

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

In the Matter of a Referral by the Cheshire Registrar of Voters

File No. 2020-052

AGREEMENT CONTAINING A CONSENT ORDER

The parties, Carla Hannon (“Respondent”) and the undersigned authorized representative of the State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”), enter into this agreement as authorized by Connecticut General Statutes § 4-177 (c) and Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies § 9-7b-54. In accordance with those provisions, the parties agree that:

1. On or about September 10, 2020 the Commission received a referral (the “Referral”) from the Cheshire Registrar of Voters (the “Referring Official”).
2. The Referral stated, in pertinent part:

During the August 2020 primary our office received an absentee ballot in which there appears to be an issue with an inner envelope signature. It appears that the person delivering the ballot also signed the inner envelope but was not the person to whom the ballot was issued.

The ballot was issued to Ryan Hannon. The signature of the person delivering the ballot, Carla Hannon, appeared to be an extremely close match to the signature on the inner envelope for Ryan Hannon.

In checking our original voter registration card for Ryan Hannon, that original signature does not match in any way to the signature on the inner envelope on the returned ballot.
3. A review of the relevant records confirmed that an absentee ballot set concerning the August 11, 2020 Democratic primary in the Town of Cheshire had been issued to Ryan Hannon (the “Primary Ballot”).
4. The records further confirm that the Primary Ballot was returned to the Cheshire Town Clerk by Carla Hannon who signed the outer envelope as the “person delivering envelope.”
5. After receiving the Complaint, a Commission legal investigator reviewed the signatures in question and compared them to known samples. After that review, the Commission legal investigator confirmed that the signatures on Ryan Hannon’s absentee ballot inner envelope were more similar to Respondent’s signature than Mr. Hannon’s.
6. Commission staff contacted Respondent to obtain a statement concerning this matter. Respondent indicated, through counsel, that she would not be providing a statement concerning these allegations.

7. Commission staff made numerous attempts to obtain a statement from Ryan Hannon concerning this matter, including telephone calls to all known numbers, regular and certified letters to all known addresses, and contacting officials and known associates at the college in which he was enrolled at the time of contact. To date, Mr. Hannon has not responded to any of the Commission's attempts to contact him.
8. At the time of the August 11, 2020 Carla Hannon was a registered voter, but not enrolled in any political party.
9. General Statutes § 9-431 (a) provides:
 - (a) No person shall be permitted to vote at a primary of a party unless (1) he is on the last-completed enrollment list of such party in the municipality or voting district, as the case may be, or (2) if authorized by the state rules of such party filed pursuant to section 9-374, he is an unaffiliated elector in the municipality or voting district, as the case may be, provided if two or more such parties are holding primaries on the same day in such municipality or voting district, whether for the same offices or different offices, such unaffiliated elector may vote in the primary of only one such party. Such state party rules may authorize unaffiliated electors to vote for some or all offices to be contested at its primaries.
10. General Statutes § 9-7b (a) (2) (C) empowers the Commission to levy a civil penalty, not to exceed "two thousand dollars per offense against any person the commission finds to have (i) improperly voted in any election, primary or referendum, and (ii) not been legally qualified to vote in such election, primary or referendum."
11. Respondent neither admits nor denies the factual allegations or legal conclusions contained herein, but voluntarily agrees to enter into this agreement.
12. The Respondent admits to all jurisdictional facts and agrees that this Agreement and Order shall have the same force and effect as a final decision and order entered into after a full hearing and shall become final when adopted by the Commission.
13. The 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 to contest the validity of the Order entered into pursuant to this Agreement.
14. Upon the Respondent's agreement to comply with the Order hereinafter stated, the Commission shall not initiate any further proceedings against the Respondent regarding her conduct in connection with the absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots of Ryan

Hannon in the August 11, 2020 Democratic primary or the November 3, 2020 general election.

15. It is understood and agreed by the parties to this Agreement that the Commission will consider this Agreement at its next available meeting and, if the Commission rejects it, the Agreement will be withdrawn and may not be used as an admission by the Parties in any subsequent hearing, proceeding or forum.

ORDER

It is hereby ordered that the Respondent Carla Hannon shall henceforth strictly adhere to the requirements of General Statutes § 9-431.

It is further ordered that Respondent Carla Hannon shall pay a civil penalty of \$2,000.

Respondent:

By: Carla Hannon
Carla Hannon
217 Mountain Road
Cheshire, CT 06410


Dated: 4/16/21

The State Elections Enforcement Commission:

By: Michael J. Brandi
Michael J. Brandi
Executive Director and General Counsel and
Authorized Representative of the
State Elections Enforcement Commission
20 Trinity St.
Hartford, CT 06106

Dated: 4/21/2021

Adopted this 28th day of April, 2021 at Hartford, Connecticut by vote of the Commission.



Stephen T. Penny, Chairman
By Order of the Commission