

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

In the Matter of a Complaint by Charles Hair, Stamford

File No. 2019-004

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Complainant, Charles Hair, filed the complaint in this matter pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 9-7b. The complaint alleges that the *Bosak for Senate* candidate committee reported a contribution originating from the Complainant that the Complainant never made. The following are the Commission's findings of fact and conclusions of law:

1. On or about April 16, 2018, Respondent Gerald Bosak registered the *Bosak for Senate* candidate committee with the Commission.
2. *Bosak for Senate* was established to finance Respondent's Bosak's candidacy for Connecticut State Senate from the 27th Senatorial District in the November 7, 2018 election.
3. From the formation of *Bosak for Senate* on April 16, 2018, until that committee's termination on July 5, 2019, Respondent Rashmi Patel was the treasurer of *Bosak for Senate*.
4. On or about July 11, 2018, Respondents filed an application for a grant from the Citizens' Election Program.
5. On or about September 19, 2018, the Commission approved the Respondents' application for a grant from the Citizens' Election Program.
6. At all times relevant hereto, Complainant Charles Hair was an elector in the State of Connecticut.
7. On or about February 1, 2019, Complainant Hair filed a complaint with the Commission (the "Complaint").
8. The Complaint alleged that:
 - a. Complainant Hair's name was listed as having made a contribution to *Bosak for Senate*.
 - b. Complainant Hair never contributed to *Bosak for Senate*.

9. General Statutes § 9-622 (7) details that it is an “illegal practice” to make a payment to a treasurer “in any other name than that of the person by whom such payment or promise of payment is made[.]”
10. General Statutes § 9-608 (c) requires committee treasurers to accurately report the source of contributions made to each committee.
11. It is uncontested that the *Bosak for Senate* committee reported that it had received a five dollar cash contribution from Complainant Hair on June 1, 2018.
12. In their response to the Complaint, Respondents denied the allegations.
13. Respondents further provided an affidavit from Mike Tamburri which provided, in pertinent part:

During the State Senatorial Campaign of 2018, I helped Jerry Bosak Jr. collect contribution forms for his campaign. I started helping the campaign in mid-May.

I approached friends, family members and colleagues. On June 1st 2018 I asked Charles Hair if he would fill out the form and he stated yes.

While he was filling out the form he said “if Jerry needs help with the millennial vote he could help with that.” He completed the form handed it to me and I submitted the form to the campaign.

14. Mr. Tamburri further represented that he had, in fact, collected the five dollar contribution from the Complainant. Respondents further provided a copy of the Citizens’ Election Program Qualifying Contribution Certification Form associated with the contribution in question.
15. The form provided contained the correct contact information from Respondent Hair and a signature, among other things.
16. Commission investigators gave Complainant Hair the opportunity to review the form. After his review, he denied signing that form and further denied that the signature at the bottom was his signature.
17. Respondents also provided the Commission a Letter of Opinion from Forensic Document Examiner Robert Baier.¹ One of the conclusions in that letter was:

¹ Mr. Baier has been qualified as an expert in handwriting analysis in several jurisdictions including the State of Connecticut.

Based on the documents submitted and after careful and complete examination, using accepted methods of document examination, the evidence supports my professional opinion that within a reasonable degree of professional certainty the signature of Charles Hair on questioned document Q1 [the Certification Form in question] was written by Charles Hair.


18. During the investigation Complainant Hair identified Angelica Gorrio, a *Bosak for Senate* solicitor, as an individual that may have information relevant to this investigation. Ms. Gorrio was responsive to investigator's requests and stated that she had approached Complainant Hair for a contribution. Ms. Gorrio further stated that "I did have a conversation with Charles, I asked if he contributed, he responded, 'you're late' I [sic] already made my [sic] contribution and he was thinking of volunteering."
19. Commission investigators further contacted other people reported by the Bosak for Senate committee as small dollar cash contributors and could identify no other individual that denied making a contribution.
20. Based upon the foregoing, the Commission finds that there is insufficient evidence to conclude the Respondents committed the violations alleged by the Complainant.

ORDER

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

That this matter be dismissed.

Adopted this 2nd day of October, 2019 at Hartford, Connecticut.



Anthony J. Castagno
By Order of the Commission