

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION**

In the Matter of a Complaint by Joseph Vollano, Meriden

File No. 2020-045B

**AGREEMENT CONTAINING CONSENT ORDER**

This agreement by and between Qu-Nanda Holloway of the City of Meriden, County of New Haven, State of Connecticut (hereinafter “Respondent”) and the authorized representative of the State Elections Enforcement Commission is entered into in accordance with § 9-7b-54 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and § 4-177(c) of the General Statutes of Connecticut. In accordance herewith, the parties agree that:

1. Complainant, Joseph Vollano of Meriden, alleged that the qualified candidate committee, *makeway4holloway2020*, had paid the candidate’s daughter \$1,000 to serve as the candidate committee’s treasurer.
2. The candidate, Ernestine Holloway, formed a candidate committee on May 1, 2020 to finance her candidacy for election to the 82<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly seat in the 2020 election cycle. She named her daughter, Qu-Nanda Holloway, as the committee’s treasurer. The committee opted to participate in the Citizens’ Elections Program.<sup>1</sup> The Commission approved the grant application for the Holloway committee on July 22, 2020. The committee received grant funds totaling \$12,230 on or about July 25, 2020.
3. The Holloway candidate committee paid Qu-Nanda Holloway \$1,000 on July 27, 2020 for her work as treasurer of the committee. Prior to this payment, the candidate was told by Commission staff that a payment by the candidate committee to the candidate’s daughter would be impermissible. The candidate has acknowledged that the committee paid her daughter for her work as treasurer.

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<sup>1</sup> See SEEC Form CEP 10 – Affidavit of Intent to Abide by Expenditure Limits and Other Citizens’ Election Program Requirements (*makeway4holloway*, June 24, 2020) (reflecting intent of candidate, treasurer, and deputy treasurer to participate in Citizens’ Election Program and follow voluntary program rules).

4. General Statutes § 9-607 prohibits payments to a candidate's immediate family members for all candidate committees.<sup>2</sup> General Statutes § 9-607 (g) provides, in relevant part:

(1) As used in this subsection, (A) "the lawful purposes of his committee" means: (i) For a candidate committee or exploratory committee, the promoting of the nomination or election of the candidate who established the committee, . . . .

(2) Unless otherwise provided by this chapter, any campaign treasurer, in accomplishing the lawful purposes of his committee, may pay the expenses of:

...

(L) compensation for campaign or committee staff, fringe benefits and payroll taxes, provided the candidate and any member of his immediate family shall not receive compensation;

5. For candidate committees who have received a grant from the Citizens' Election Fund, the restrictions on payments to "family members" are much broader. Section 9-706-2 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, provides, in relevant part:

(b) . . . Participating candidates and the treasurers of such participating candidates shall not spend funds in the participating candidate's depository account for the following:

...

3. Payments to . . . the participating candidate's family members, including: a participating candidate's . . . child . . . .<sup>3</sup>

6. By paying herself for her service as treasurer after the candidate committee was qualified for a grant from the Citizens' Election Fund, the treasurer violated Regulations § 9-706-2 (b)(3).

7. Qu-Nanda Holloway resigned as the treasurer for the *makeway4holloway* candidate committee on or about October 10, 2020.

8. As enumerated in § 9-7b-48 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies:

<sup>2</sup> See General Statutes § 9-607 (g) (4) (prohibiting payments to candidate's immediate family).

<sup>3</sup> See Regs., Conn. State Agencies, § 9-706-2 (b)(3). General Statute § 9-706 authorizes the Commission to draft regulations related to the permissible use of funds received from the Citizens' Election Fund.

In its determination of the amount of the civil penalty to be imposed, the Commission shall consider, among other mitigating or aggravating circumstances:

- (1) the gravity of the act or omission;
- (2) the amount necessary to insure immediate and continued compliance;
- (3) the previous history of similar acts or omissions; and
- (4) whether the person has shown good faith in attempting to comply with the applicable provisions of the General Statutes.

9. The Commission possesses the authority to set the punishment it imposes on individuals who violate the statutes under its authority. While the maximum penalty available under the enabling statute is \$2,000 per offense or twice the amount of any improper expenditure, the Commission also has the authority to set a lesser penalty where circumstances call for such leniency.

10. It is understood and agreed that this agreement will be submitted to the Commission at its next meeting and, if it is not accepted by the Commission, it is withdrawn by the Respondent and may not be used by either party as an admission in any subsequent hearing or against the Company in any proceeding, if the same becomes necessary.

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. Upon Respondent's compliance with the Order hereinafter stated, the Commission shall not initiate any further proceedings against Respondent

**ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the Respondent shall henceforth abide by the Regs. of Conn. State Agencies § 9-706-2 (b)(3) and in consideration of this agreement shall no longer serve as a treasurer of a committee organized under the auspices of Chapter 155 of Connecticut's General Statutes.

The Respondent:

BY:

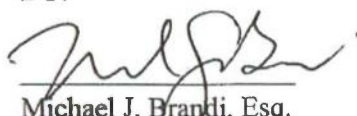


Qu-Nanda Holloway  
300 Britannia Ave.  
Meriden, Connecticut 06450

Dated: 9-23-21

For the State of Connecticut:

BY:



Michael J. Brandi, Esq.  
Executive Director and General Counsel  
And Authorized Representative of the  
State Elections Enforcement Commission  
55 Farmington Ave., 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Hartford, Connecticut

Dated: 9/24/21

Adopted this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021, at Hartford, Connecticut

  
Commissioner Stephen T. Penny  
By Order of the Commission