

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION**

In the Matter of a Complaint by Michael Pohl, Manchester

File No. 2016-090A

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

The Complainant alleges that Respondents Matthew Galligan and Madhu Reddy accepted an impermissible contribution from the Lorraine 4 CT candidate committee.<sup>1</sup>

1. At all times relevant hereto, Respondent Galligan was the treasurer for the Tweedie for CT candidate committee.
2. At all times relevant hereto, Respondent Reddy was the treasurer for the Prasad Srinivasan for State Representative candidate committee.
3. In the months leading up to the November 8, 2016 general election, an advertisement was disseminated that included a photograph of candidates Lorraine Marchetti, Mark Tweedie, and Prasad Srinivassan. The advertisement further stated that "Lorraine Marchetti, Mark Tweedie and Prasad Srinivasan were all endorsed by the CT Independent Party at the Convention in Danbury."
4. The advertisement indicated that the advertisement was paid for by the Lorraine 4 CT committee.
5. The cost of a coordinated advertisement promoting multiple candidates for office in the State of Connecticut must be apportioned among the candidates. See SEEC Declaratory Ruling 2011-003.
6. In SEEC Declaratory Ruling 2011-003, the Commission has held that:

Several indicia will factor into the analysis of whether a share of the costs of a communication must be allocated to a particular candidate committee, including but not limited to the following: whether the candidate appears or is identified in the communication; when the communication was created, produced, or

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<sup>1</sup> Allegations concerning Respondent Timothy Devanney shall be addressed in a separate document.

distributed; how widely the communication was distributed; and what role the candidate or an agent of the candidate played in the creation, production and/or dissemination of the communication.

7. In this case, the advertisement included a photograph of all three candidates and the statement that each candidate had been endorsed by the "Independent Party." Among the towns where the advertisement was distributed were towns where both Ms. Marchetti and Mr. Srinivasan or Ms. Marchetti and Mr. Tweedie were candidates. The advertisement ran in the months immediately leading up to the November 8, 2016 election.
8. Accordingly, if the Respondents, or agents of the Respondents or featured candidates, had coordinated the advertisement, the Respondents would have been required to pay, with committee funds, for the portion of the advertisement attributed to their various committees. *See* SEEC Declaratory Ruling 2011-003 *citing* General Statutes §§9-616 & 9-607.<sup>2</sup>
9. General Statutes § 9-622 (10) further provides that "Any person who solicits, makes or receives a contribution that is otherwise prohibited by any provision of this chapter" is guilty of an illegal practice.
10. In this case, however, there is no evidence to support the allegation that the Respondents, or their agents, or the agents of the candidates, had any knowledge of that the instant advertisement had been produced or disseminated.
11. Accordingly, as there is no evidence that the Tweedie for CT or Prasad Srinivasan for State Representative committees coordinated in the production or distribution of this advertisement, this case should be dismissed as to Respondents Galligan and Reddy.

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<sup>2</sup> To the extent the Respondents were treasurers for candidates that were participating in the Citizens' Election Program, such conduct would also violate various provisions of chapter 155 and the accompanying regulations.

ORDER

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

That the matter is dismissed.

Adopted this 17<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2017 at Hartford, Connecticut.



~~Anthony J. Castagno, Chairperson~~

By Order of the Commission

Salvatore A. Bramante, Vice Chair