

Reply to Hartford
Cody N. Guarnieri
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September 9, 2015

Christine Horigan, Esq.
Office of the Secretary of State
Monitor of Elections – City of Hartford
Sent via email to Christine.Horigan@ct.gov

Mr. John V. Bazzano
Town Clerk
Office of the Town and City Clerk
City of Hartford
Sent via email to bazzj001@Hartford.gov

Ms. Olga Iris Vázquez
City of Hartford
Democratic Registrar of Voters
Sent via email to vazqo001@hartford.gov

Re: Absentee Balloting and the September 16, 2015, Democratic Primary

To whom it may concern:

The undersigned represents the Segarra for Mayor Campaign. It has come to my attention that certain irregularities may have occurred or are occurring with regard to the issuance of absentee ballots, as well as the supervised balloting process, in advance of the September 16, 2015, Democratic primary. I write only to express concern regarding the possibility that the process of the issuance of absentee ballots, as prescribed by Connecticut General Statutes Section 9-140, *et seq.*, is not being strictly adhered to.

As you know, Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 9-159q, the registrar of voters is permitted to designate an apartment building as a supervised balloting location where the town clerk receives twenty or more absentee ballot applications from the same address. Moreover, this designation requires that the registrar of voters, or their designee, deliver the ballots to the apartment building and supervise the voting of those ballots.

While the Campaign recognizes that an election monitor for the City of Hartford has been appointed by the Office of the Secretary of State, the statute appears to be clear that the right to designate supervised balloting locations is reserved to the registrar of voters. Once a designation of a supervised balloting location has been made, it cannot be suspended unilaterally and the supervised balloting process must be performed. Where a valid application for an absentee ballot is received by the town clerk's office, the ballot must be issued to the voter within twenty-four hours of the request under General Statutes Section 9-140. Where the application originates from a supervised balloting location, the town clerk must provide ballots and envelopes to the registrar

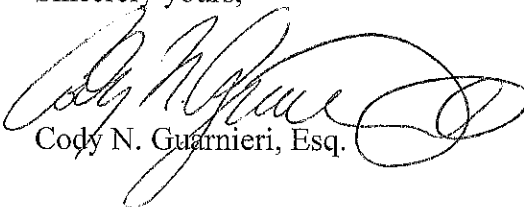
or their designee who is supervising the absentee voting, and a receipt be provided to the town clerk.

A number of apartment buildings throughout the City have long been recurrently designated as supervised balloting locations and thus, for many years and election cycles, have had the registrar of voters or their designee come to the building and supervise the absentee ballot voting. The residents of these buildings have come to expect this process to occur, having taken part over many years. On the eve of a Democratic primary, Campaign staff have learned that a number of apartment buildings in the City of Hartford designated as supervised balloting locations have been stripped of that designation. Moreover, neither the voters in these apartment buildings nor the campaigns associated with this primary have been prospectively made aware that the registrar or their designee will not be coming to supervise voting in these locations.

Additionally, it appears that a disconnect between the town clerk's office, the registrar of voters and the appointed election monitor has led to the delay in sending numerous absentee ballots to previously designated supervised balloting locations. This possible statutory violation is of great concern to the Campaign, in that it is possible that voters are being disenfranchised due to revising supervised balloting locations in the eleventh hour. Moreover, the delay in sending these ballots and alerting the affected voters that they are no longer in a designated supervised balloting location raises serious concerns whether numerous absentee ballots will be received by electors, voted and returned to the town clerk in time to be counted.

Like the people of the City of Hartford, the Segarra for Mayor Campaign is interested in ensuring the lawful and orderly administration of the absentee balloting and voting processes, as detailed in the Connecticut General Statutes. Given the gravity of the possible infirmities with absentee ballot distribution and vote casting to date, the Campaign reserves any rights to pursue litigation to ensure that every Democratic elector's vote is properly counted on September 16, 2015.

Sincerely yours,



Cody N. Guarnieri, Esq.

CC: Michael T. Bland
Campaign Manager
Segarra for Mayor