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**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION**

In the Matter of a Referral by Hon. Stephanie Thomas,
Secretary of the State, Hartford

File No. 2024-003B

AGREEMENT CONTAINING CONSENT ORDER

This agreement, by and between Rebeca Garcia (hereinafter "Respondent") of the City of Bridgeport, State of Connecticut, 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 § 4177(c) of the General Statutes of Connecticut.

In accordance herewith, the parties agree that:

1. Secretary of the State Thomas referred this matter indicating that Respondent, violated General Statutes § 9-140 (k) by failing to follow proper procedure for the circulation and recordkeeping of absentee ballot applications for the January 23, 2024 Bridgeport Democratic Mayoral Primary.
2. During the investigation, the Commission determined that Respondent was one of two individuals identified by the Referring Official. The Commission provided her with notice that she was a Respondent and a copy of the referral.
3. Respondent was provided an opportunity to respond to this referral and investigation.

Relevant Legal Authority

4. This matter is governed by Connecticut General Statutes § 9-140 (k), which concerns the registration and record-keeping requirements of any person who seeks to distribute five or more absentee ballot applications in any primary, election, or referendum and provides:

(1) A person shall register with the town clerk before distributing five or more absentee ballot applications for an election, primary or referendum, not including applications distributed to such person's immediate family. Such requirement shall not apply to a person who is the designee of an applicant.

(2) Any person who distributes absentee ballot applications shall maintain a list of the names and addresses of prospective absentee ballot applicants who receive such applications, and shall file such

list with the town clerk prior to the date of the primary, election or referendum for which the applications were so distributed. Any person who distributes absentee ballot applications and receives an executed application shall forthwith file the application with the town clerk. [Emphasis added].

Facts Found After an Investigation

5. After investigation, the Commission determined that sometime between December 29, 2023 and January 14, 2024, the Gomes for Mayor Facebook page posted a photo showing Respondent allegedly assisting an individual with filling out an absentee ballot application, despite the fact that Respondent was not a registered distributor with the Bridgeport Town Clerk. During the investigation, Respondent also admitted in her written response that she distributed and kept a log of absentee ballot applications from the Gomes campaign, though she alleged that she was unaware of the law at the time of distribution.
6. Respondent asserts that, prior to distribution, she sought and received instructions from the Bridgeport City Clerk's pertaining to the proper distribution of absentee ballot applications. Respondent further notes that she and another campaign volunteer were advised by personnel at the Town Clerk's Office that a representative from the campaign could retrieve applications and distribute to additional volunteers. Thus, Respondent did not act with a deliberate disregard or intent to not comply with the established requirements.
7. On January 16 and January 18, 2024, Respondent came to the Bridgeport Town Clerk's office wherein Respondent and the registered distributor sought guidance from the Town Clerk's Office on how to proceed.
8. Evidence from the investigation includes the absentee ballot application distribution lists submitted by the registered distributor wherein it appears that the names of the original unregistered volunteers, including Respondent, have been crossed off or whited-out and replaced with the registered distributor's name, telephone number, and address.

Analysis and Conclusions of the Law

9. The Commission determines that Respondent did not meet the requirements of Connecticut General Statutes §9-140 (k) (1) given that she admits she failed to register with the Town Clerk prior to distributing five or more absentee ballot applications to non-family members.
10. Despite Respondent's name being crossed off from the submitted distribution logs, it does not appear that Respondent acted in bad faith by failing to register. Respondent

Garcia exhibited contrition, attempted remedial steps after being made aware of the mistake, and has cooperated throughout this investigation.

11. The Commission concludes that ordering Respondent to henceforth strictly comply with General Statutes § 9-140 (k) (1) is sufficient to ensure immediate and continued compliance.
12. The Respondent admits all jurisdictional facts and agrees that this Agreement and Order shall have the same force and effect as a final decision and Order entered after a full hearing and shall become final when adopted by the Commission. The Respondent shall receive a copy hereof as provided in § 9-7b-56 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.
13. 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 as an admission by either party in any subsequent hearing, if the same becomes necessary.
14. 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 contest the validity of the agreement or Order entered into pursuant to this agreement.
15. Upon the Respondent's agreement with the Order hereinafter stated, the Commission shall not initiate any further proceedings against Respondent pertaining to this matter.

ORDER

Based upon the above factual determinations, conclusions of law and the entire record:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, upon the signing of this stipulated settlement agreement, Respondent Rebecca Garcia is on notice of the laws regarding absentee ballot application distribution logs and shall henceforth strictly comply with General Statutes § 9-140 (k).

For the Respondent:

BY: *Rebecca Garcia* (no)
Rebeca Garcia
791 Garfield Avenue
Bridgeport, Connecticut

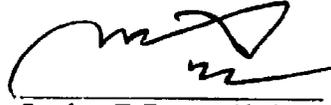
For the State of Connecticut

BY: *A. M. R.*
Authorized Representative of the
State Elections Enforcement Commission
55 Farmington Avenue, 8th Floor
Hartford, Connecticut

Dated: 12/17/2025

Dated: 12/29/25

Adopted this 17th day of December, 2025 at Hartford, Connecticut



Stephen T. Penny, Chairman
By Order of the Commission