



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
Law Enforcement Unit

August 6, 2020

Hon. William Tong
Attorney General
State of Connecticut
165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford CT 06106

Re: June 30, 2020 Statement of Removal by Secretary of the State Denise Merrill pursuant to General Statutes § 9-190c

Dear Attorney General Tong:

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 9-190c Secretary of Denise Merrill filed the enclosed statement with this office received July 1, 2020 to seek the removal of Karen Doyle Lyons, Republican Registrar of the City of Norwalk from office "...for certain offensive statements regarding race made on a public forum." More specifically, according to Secretary Merrill, "Ms. Lyons posted offensive statements on Facebook which we have attached to this letter."

Connecticut General Statutes §9-190c states, in relevant part:

Whenever the Secretary of the State is of the opinion that a registrar of voters has engaged in misconduct, wilful and material neglect of duty or incompetence in the conduct of such registrar's office, the Secretary may seek removal of such registrar from office by filing a statement in writing to that effect with the State Elections Enforcement Commission. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (g) of section 9-7a, not later than thirty days after the filing of such statement, the commission shall investigate such statement and render a determination of whether the matter should be referred to the Attorney General to request that he or she pursue such removal pursuant to this section. Upon referral from the commission of such matter, the Attorney General may request that the commission undertake such further investigation as he or she deems appropriate. If the Attorney General concludes that the commission's investigation so warrants, he or she may prepare a citation in the name of the state commanding such registrar of voters to appear before a judge of the Superior Court at a date named in the citation and show cause, if any, why such registrar of voters should not be removed from office...

The Commission therefore conducted an investigation of the statement and relevant circumstances pertaining to the statement in order to determine whether to refer Ms. Doyle Lyons to you for her removal from her office as City of Norwalk Registrar of Voters.

In the course of its investigation, the Commission determined that Ms. Doyle Lyons submitted a written resignation to the City of Norwalk that was effective as of July 20, 2020. The Commission confirmed that Ms. Doyle Lyons did leave office on that intended day. The Commission therefore has determined that a referral to your office for the removal of a Registrar of Voters pursuant to General Statutes § 9-190c is now moot. The Commission therefore declines to take any further action pertaining the Secretary of the State's statement as detailed herein.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Brandi".

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

Enclosure

Copy to: Hon. Denise Merrill, Secretary of the State

SEEC File 2020-041