

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

In the Matter of a Complaint by Alyssa Peterson,
Hartford

File No. 2015-050

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Complainant brings this complaint pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 9-7b and alleged that Laury Rosario falsely signed a candidate registration statement pertaining to the November 3, 2015 City Council election in the City of Hartford and provided false information regarding her residence status on an amended voter registration card on the same day. After the investigation of the complaint, the Commission makes the following findings and conclusions

1. Complainant alleged that Ms. Laury Rosario falsely certified her candidate registration statement filed in connection with her campaign for Hartford City Council by providing incorrect information pertaining her address when she registered as a candidate and designated a candidate committee.
2. Additionally, Complainant alleged that Ms. Rosario also provided false information pertaining her residence address when she changed her voter registration information on the same day that she registered as a candidate. In each instance, Complainant alleges that the address provided by Ms. Rosario as 42 Amherst Street in Hartford was not her true address. Complainant alleged that Ms. Rosario's actual address was 32 Freeman Street in Hartford.
3. The Commission notes that this disposition does *not* address various claims that Complainant made against Ms. Rosario that are outside of its jurisdiction and authority pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b. It is limited to treating alleged Campaign Finance Laws and Election Laws contained in Title 9, General Statutes and within the scope of the Commission's statutory purview that were raised by Complainant's allegations.
4. General Statutes § 9-604, provides in pertinent part:
 - (a) Each candidate for a particular public office or the position of town committee member ***shall form a single candidate committee for which he shall designate a treasurer and a depository institution situated in this state as the depository for the committee's funds and shall file a committee statement containing such designations, not later than ten days after becoming a candidate, with the proper authority as required by section 9-603. ...***

5. General Statutes § 9-622, provides that the following persons shall be guilty of illegal practices:

...

(8) Any person who knowingly and willfully violates any provision of this chapter,

6. Upon investigation, the Commission finds that on April 16, 2015, Ms. Rosario filed a *Registration by Candidate* (SEEC Form 1) that included a *Candidate Committee Registration Statement* (SEEC Form 1A) and identified 42 Amherst Street, Hartford as her address. The aforementioned registration pertained to her campaign for the office of City Council at the November 3, 2015 municipal election in Hartford.

7. The SEEC Form 1 includes, in part, the following certification following the signature for the individual registering as a candidate:

I hereby certify and state, under penalties of false statement, that all of the designations set forth in this candidate committee registration statement are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief, ...

8. The Commission finds that on April 16, 2015 Ms. Rosario amended her voter registration at the Hartford Registrars' of Voters office. Specifically, Ms. Rosario amended her residence address from 32 Freeman Street, Hartford to 42 Amherst Street, Hartford, the same day she filed her SEEC Form 1.

9. Ms. Rosario asserts that she identified her address as 42 Amherst Street on *both* her SEEC Form 1 and her amended voter registration because she anticipated moving, "within two weeks," to that address to act as a full-time care giver to a friend who had back problems. Further, Ms. Rosario asserts that she wanted to be accurate as possible for her campaign filings and voter registration and publicly disclose that she was moving temporarily from 32 Freeman Street to 42 Amherst Street.

10. The Commission finds credible evidence that Ms. Rosario did move to 42 Amherst Street on or about the first week of May, 2015, and did remain there for approximately three months. Further, the Commission notes that both 32 Freeman Street and 42 Amherst Street are both part of the 6th City Council District in Hartford and therefore Ms. Rosario's move was within the same City Council District.

11. The Commission notes that Ms. Rosario, perhaps with excessive caution, completed her candidate registration statement and amended voter registration statement to disclose what, to the best of her belief and knowledge, was to be her residence address during her City Council campaign and for several months prior to the November 3, 2015 municipal election in Hartford.

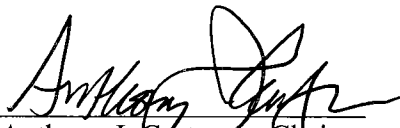
12. The Commission finds that Ms. Rosario's claim that she filed her candidate committee registration and amended her voter registration with a new address to *avoid* accusations of misleading the public during her candidacy for Hartford City Council member from the 6th District to be credible.
13. Finally, the Commission finds sufficient evidence to indicate that Ms. Rosario's designation of her address as 42 Amherst Street on her SEEC Form 1 and voter registration card was made to the best of her belief and knowledge.
14. The Commission concludes, for the reasons detailed herein, that Complainant's allegations of campaign finance and election law violations by Ms. Rosario were not substantiated after a thorough review of the facts and law under these specific circumstances. The Commission therefore dismisses these allegations.

ORDER

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

That the case is dismissed.

Adopted this 11th day of May, 2016 at Hartford, Connecticut.


Anthony J. Castagno, Chair
By Order of the Commission