

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

In the Matter of a Complaint by Patricia DeHuff, Terryville

File No. 2017-078

AGREEMENT CONTAINING A CONSENT ORDER

The parties, Matthew Radke (the "Respondent") and the undersigned authorized representative of the State Elections Enforcement Commission (the "Commission"), enter into this agreement as authorized by Connecticut General Statutes § 4-177 (c) and Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies § 9-7b-54. In accordance with those provisions, the parties agree that:

1. At all times relevant hereto, Respondent was the treasurer of the Plymouth Republican Town Committee ("PRTC").
2. The Complainant alleges that Respondent failed to accurately report the financial activity of the PRTC.
3. General Statutes § 9-608 (a) requires that each treasurer of a committee file periodic financial disclosure statements concerning the financial activities of such committee.
4. General Statutes § 9-608 (c) specifically provides, in pertinent part:

(1) Each statement filed under subsection (a), (e) or (f) of this section shall include, but not be limited to: (A) An itemized accounting of each contribution, if any, including the full name and complete address of each contributor and the amount of the contribution; . . . (F) for each individual who contributes in excess of one hundred dollars but not more than one thousand dollars, in the aggregate, to the extent known, the principal occupation of such individual and the name of the individual's employer, if any; (G) for each individual who contributes in excess of one thousand dollars in the aggregate, the principal occupation of such individual and the name of the individual's employer, if any[.]
5. Failure to accurately report such information subjects a committee treasurer to civil penalties of up to \$2000 per violation. General Statutes § 9-7b.
6. As the treasurer of a town party committee, Respondent was required to file accurate financial disclosure statements concerning the activities of the PRTC by July 10, 2017 and October 10, 2017.
7. However, the July 10, 2017 financial disclosure report failed to include 19 contributions totaling \$1,540 and 7 expenditures totaling \$2,950. The October 10, 2017 financial

disclosure statement failed to include 92 contributions totaling \$9,533 and 36 expenditures totaling \$7,311.21.

8. On October 31, the chair of the PRTC posted the following statement on his Facebook page:

It has come to my attention that our new, volunteer treasurer, unknowingly omitted expenses from the RTC quarterly SEEC reports for July and October. We are working to file the amended reports as quickly and accurately as possible. This was an honest mistake caused by human error and not one that was in any way intentional. It should be noted that according to state regulations no candidate can oversee the financials of a campaign committee

-Joe Kilduff-
RTC Chairman

Joe Kilduff, Facebook (October 31, 2017) <https://www.facebook.com/kilduffjot>.

9. In response to the Complaint, Respondent provided the following statement to the Commission:

In regards to the complaint filed against me for the Plymouth Republican Town Committee. As taking on the responsibility as treasurer I filed the forms incorrectly at the end of the campaign. This was human error I do not have any background in being treasurer, nor do I have any accounting experience, this was a volunteer position. I apologize for my error, yet the assistant treasurer made sure the forms were correct when she filed for them after finding my mistakes, I also received no training or guidance in taking on the task of being treasurer I was doing it as a favor to my friend who is the chairman of the committee. I would like to reiterate that I am very sorry for my mistake of filing the forms incorrectly.

Sincerely,

Matthew Radke

Letter from Matthew Radke to Scott Branfuhr (May 31, 2018, 9:39 EST).

10. In this case, the Respondent failed to report information, required explicitly by statute, on both the July 10, 2017 and October 10, 2017 financial disclosure statements of the PRTC. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that the Respondent violated General Statutes § 9-608.
11. In considering the penalty assessed in connection with this matter, pursuant to § 9-7b-48 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the Commission notes: 1) there was nearly

\$10,000 of unreported contributions and expenditures for a party committee shortly before an election; 2) the PRTC voluntarily notified the public of the reporting errors prior to the filing of the instant complaint; 3) Respondent voluntarily amended the PRTC's October 10, 2017 financial disclosure statement on November 20, 2017; 4) the Respondent has no prior history with the Commission; 5) there is no evidence supporting a finding that the failure to disclose the financial transactions of the PRTC was intentional; and 6) as part of this Agreement, Respondent has agreed to forgo his ability to serve as the treasurer of any committee within the jurisdiction of the Commission for a period of seven years.

ORDER

It is hereby ordered that Respondents shall henceforth strictly adhere to the requirements of General Statutes § 9-608.

It is further ordered that Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of two hundred dollars (\$200).

It is further ordered that Respondent shall be prohibited from serving as the treasurer or deputy treasurer of any committee subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission for a period for seven years.

The Respondent:

For the State of Connecticut:

By: Matthew Radke
Matthew Radke
29 Hickory St.
Terryville, CT 06786

By: Michael J. Brandi
Michael J. Brandi
Executive Director and General Counsel and
Authorized Representative of the
State Elections Enforcement Commission
20 Trinity St.
Hartford, CT 06106

Dated: 2/5/19

Dated: 2/15/19

Adopted this 20th day of February, 2019 at Hartford, Connecticut by vote of the Commission.

Salvatore A. Castagno
Anthony J. Castagno, Chairman
By Order of the Commission
SALVATORE A. CASTAGNO