

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Senate Republican Leadership Committee,
Hartford

File No. 2018-118

COMMISSION ORDER

1. On November 21, 2000, the *Senate Republican Leadership Committee* (hereinafter "SRLC") was established as a leadership committee organized for ongoing political activities. Michael J. Cronin has been its treasurer since March 15, 2006.
2. On or about December 2018, SRLC reported alleged theft of committee funds by its treasurer, Michael J. Cronin, to the Commission.
3. On or about December 19, 2018, the Commission issued a Cease and Desist Order pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 9-7b (a)(3)(F), ordering SRLC to immediately cease and desist all activities and operations. Said order remains in effect.
4. On December 21, 2018, the SRLC filed a civil action against Michael J. Cronin alleging conversion and civil theft regarding the missing funds in the SRLC bank account. That civil case also requested that Michael J. Cronin account for the amount of monies defendant misappropriated from the committee while he was its treasurer. That case, HHD-CV18-5057285-S, is pending in the Hartford Superior Court (hereinafter the "Civil Case").
5. On February 13, 2019, Michael J. Cronin was arrested on a warrant issued by the Chief State's Attorney's Office alleging Larceny in the first degree. That criminal matter, HHD - CR19-0730278-T, is currently pending in the Hartford Judicial District (hereinafter the "Criminal Case").
6. SRLC, through its treasurer, Michael J. Cronin, last filed an Itemized Campaign Finance Disclosure Statement, also known as a SEEC FORM 20, with the Commission on October 30, 2018. A significant but as yet undetermined amount of expenses listed as paid by the committee were not actually paid to the vendors as reported.

7. SRLC owes an undetermined amount of outstanding invoices payable to vendors due to the missing funds from its bank account.
8. SRLC expects to receive a restitution order through the Criminal Case, the Civil Case or both.
9. Upon investigation, the Commission is informed and believes that SRLC is missing funds from its bank account as a result of improper withdrawals or use of the funds by its treasurer, Michael J. Cronin.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the December 19, 2018, Cease and Desist Order is dismissed and the Senate Republican Leadership Committee is placed into trust pursuant to this order and consistent with the Cease and Desist Order; and,

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED THAT the minority leader of the Senate may establish a replacement leadership committee; and,

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED THAT any and all funds recovered through restitution ordered by the court in either the Criminal Case or the Civil Case be applied on a pro-rata basis to all outstanding invoices identified and administered by the Trustee owed to vendors by the SRLC and paid by a trustee. Said trustee shall be mutually agreed upon by the Commission and SRLC;

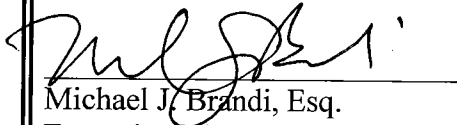
IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED THAT reporting shall occur by the Trustee consistent with the statutory requirements for committees in deficit pursuant to General Statutes § 9-608 (e); and,

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED THAT the Criminal Case and/or Civil Case pertaining to Michael J. Cronin and the SRLC, as detailed herein, is the exclusive means by which restitution may be received by the SRLC. No funds from other sources may either directly or indirectly be treated as restitution and no contributions, directly or indirectly, may be received by the SRLC.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED THAT the SRLC shall terminate upon determination by the Trustee that no other restitution is forthcoming and expenditures to vendors paid by Trustee on a pro rata basis have been reported.

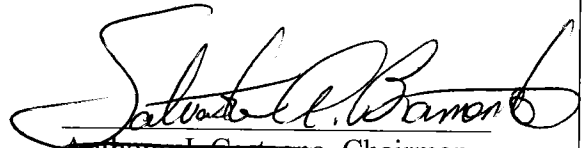
For the State of Connecticut:

BY:



Michael J. Brandi, Esq.
Executive Director and General Counsel
And Authorized Representative of the
State of Connecticut
State Elections Enforcement Commission

Adopted this 4th day of December, 2019 at Hartford, Connecticut.



~~Anthony J. Castagno, Chairman~~

By Order of the Commission

Salvatore Bramante