OHIO ELECTIONS COMMISSION PROBABLE CAUSE PANEL SIGN IN SHEET

DATE: 10/31/13

NAME	CASE NO.
JEFF RUPPENT COURT RESPIRANT	2013E-040 V
Roberts McChenter	2013E-041
David Landon	2013 E - 037 V
Kenneth M. Armstronz	2013E-038 V
Hillang mueller	20138-039.
ANDREW PADANTE	30/3E-037 1
Nick Sett	30/3E-037 V

MINUTES OF THE OHIO ELECTIONS COMMISSION PROBABLE CAUSE PANEL

Meeting of October 31, 2013

The Ohio Elections Commission came to order at 9:00 A.M. on Thursday, October 31, 2013 in the Office of the Ohio Elections Commission on the sixth floor of the Wyandotte Building, located at 21 W. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio.

MEMBERS PRESENT
Helen Balcolm, Panel Chair
Terrance J. Conroy
Lynn A. Grimshaw

STAFF PRESENT
Philip C. Richter, Staff Attorney
Betty Springer, Commission Secretary

Panel Chair Balcolm called the meeting to order. After a roll call all members of the probable cause panel were present.

EXPEDITED HEARINGS

Landon, et al. v. Papanek, et al. (Case No. 2013E-037). David H Landon was present, sworn and identified himself for the record. Mr. Landon spoke to the allegations and requested that the Commission find that there was probable cause and set the matter for a hearing before the full Commission. Andrew Papanek was present, sworn and identified himself for the record. Mr. Papanek read into the record a letter from the former Montgomery County Republican Chairman. He spoke to the allegations and responded to questions from the Commission. Mr. Landon responded to statements by Mr. Papanek and renewed his request that the Commission find probable cause. Mr. Landon responded to statements by Mr. Papanek and to questions from Mr. Richter. Mr. Richter made a brief statement and recommended that the Commission find that there was no probable cause of a violation of R.C. §3517.21(B)(8) and (10). Mr. Grimshaw moved to find that the there was no violation of R.C. §3517.21(B)(8) and (10). Mr. Conroy seconded. After a roll call vote the motion passed 3 – 0.

Walker v. Armstrong (Case No. 2013E-038). Mr. Richter noted for the record that all parties had been notified of today's proceedings but that the complainant was not present. Mr. Richter summarized the allegations for consideration. Kenneth M. Armstrong was present, sworn and identified himself for the record. Mr. Armstrong spoke to the allegations in the complaint and indicated that the campaign ad at issue was only sent to a select group of people, and that he did not intend to deceive the public. Mr. Armstrong responded to questions from Mr. Richter. Mr. Richter made a brief statement and recommended that the Commission find that there was probable cause of a violation of R.C. §3517.22(B)(2) and set the matter for a hearing before the full Commission on November 4, 2013. Commission members discussed the matter at length. After discussion, Mr. Grimshaw moved to find that there was no probable cause of a violation of R.C. §3517.22(B)(2). Mr. Conroy seconded. After a roll call vote the motion passed 3 – 0.

<u>Snyder v. Mueller (Case No. 2013E-039)</u>. Mr. Richter noted for the record that all parties were notified of today's hearing but that the complainant was not present. Mr. Richter made a brief statement and summarized the allegations for consideration. Hillary Mueller was present, sworn and identified herself for the record. Ms. Mueller spoke to each allegation in detail and presented argument to support her request that the Commission find no probable cause and dismiss the complaint. Ms. Mueller responded to questions from the Commission. Mr. Richter made a brief statement and recommended that the Commission find that there was probable cause of a violation of R. C. §3517.21(B)(9) and (10) as to the statement:

"IN 2013 JON SNYDER VOTED HIMSELF A RAISE ON EMERGENCY AMONGST THE CITIES (sic) FINANCIAL DISTRESS."

and to set that portion of the complaint for a hearing before the full Commission on November 4, 2013, but to dismiss all other allegations. Mr. Conroy moved to accept Mr. Richter's recommendation. Mr. Grimshaw seconded. After a roll call vote the motion passed 3 – 0.

Lewis v. Colonna, et al. (Case No. 2013E-040). Mr. Richter briefly summarized the allegations before the Commission and noted that all parties had been notified of today's hearing. He further noted that the complainant was not present. Jeffrey Ruppert, counsel for the respondents, was present and identified himself for the record. Mr. Ruppert spoke to each allegation and presented argument to support his request that the Commission find no probable cause and dismiss the matter. Mr. Richter recommended that the Commission find no probable cause and dismiss the matter. Mr. Grimshaw moved to accept Mr. Richter's recommendation. Mr. Conroy seconded. After a roll call vote the motion passed 3 – 0.

<u>Kiesling v. McCleaster (Case No. 2013E-041)</u>. Mr. Richter noted for the record that all parties had been notified of today's hearing but that the complainant was not present. Mr. Richter summarized the allegations for consideration. Jamie McCleaster was present, sworn and identified for the record. Mr. McCleaster spoke to the allegations in detail and referred to his response and the attachments. He requested that the Commission find no probable cause. Mr. McCleaster responded to questions from the Commission. Mr. Richter made a brief statement and recommended that the Commission find no probable cause as to the statement:

"At the same time some members of Council were tardy to, or absent from, nearly 30% of public meetings",

But to find that there was probable cause of a violation of R. C. §3517.21(B)(9) and (10) as to the statement:

"they voted themselves a 50% raise by unanimously passing ordinance 47-13 on July 8th."

Mr. Conroy moved to accept Mr. Richter's recommendation. Mr. Grimshaw seconded. After a roll call vote the motion passed 3-0.

Having covered the agenda Panel Chair Balcolm declared the meeting adjourned.

The court reporter for today's meeting was Julie Kirk of Runfola Reporters.

APPROVED:	
Helen Balcolm, Panel Chair	Terrance J. Conroy
Lynn A. Grimshaw	

OHIO ELECTIONS COMMISSION CASE SUMMARY SHEET

CASE NO. 2013E-037

COMPLAINANT: DAVID H. LANDON

FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN AND ACTING CHAIRMAN MONTGOMERY CO. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2700 E. RIVER RD. DAYTON, OH 45439

937 241-9807

RESPONDENT: ANDREW PAPANEK

3430 OLD LANTERN CT. MIAMISBURG, OH 45342

NICHOLAS SEITZ 3401 MYNA LANE

MIAMISBURG, OH 45342

ALLEGATIONS: §3517.21(8)(10) (FALSE STATEMENTS)

OFFICE: MIAMI TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

ELECTION: NOVEMBER 5, 2013

PRIORS:

DISPOSITION: 10/31/2013 THE PROBABLE CAUSE PANEL DETERMINED THAT THERE

WAS NO PROBABLE CAUSE OF A VIOLATION AND DISMISSED THE

COMPLAINT.

Montgomery County Republican Party

CASE NO. 2013E-037

David H. Landon
First Vice Chairman and Acting Chairman
Montgomery County Executive Committee
2700 E. River Road
Dayton, OH 45439

EXHIBIT:

Philip C. Richter, Executive Director Ohio Elections Commission 21 W. Broad Street, Suite 600 Columbus, OH 43215

RECEIVED

OUT 2 3 2013

October 17, 2013

OHIO ELECTIONS COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Richter,

Please find below an elections complaint set forth as prescribed by the Ohio Election Commission at http://elc.ohio.gov/complaint.stm.

Complainant: Montgomery County Republican Party Executive and Central Committees

2700 E. River Road, Dayton, OH 45439 Ph# (937) 241-9807

Defendants: Andrew Papanek, 2013 Candidate for Miami Township Trustee;

Montgomery County, Ohio; 3430 Old Lantern Ct. Miamisburg, OH 45342.

Nicholas Seitz, 2013 Candidate for Township Trustee; Montgomery County, Ohio

3401 Myna Ln. Miamisburg, OH 45342.

Claimed Violations: ORC Sections 3517.21(8) and 3517.21(10).

Candidates Andrew Papanek and Nicholas Seitz are running a joint campaign for two available seats on the Miami Township Board of Trustees. Neither Papanek nor Seitz have been endorsed by the Montgomery County Republican Party or by the members of the Central Committee representing the jurisdictions of Miami Township and Miamisburg. In fact, the meeting called for the endorsement of candidates for that area of the county has been called for October 21st, 2013. However, Papanek and Seitz are representing to voters that they have been endorsed in the language of the attached campaign brochure which they are distributing to the voters by means of door-to-door literature drop campaign.

As a result of their door to door campaign with this misleading literature, the Montgomery County Republican Party has been receiving phone calls from confused voters wondering who are the endorsed candidates and why the incumbent Republican is not endorsed.

This purposeful and willful violation is both unauthorized by the Montgomery County Republican Party and deceptive to the voters of Miami Township as these candidates have not been endorsed. In fact they both recently informed this affiant that they have chosen to not participate in the party's endorsement hearing. This is all in violation of ORC Sections 3517.21(8) and 3517.21(10). As the election is a short three weeks away, we seek an immediate finding by the Ohio Elections Commission that Andrew Papanek and Nicholas Seitz are in violation of Ohio election law and for any and all remedies available to the Montgomery County Republican Party.

Respectfully submit	ted,		
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David H. Landon	<i>I N</i> ,		~ 0

Acting Chairman

Montgomery County Executive Committee

Attachment to Complaint: Papanek and Seitz campaign literature with language suggesting

endorsement.

State of Ohio
County of Montgomery

Before me, a Notary Public in and for said county, personally appeared the above named David H. Landon, Acting Chairman of the Montgomery County Executive Committee, who acknowledged that he did sign the foregoing instrument and that the same is his free act and deed. In testimony Whereof, I have hereunto affixed my name and official seal at ________, Ohio this __/&______, day of October, 2013.

My commission expires on the 3 day of October , 2016.

Notary Public

State of Ohio



COMP	PLAINANT'S EXHIBITS	CASE NO.	2013E-03 7
Α.	Affidavit of Complaint - Landon		10/23/2013
В.			
C.			
D.			
Ε.			
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	PONDENT'S EXHIBITS		
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PROBABLE CAUSE 2013E-037 Landon, et al v. Papanek, et al

Allegations: The Complainant asserts that the respondents issued campaign literature that included

a reference to an endorsement that they did not have.

Statute: R.C. §3517.21(B)(8) No person ... shall knowingly with intent to affect the

outcome [of an election] ... (f)alsely identify the source of a statement, issue statements under the name of another person without authorization ... R.C. §3517.21(B)(10) No person ... shall knowingly with intent to affect the outcome [of an election] ... post, publish, circulate ... a false statement either knowing

the same to be false or acting with reckless disregard of whether it was false or not if the statement is designed to promote the election, nomination, or defeat of

the candidate..

Penalty: {At Probable Cause Panel}

The following are definitions of "Probable Cause":

A. That there is a reasonable basis to believe that: 1. A violation of the statute has occurred; and 2. The person accused of the violation is the respondent in this matter.

B. A reasonable ground for belief in certain alleged facts; a set of probabilities grounded in the factual and practical considerations which govern the decisions of a reasonable and prudent person and is more than mere suspicion but less than the quantum of evidence required for conviction.

1. R.C. §3517.156(C)(1) No Probable Cause: dismiss

2. R.C. §3517.156(C)(2) Find Probable Cause and refer to full Commission for hearing

3. R.C. §3517.156(C)(3) Evidence is insufficient: appoint an investigator {At Hearing by the Full Commission}

R.C. §3517.155(A)(1) Find no violation

R.C. §3517.155(A)(1) Refer for prosecution if violation found by clear and convincing evidence

O.A.C. §3517-1-14(B)(1)(b) Impose fine of not less than \$15 nor more than \$500 per day for late filing or filing incomplete ... campaign finance reports O.A.C. §3517-1-14(A) Find good cause not to impose refer the matter for prosecution

O.A.C. §3517-1-14(B)(2) Impose fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$500 for failure to include a full and complete disclaimer.

Response: No response submitted to date.

Recommendation: Find no Probable Cause and dismiss.

NG/TC Coddinas

October 29, 2013

Mr. Philip Richter Ohio Elections Commission 21 West Broad Street, Suite 600 Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Mr. Richter:

Greetings. Up until October 14, 2013, I served as the Montgomery County Republican Party Chairman. While I was Chairman, there was never a request for an endorsement in the Miami Township Trustee race nor was an endorsement meeting planned for that purpose. We had instructed many candidates to seek out support from Republican Central Committee members, Republican officeholders, and Republican leaders instead. The Montgomery County Republican Party had not endorsed any candidates until after I was no longer Chairman, including the Miami Township Trustee race.

As the Republican Chairman, I had the opportunity to support and assist many candidates running for local office across Montgomery County. Two of those candidates are Andrew Papanek and Nicholas Seitz, who are Republicans running for Miami Township Trustee. As instructed, like many of our Republican candidates, they sought out and received a broad range of support from many Republicans, including key endorsements from Republican Central Committee members in the Miamisburg/Miami Township area and Republican officeholders in the Miamisburg/Miami Township area.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Coo

Robert L. Scott Attorney at Law October 29, 2013

Mr. Philip Richter Ohio Elections Commission 21 West Broad Street, Suite 600 Columbus, OH 43215 2013E-037

Dear Mr. Richter:

Greetings. Up until October 14, 2013, I served as the Montgomery County Republican Party Chairman. While I was Chairman, there was never a request for an endorsement in the Miami Township Trustee race nor was an endorsement meeting planned for that purpose. We had instructed many candidates to seek out support from Republican Central Committee members, Republican officeholders, and Republican leaders instead. The Montgomery County Republican Party had not endorsed any candidates until after I was no longer Chairman, including the Miami Township Trustee race.

As the Republican Chairman, I had the opportunity to support and assist many candidates running for local office across Montgomery County. Two of those candidates are Andrew Papanek and Nicholas Seitz, who are Republicans running for Miami Township Trustee. As instructed, like many of our Republican candidates, they sought out and received a broad range of support from many Republicans, including key endorsements from Republican Central Committee members in the Miamisburg/Miami Township area and Republican officeholders in the Miamisburg/Miami Township area.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Scott Attorney at Law

Andrew

OWAIS

- ✓ Married to Linda 49 years
- ✓ Township resident 14 years
- ✓ Law enforcement 37.5 years
- ✓ Miami Valley Disaster Services 5 years
- ✓ Montgomery County Police Chiefs Association and Miami Valley Regional Haz Mat Authority, past president
- √ Married to Andrea and father of 4 children.
- √ 10÷ years as Miami Township Firefighter/Paramedic and resident
- ் Local businesses owner of two Dayton-based companic
- Dayton, South Metro, and Kettering, Moraine & Oalwood Chambers of Commerce, Member
- √ Dayton Safety Council, Board Member
- ✓ Southbrook Christian Church, Safety Team Leader

Paid for by the Committees to Elect Andrew J. Papanek for Mismi Township Trustee, Alea Statest, Deputy Treasurer, 20 Carlion Woods, Springboro, OH 45044, and the Committee to Elect Nick Seliz for Miami Township Trustee, Andrea Bailey, Treasurer, 3491 Myna Lane, Miamisburg, ON 45342 savemiamitownship@gmeil.com

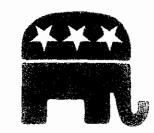
2013E-037

Elect T

Andrew

Elect I NEK & S Miami Township Trustees

- ✓ We will KEEP your Miami Township Police Department.
- / We will CLEAN up Miami Township.
- / We will STOP giving away tax payer dollars and eliminate corporate welfare.



✓ We will GOVERN with transparency and fiscal responsibility.



Candidates **∜**



21 West Broad Street, Suite 600 Columbus, Ohio 43215 614•466•3205

www.state.oh.us/elc

Kim Allison

Degee Wilhelm Vice-Chair

Helen E. Balcolm

Terrance J. Conroy

Lynn A. Grimshaw

Philip C. Richter Executive Director

Fax: (614) 728-9408

David H. Landon

First Vice Chairman and Acting Chairman Montgomery Co. Executive Committee

2700 E. River Rd. Dayton, OH 45439

CASE NO. 2013E-037 Landon, et al. v. Papanek, et al.

October 25, 2013

NOTICE OF PROBABLE CAUSE HEARING

Please be advised that the probable cause hearing in the above case has been scheduled for October 31, 2013 at 9:00 A.M. in the Office of the Ohio Elections Commission on the sixth floor of the Wyandotte Building located at 21 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

Your presence is strongly encouraged at the Probable Cause Hearing but it is not mandated. A letter of disposition will be sent to you regarding the decision of the Commission. If you should have any questions, please feel free to call me at (614) 466-3205.

Very truly yours, Philip C. Richter Executive Director

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21 West Broad Street, Suite 600 Columbus, Ohio 43215 614•466•3205 www.state.oh.us/elc

Kim Allison Chairman

Degee Wilhelm Vice-Chair October 25, 2013

Helen E. Balcolm

Terrance J. Conroy

Lynn A. Grimshaw

Philip C. Richter Executive Director Andrew Papanek 3430 Old Lantern Ct. Miamisburg, OH 45342

Fax: (614) 728-9408

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21 West Broad Street, Suite 600 Columbus, Ohio 43215 614•466•3205

www.state.oh.us/elc

Kim Allison Chairman

Degee Wilhelm Vice-Chair

Helen E. Balcolm

Terrance J. Conroy

Lynn A. Grimshaw

Philip C. Richter Executive Director Nicholas Seitz 3401 Myna Lane

Miamisburg, OH 45342

Fax: (614) 728-9408

CASE NO. 2013E-037 Landon, et al. v. Papanek, et al.

October 25, 2013

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21 West Broad Street, Suite 600 Columbus, Ohio 43215 614•466•3205 www.state.oh.us/elc



October 31, 2013

David H. Landon
First Vice Chairman and Acting Chairman
Montgomery Co. Executive Committee
2700 E. River Rd.
Dayton, OH 45439

Re: OEC Case No. 2013E-037

Dear Mr. Landon:

The Ohio Elections Commission reviewed the complaint filed by you at a Probable Cause panel meeting on October 31, 2013. This Probable Cause panel was established pursuant to R.C. §3517.156. After due consideration of the case by the panel, the following finding was made in the referenced case:

The Probable Cause panel determined that there was no probable cause of a violation and dismissed the complaint.

The complainant has certain rights to petition the full Commission to reconsider this decision pursuant to R.C. §3517.156(E). Please consult this section of the code for further information.

You can contact Commission staff at (614) 466-3205. We will do our best to answer any questions that you may have regarding the disposition of your case.

Philip C. Richter Executive Director



21 West Broad Street, Suite 600 Columbus, Ohio 43215 614•466•3205 www.state.oh.us/elc



October 31, 2013

Andrew Papanek 3430 Old Lantern Ct. Miamisburg, OH 45342

Re: OEC Case No. 2013E-037

Dear Mr. Papanek:

The Ohio Elections Commission reviewed the complaint filed against you at a Probable Cause panel meeting on October 31, 2013. This Probable Cause panel was established pursuant to R.C. §3517.156. After due consideration of the case by the panel, the following finding was made in the referenced case:

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Philip C. Richter Executive Director







October 31, 2013

Nicholas Seitz 3401 Myna Lane Miamisburg, OH 45342

Re: OEC Case No. 2013E-037

Dear Mr. Seitz:

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Executive Director