

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

In the Matter of a Complaint by William Jenkins
Chaplin

File No. 2020-071

AGREEMENT CONTAINING CONSENT ORDER

This agreement by and between Ed Adelman of the Town of Hampton, County of Hartford, 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 William Jenkins filed this complaint on Nov. 2, 2020,¹ alleging that the 2020 candidate committee of Kate Donnelly had failed to report use of signs from previous campaigns and had failed to report secondary payees as required under General Statutes § 9-608(c)(1)(B).
2. The *Kate 2020* candidate committee² participated in the Citizens’ Election Program³ and qualified for a grant from the Citizens’ Election Fund.⁴ The candidate committee received a grant from the from the Citizens’ Election Fund totaling \$30,575 on August 17, 2020.⁵ The candidate committee was selected for a post-election audit.
3. According to the complaint, the candidate committee failed to report lawn signs that it had used from a previous campaign. The committee did send a check for \$250 to the Citizens’ Election Fund on or about November 2, 2020, which was the same day that this complaint was docketed. When it mailed in that payment, the candidate committee claimed that it was using 60 signs from previous campaign cycles.

¹

² See SEEC Form 1 – Registration by Candidate (*Kate 2020*, June 1, 2020) (establishing candidate committee for Kate Donnelly of Hampton seeking 47th district General Assembly seat and naming Ed Adelman as treasurer).

³ See SEEC Form CEP 10 – Affidavit of Intent to Abide by Expenditure Limits and Other Citizens’ Election Program Requirements (*Kate 2020*, July 30, 2020) (evincing candidate’s, treasurer’s, and deputy treasurer’s acceptance of voluntary limitations as participants in Citizens’ Election Program).

⁴ See SEEC Form 30 – Itemized Campaign Finance Disclosure Statement: October 10 Filing (*Kate 2020*, October 10, 2020) (reflecting receipt of \$30,575 grant from Citizens’ Election Fund on August 17, 2020).

⁵ *Id.*

4. General Statutes § 9-705 (i)(5) allows candidate committees to use lawn signs from prior election cycles. Per that statutory provision a state representative candidate committee that uses more than 50 lawn signs must pay \$250 to use those signs. That amount is normally reduced from any grant funds that the candidate committee may receive, but if the candidate committee has already received a grant, it can reimburse the Citizens' Election Fund at the amount necessary to comply with General Statutes § 9-705.
5. Complainant also alleged that the candidate committee's treasurer had failed to report secondary payees on numerous filings it made with the State Elections Enforcement Commission. The complainant included four instances where payments to Kate Donnelly did not include secondary payees. In the description for the payments, a reason for the payments was given, such as "Staples" or "Zoom" or "USPS," but the subsequent secondary payee information was not completed in Section R of the Form 30.
6. General Statutes § 9-608(c)(1)(B) requires a candidate committee to list all secondary payees in the relevant reporting form when it reimburses a candidate or committee volunteer for expenditures made on behalf of the committee. The candidate committee must report those secondary payees in Section R of the SEEC Form 30.
7. Although the candidate committee here did pay for the use of the lawn signs leftover from a previous campaign, the committee should have reported the use of those signs in a more timely manner, obviating the need for the filing of this complaint. In addition, the committee here violated General Statutes § 9-608 (c)(1)(B) when it failed to report secondary payees as required by Connecticut's campaign finance statutes.
8. As enumerated in § 9-7b-48 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies:
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. 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.

10. 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.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the Respondent shall henceforth ensure that he reports the participating candidate committee's use of lawn signs earlier in the election cycle so that this amount can be reduced from the committee's grant amount as outlined in General Statutes § 9-705 and that he reports all secondary payees as required by General Statutes § 9-608 (c)(1)(B).

The Respondent:

BY:

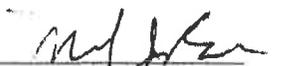


Ed Adelman
216 Station Road
Hampton, CT 06247

Dated: 1/12/22

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., 8th Floor
Hartford, Connecticut

Dated: 1/19/22

Adopted this 19th day of January, 2022, at Hartford, Connecticut



Commissioner STEPHEN P. PANTACY
By Order of the Commission

2022 JAN 14 PM 4:00

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