



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FINDINGS IN THE COMPLAINT OF
Mark Blanchfield v. George Amedore Jr.
Complaint 2008-8

Fair Campaign Practices For The Capital Region Inc. (FCP) held a hearing on October 20, 2008 to consider a complaint made by Mark Blanchfield against George Amedore Jr. Both are candidates for the New York State Assembly in the 105th Assembly District. Both appeared through their representatives, with David Cabaniss representing Mr. Blanchfield and Michael Cuevas representing Mr. Amedore. Present were hearing panel members: Jim Miller (Chair), Harriet Warnock-Graham, Mickey Drown, Helen MacDonald and Robert Turner. Also present was Coordinator Betsey Swan. Thomas Buchanan, Schenectady County Republican Party chairperson, sat as an *ex officio* representative.

Mr Blanchfield complained that his opponent published a flyer that:

1. Falsely manufactured a newspaper headline;
2. Falsely implied that a third torn paragraph was from the newspaper article rather than from a FCP finding;
3. Misleadingly used the language from a published interview of Mr. Amedore, rather from the video interview that was the subject of the unfair campaign practice.

FINDING: NO UNFAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICE

Although the printed *Times Union* report of the prior FCP decision did not contain the headline in question, the electronic *Times Union*, which was referenced in the flyer, did contain such a headline. Although some material in the flyer was a quotation from the prior FCP finding rather than the newspaper article, the quotations neither distorted nor misrepresented the nature of the finding. Last, although Mr. Amedore had given two interviews and referenced the print rather than the video interview in his flyer, the content of the two interviews was virtually identical, even though the exact wording differed slightly. Because the two interviews were substantively identical, the substitution of one for the other, taken alone, cannot be regarded as misleading to voters.

Candidates are advised not to misrepresent these findings. Misleading quotation or misrepresentation of FCP Findings constitute an unfair campaign practice.

Fair Campaign Practices For The Capital Region, Inc.

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