

Press Release

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From: NH CAN: New Haven Citizens' Action Network
www.nhcan.org

Date: September 5, 2007

Attorney at Hatch Act Unit, U.S. Office of Special Counsel will open inquiry on Sergio Rodriguez

Alan Felder is challenging Sergio Rodriguez for the Aldermanic Seat of the 26th Ward in New Haven. He has questioned Alderman Rodriguez (D-26) about his alleged violation of the Hatch Act. The Democratic Primary is slated for September 11th.

The Hatch Act specifically states that a candidate running for a partisan elected office (national or local) or a person serving as a partisan elected official cannot be employed by any agency that accepts Federal funding.

Rodriguez maintains he is not employed by the New Haven Housing Authority (HANH). Instead he states that he works for an agency that manages Monterey Place and receives his salary from a grant not funded by HANH. Many believe this is a violation because regardless of where Rodriguez's salary comes from, he is administering a federally funded project and is employed by an agency that directly receives federal funding.

In the City of New Haven Disclosure Form signed by Rodriguez and dated May 7, 2007 Rodriguez lists the Housing Authority City of New Haven as his employer (page two, question 8).

According to the [NH Register on 05/28/2007](#), "Westville Alderman Sergio Rodriguez, D-26, works for the New Haven Housing Authority and his wife runs a social service agency, for kids, which receives city grants". This week's New Haven Advocate lists Rodriguez as Community Services Manager of Monterey Place for HANH.

Neither the Administration nor Mr. Rodriguez has, to our knowledge, sought clarification of this question from the Office of Special Counsel, the office directly responsible for making these determinations.

Since the question has been raised and not satisfactorily answered New Haven Citizens' Action Network's (NH CAN) steering committee decided to ask the experts. On August 29, 2007 NH CAN sent a letter to The Office of Special Counsel in Washington DC seeking an advisory opinion as to the whether there is a violation of the Hatch Act in this matter.

On August 30, 2007 NH CAN received a reply to its letter of inquiry from Erica Stern Hamrick, Attorney, Hatch Act Unit, U.S. Office of Special Counsel. It reads "We have received your request and will open an inquiry into this matter."

New Haven Citizens' Action Committee (NH CAN) is a grass roots organization that believes in an open, transparent government, one that listens to the voice of the citizens it represents. The organization looks forward to a timely and proper investigation of this matter.