



Fair Campaign Practices For The Capital Region, Inc.

NEWS RELEASE

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**Contact: Reverend Mick Drown
FCP President 424-8787**

Findings in the Complaint of Daniel Loomis V Joseph Igoe COMPLAINT 2009-2

Fair Campaign Practices for the Capital Region, Inc. (FCP) held a hearing on October 14, 2009, to consider a complaint made by Daniel Loomis against Joseph Igoe. Both are candidates for Common Council in the City of Albany, representing the 14th Ward. Present were hearing panel members Barbara Bartoletti, Michael Foster, Beverly LaBarge, Faith Weldon, panel Chair Katherine Henrikson, and Coordinator Barbara Thomas. FCP Board member Aimee Allaud was also present. Mr. Loomis appeared. Mr. Igoe was invited, but did not appear, nor did he send a representative.

Mr. Loomis complained that his opponent, Mr. Igoe, had refused an invitation to a public debate during the month of October. Mr. Igoe sent a written statement in which he cited a lack of time during the month of October, when city budget preparations take up a great deal of the Council's time.

FINDING: UNFAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICE

Violation of Principle 1: “Candidates will discuss the issues and participate in fair debate with respect to their views and qualifications.” Mr. Loomis made a good-faith effort to contact Mr. Igoe immediately after his (Mr. Igoe's) primary win to suggest a debate. He also contacted the Pine Hills Neighborhood Association, which agreed it could act as a neutral sponsor of a debate. Mr. Igoe's plea that he had no time is not substantiated by the calendar of his activities that he supplied to the FCP: all Friday and most Saturday evenings were free, as were Sunday afternoons and the Columbus Day holiday.

Fair Campaign Practices for the Capital Region, Inc. was established to promote a climate of fair, open, and honest campaigns; encourage candidates to discuss the issues; encourage candidates to refrain from defamatory attacks on opponents; discourage use of campaign materials that distort facts; and expand the political debate by more fully informing the electorate about the use of unfair campaign practices. Information on FCP can be obtained at <http://www.faircampaignpractices.info>.

- END -

Note: If a candidate or campaign wishes to quote from this finding, it must do so accurately, particularly if it uses partial quotes. Otherwise that is an unfair campaign practice.