and the candidate committee of DeSanctis during the 2012 election cycle and that Santalesa, as the treasurer for the Fairfield First political committee, failed to file timely campaign finance disclosure reports related to expenditures made on behalf of DeSanctis. After an investigation of the Complaint, the Commission makes the following findings and conclusions:

1. Complainant Kim Fawcett of Fairfield filed this Complaint pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 9-7b, alleging that Respondents Richard Santalesa, Joseph DeMartino, and Christopher DeSanctis improperly coordinated campaign expenditures between a political committee for which Santalesa served as treasurer and the candidate committee of DeSanctis during the 2012 election cycle and that Santalesa, as the treasurer for the Fairfield First political committee, failed to file timely campaign finance disclosure reports related to expenditures made on behalf of DeSanctis.
2. Complaint alleged that communications sent by the DeSanctis candidate committee and Fairfield First political committee contained similar content and messages, which, Complainant alleged, showed that the two committees were coordinating their efforts to unseat her from the 133rd General Assembly seat for which she and DeSanctis were competing in 2012.
3. General Statutes § 9-601c defines "Independent Expenditure" under Connecticut's campaign finance statutes and outlines what scenarios would create a rebuttal presumption that an expenditure was not independent.
4. Complainant also alleged that Fairfield First had missed a deadline to file a report related to the independent expenditure that it made to benefit the DeSanctis candidate committee.

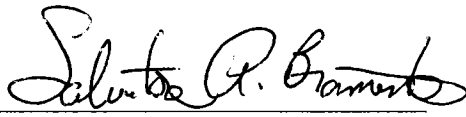
5. David Becker formed the political committee Fairfield First on October 11, 2012.¹ In that filing, Becker, the chairperson, named Richard Santalesa treasurer and himself as deputy treasurer.²
6. Given the time that has elapsed since this matter was initially opened, the costs to the agency to prosecute this matter through a hearing, and the Respondent's non-responsiveness to repeated attempts to resolve this matter, the Commission will take no further action and dismiss this matter.

ORDER

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

That the Commission will take no further action on this matter.

Adopted this 19th of August, 2020 at Hartford, Connecticut.


Commissioner, Salvatore Bramante Vice Chair
By Order of the Commission

¹ See SEEC Form 3 – Political Committee (PAC) Registration (*Fairfield First*, October 11, 2012).

² *Id.*