

Freedom of Information Commission
of the State of Connecticut

In the Matter of a Complaint by)
Richard J. Cromie, Complainant) Report of Hearing Officer
against) Docket #FIC 76-81
Town of Coventry and Town Council of) June 14 , 1976
of the Town of Coventry,)
Respondents)

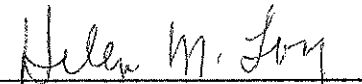
1. The respondents are public agencies.
2. The complainant alleges that majority members of respondent Town Council held caucuses to decide public business.
3. The complainant also alleges that the notice of a special meeting of respondent Town Council violated §6 of P.A. 75-342 in that the respondent acted beyond the scope of the agenda in the notice of meeting.
4. The chairman of respondent Council prior to April 19, 1976 called by telephone, every member of respondent to initiate removal of the Town Manager.
5. On April 19, 1976, Exhibit A was read to the Town Manager in executive session of respondent Council.
6. On April 21, 1976, the chairman of respondent asked for a special meeting to consider and act upon the resignation of the Town Manager as set forth in his letter of April 20, 1976.
7. On April 21, 1976, notice was given of a special meeting of respondent Council for the purpose of acting upon the resignation of the Town Manager as set forth in his letter.
8. On April 22, 1976, respondent met, rejected the resignation of the Town Manager, and removed the Town Manager effective April 23, 1976. (Exhibit D minutes of meeting of April 22, 1976)

The following order by the Commission is hereby recommended on the basis of the record concerning the above captioned complaint:

1. As to the contention relating to caucuses, the complaint is dismissed. The Commission has ruled in favor of the respondent's contention in advisory opinions 9 and 14.

2. While all of the actions taken at the meeting of April 22, 1976 were not technically within the scope of the notice as set forth on April 21, 1976, the notice gave sufficient warning to the public to comply with §6 of P.A. 75-342.

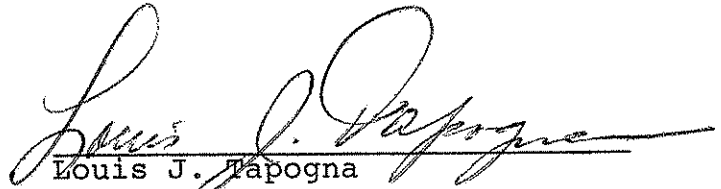
3. The Commission cautions the respondent to strictly comply with the provisions of §6 of P.A. 75-342 as relates to notice of meetings. This includes telephone meetings involving all the members of the respondent Council as well as properly setting forth the agenda of public meetings.



Commissioner Helen Loy

as Hearing Officer

Approved by order of the Freedom of Information Commission
on June 25, 1976.



Louis J. Papogna
Clerk
Freedom of Information Commission