

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

In re. Audit of Dru Georgiadis 2016

File No. 2017-089B

AGREEMENT CONTAINING A CONSENT ORDER

This Agreement by and between Eric Newman, Town of Fairfield, State of Connecticut, hereinafter referred to as Respondent, and the undersigned authorized representative of the State Elections Enforcement Commission, is entered into in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes § 4-177 (c) and Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies § 9-7b-54. In accordance herewith, the parties agree that:

1. The Commission performed an in-depth review of the bank records and other financial documents of the *Dru Georgiadis 2016* candidate committee after the committee's selection in the random audit lottery conducted following the 2016 election cycle. Based on the findings in that audit, the Commission referred this matter to the enforcement unit for additional investigation.
2. The Commission performed an in-depth review of the expenditures of the *Dru Georgiadis 2016* candidate committee after the committee's selection in the random audit lottery conducted following the 2016 election cycle. Dru Georgiadis established the committee in 2016 to support her nomination for election as a candidate in the 132th General Assembly district.¹ She named Eric Newman as the treasurer of the committee.² The committee opted to participate in the Citizens' Elections Program.³ The Commission approved a grant from the Citizens Election Fund totaling \$19,705, which was received by the committee on July 8, 2016.⁴

¹ See SEEC Form 1 – Registration of Candidate Committee (*Dru Georgiadis 2016*, Jan. 6, 2016) (reflecting establishment of candidate committee by Dru Georgiadis and appointment of Eric S. Newman as treasurer).

² *Id.*

³ See SEEC Form CEP 10 – Affidavit of Intent to Abide by Expenditure Limits and Other Citizens' Election Program Requirements (*Dru Georgiadis 2016*, Feb. 8, 2016) (reflecting intent of candidate and treasurer to participate in Citizens' Election Program and follow voluntary program rules).

⁴ See SEEC Form 30 – Itemized Campaign Finance Disclosure Statement: October 10 Report (*Dru Georgiadis 2016*, Oct. 11, 2016) (reporting grant received from Citizens' Election Fund on July 8, 2016).

3. The 2016 General Election occurred on Nov. 8, 2016. The candidate committee held a post-election party on or about December 24, 2016 at the “Patterson Club” for a total cost of \$390.⁵
4. The December 24 thank-you party was not held within the 14 days required under General Statutes § 9-608 (e) (1) (F). Qualified candidate committees must hold these parties within 14 days of the election, which would have been no later than November 22 in 2016.
5. The General Assembly added subparagraph (F) to General Statutes § 9-608 (e) (1) in 2011.⁶ That subparagraph codified the limitation on post-election parties and went into effect on January 1, 2012. Qualified candidate committees must hold these parties within 14 days of the election, which would have been no later than November 22 in 2016.
6. The Commission’s audit of the candidate committee also indicated that the treasurer had failed to provide a copy of a complete contract with a service provider. The committee provided a contract for some of the service providers but did not supply a contract for all of the workers who were paid more than \$100 for their services.
7. All candidate committees must enter into contracts with service providers who will earn more than \$100 for their services that specify the amount that a service provider will charge and the type of work that the service provider will perform.⁷
8. General Statutes § 9-7b provides in part:

The State Elections Enforcement Commission shall have the following duties and powers: . . .

(2) To levy a civil penalty not to exceed . . . (D) two thousand dollars per offense or twice the amount of any improper payment or contribution, whichever is greater, against

9. As stated above, the Commission has the authority to impose a civil penalty of as much as \$2,000 for each offense of Connecticut’s General Statutes regarding campaign

⁵ See SEEC Form 30 – Itemized Campaign Finance Disclosure Statement: January 10 Report (*Dru Georgiadis*, January 10, 2017) (reporting payment to candidate of \$390 for reimbursement for “Patterson Club volunteer thank you lunch”).

⁶ See Public Act 11-48, Sec. 290.

⁷ See Regulations, Conn. State Agencies, § 9-607-1 (a)(1) (requiring written, pre-performance service agreements for all service providers who earn more than \$100).

finance but it and can also reduce that penalty where circumstances warrant such leniency.⁸

10. Respondent admits all jurisdictional facts and agrees that this Agreement and Order shall have the same force and effect as a final decision and Order entered into after a full hearing and shall become final when adopted by the Commission.

11. Respondent waives:

- a) Any further procedural steps;
- b) The requirement that the Commission's decision contain a statement of findings of fact and conclusions of law, separately stated; and
- c) All rights to seek judicial review or otherwise to challenge or contest the validity of the Order entered into pursuant to this Agreement.

12. It is understood and agreed that this Agreement will be submitted to the Commission for consideration at its next meeting and, if the Commission does not accept it, it is withdrawn and may not be used as an admission by the Respondent in any subsequent hearing, if the same becomes necessary.

⁸ See Regs., Conn. State Agencies § 9-7b-48 (laying out standards for mitigation of civil penalties).

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the Respondent Eric Newman shall pay a civil penalty of \$200 and that in the future that he will strictly comply with the requirements of General Statutes §§ 9-607 and 9-608 as well as the regulations governing campaign financing.


The Respondent

For the State of Connecticut

By:



By:



Eric Newman
85 Eastfield Dr
Fairfield, CT 06825

Michael J. Brandi, Esq.
Executive Director and General Counsel and
Authorized Representative of the
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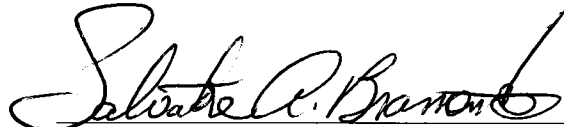
Dated:

8/31/18

Dated:

8/6/18

Adopted this 19th day of September, 2018 at Hartford, Connecticut by vote of the Commission.



Anthony J. Castagno, Chairman
By Order of the Commission
Salvatore A. Bramante - Co-Chair