

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

In the Matter of a Complaint by Louis DeCilio, Stratford

File No. 2019-138

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Complainant, Louis DeCilio, filed the instant complaint with the Commission pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 9-7b. The Complainant alleged that Respondents Kathleen Callahan and Karen Tracy violated Connecticut's election laws by failing to accurately report the financial transactions of The *Voices of Stratford PAC*. The following are the Commission's findings of fact and conclusions of law:

1. At all times relevant hereto, *Voices of Stratford PAC* was a durational political slate committee registered in the Town of Stratford to make expenditures concerning the November 11, 2019 election.
2. On or about July 24, 2019, Respondents Kathleen Callahan and Karen Tracy registered the *Voices of Stratford PAC* as a political slate committee within the Town of Stratford Town Clerk.
3. From on or about July 24, 2019 through on or about October 1, 2019, Respondent Kathleen Callahan was the chairperson of *Voices of Stratford PAC*.
4. From on or about July 24, 2019 through on or about October 1, 2019, Respondent Karen Tracy was the treasurer of *Voices of Stratford PAC*.
5. Complainant alleged that Respondents "intentionally failed to meet the filing deadline and amend the initial report to include additional donors."
6. Specifically, Complainant alleged that "[o]n September 3, 2019, the *Voices of Stratford PAC* submitted an inaccurate and incomplete 7th Day Preceding Primary report to the Stratford Town Clerk."
7. General Statutes § 9-608 (a) requires that treasurers of political slate committees file a financial disclosure statement "on the seventh day preceding the election."
8. General Statutes § 9-608 (c) further requires that such statements include an "itemized accounting of each contribution," and "an itemized accounting of each expenditure[.]"
9. General Statutes § 9-622 (8) provides that a person is guilty of an illegal practice if such person "knowingly and wilfully violates any provision of this chapter."

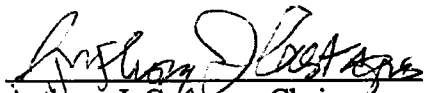
10. In the course of the investigation, Commission investigators did confirm that there were some discrepancies in the September 3, 2019 financial disclosure statement of the *Voices of Stratford PAC*.
11. However, after investigation it is clear that such discrepancies were either the result of contributors not providing accurate information to the treasurer or ministerial mistakes.
12. There was no evidence that any of the errors or omissions contained in the September 3, 2019 financial disclosure statement of the *Voices of Stratford PAC* were knowing or willful.
13. Moreover, when the error was brought to the attention of the current treasurer of the *Voices of Stratford PAC*, an amended financial disclosure filing was submitted.
14. Based upon the forgoing, it is the determination of the Commission that this matter should be dismissed.

ORDER

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

That this matter be dismissed.

Adopted this 16 day of December, 2020 at Hartford, Connecticut.


Anthony J. Castagno, Chairperson
By Order of the Commission