



NEWS RELEASE

N.J. Election Law Enforcement Commission

Contact: SCOTT A. WEINER
292-8700

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The Election Law Enforcement Commission has fined Jersey City Mayor Gerald McCann and Charles Davis, McCann's 1981 campaign treasurer, a total of \$2,000 for their failure to file required campaign disclosure reports with the Commission. The fine was imposed in conjunction with a complaint that had been filed by the Commission against McCann and Davis for their failure to file periodic post-election reports pertaining to two 1981 campaign funds. These funds were known as the "Gerald McCann Expense Account" and "Freedom of Choice/Committee to Elect Gerald McCann".

The Commission filed the complaint against McCann and Davis in June 1983 citing the fact that no post-election report had been filed by either campaign fund since June 1982. Since both funds had reported cash on hand and outstanding obligations the campaign funds were required to file reports every 60 days.

Partial post-election reports were filed subsequent to the issuance of the complaint, by McCann and Davis on August 2, 1983.

This is the second time that the Commission has imposed fines against McCann and Davis with respect to Mayor McCann's candidacies in the 1981 Jersey City Municipal and Run-off Elections. In March 1982 the Commission imposed fines totaling \$5,000.00 against McCann, Davis and Mr. Robert Conte who also served as a McCann campaign treasurer. Those fines were imposed after the respondents had admitted to non-willful violations of the Campaign Reporting Act including failure to maintain adequate records, failure to disclose all contributors in excess of \$100, failure to properly report outstanding obligations and failure to adequately disclose the ultimate recipients of "street money". Following the imposition of the fine in the earlier proceeding neither McCann nor Davis filed any of the required periodic reports with the Commission.

Scott Weiner, the Commission's Executive Director stated that "the Commission was concerned by the utter disregard with which Mayor McCann and Mr. Davis apparently view this State's campaign finance disclosure laws. One would have thought that after the first complaint and the imposition of the fine that both Mayor McCann and Mr. Davis would have taken every conceivable step to insure that they complied with

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the Campaign Reporting Act."

The Commission has commenced review of the reports filed earlier this month by McCann and Davis. Members of the Commission staff have met with the accountant who assisted in the preparation of the reports and it is anticipated that further meetings will occur. "We have been advised that some of the information contained in the filed reports are incomplete and we intend to discuss other questions which have arisen as a result of our staff review", Weiner stated.

Copies of the Final Decision are available at the Commission office.

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