

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FINDING IN THE COMPLAINT OF  
DAN BRANDA AGAINST VEDAT GASHI,  
CANDIDATES FOR WESTCHESTER COUNTY LEGISLATOR DISTRICT 4**

Tarrytown, NY (October 19, 2023) - The Westchester County Fair Campaign Practices Committee met via Zoom on October 17, 2023 to hear the complaint of Dan Branda (Republican) against incumbent Vedat Gashi (Democrat), candidates for Westchester County Legislator District 4. Dan Branda attended the Hearing. Harry Brussel and Scott Berlin attended the Hearing as Vedat Gashi’s representatives.

**COMPLAINT:** Mr. Branda complained that Mr. Gashi’s campaign made a materially false statement in the newspaper story “Branda, Gashi clash in battle for northern Westchester County legislative seat,” which was written by David McKay Wilson and published on October 10, 2023 in LoHud. In that article, Vedat Gashi’s spokesperson Reggie Johnson was quoted as saying:

“The fact that Branda intends to cut funding to first responders and other essential services for the sake of yet another campaign gimmick underscores the reality that he is not ready to lead.”

Mr. Branda claims that he has never expressed an intention to cut funding for first responders and other essential services.

**NO FINDING**

The Committee contends that quotes in an article as compared to statements in campaign literature are difficult to find FAIR or UNFAIR. The use of the word "intends" in Mr. Johnson's quote troubled the Committee since insufficient evidence was provided in the article to support that cutting funding to first responders and other essential services was part of Mr. Branda’s plan. However, not enough information is known about the exchanges between the journalist and the candidates for the Committee to have a FAIR or UNFAIR Finding.

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Committee Members: Susan P. Guma, [Chair], Jennifer Mebes Flagg [Coordinator], Elizabeth Bermel, Gisele Castro, Victor J. Goldberg, LaRuth Gray, Kyle-Beth Hilfer, Lee Kinnally, Robert C. Kirkwood, Carole Princer Levy, Don Marra, Paul Bennett Marrow, Joy Rosenzweig, Susan Schwarz, John Stern, Evelyn M. Stock  
Party representatives (ex officio): Republican Party, Democratic Party, Working Families Party, Independence Party, Green Party

WESTCHESTER COUNTY  
**FAIR CAMPAIGN**  
PRACTICES COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Westchester County Fair Campaign Practices Committee is to help set an acceptable standard for political discussion by offering a forum for identifying unfair campaign practices and promoting a climate in which candidates conduct honest and fair campaigns. The Committee encourages candidates to conduct campaigns openly and fairly, to focus on issues and qualifications, to refrain from dishonest and defamatory attacks, and to avoid the use of campaign materials that distort the facts.

The Committee accepts written complaints from candidates about alleged unfair campaign practices. The Committee may then hold hearings to determine whether the action complained about is indeed unfair or whether it falls within acceptable political discourse. Among other things that the Committee will consider to be an unfair campaign practice is a misstatement of a material fact or any communication that misleads the public.

The Committee has no power to compel anyone or any group to stop doing what it has found to be unfair, nor does it have the authority or power to enforce election or other laws.

If the Committee acts on a complaint, it will release its findings to inform the public. The Committee may choose not to consider a complaint; in that case, a hearing is not held and the parties to the complaint are notified.

Statement of Principles of the Committee, as stated in its Manual, is available at [www.faircampaignpractices.org](http://www.faircampaignpractices.org). The Westchester County Fair Campaign Practices Committee believes that candidates should conduct their campaigns in accordance with the following principles:

- The candidate will conduct a campaign for public office openly and fairly, focusing on issues and qualifications.
- The candidate will not use or condone any campaign material or advertisement that misstates, misrepresents or distorts material fact or any communication that misleads the public.
- The candidate will neither engage in nor be involved with false or misleading attacks upon the character of an opponent, nor in invasions of privacy unrelated to fitness for office.
- The candidate will not participate in or condone any appeal to prejudice.
- The candidate will clearly identify by name the funding source of all advertisements and campaign literature published and distributed.
- The candidate will not abuse the Westchester County Fair Campaign Practices Committee process in order to obtain political advantage. This includes, but is not limited to announcing that he/she has filed a complaint, or quoting from the Committee's Findings unless the individual Finding cited is quoted in its entirety. The Committee considers selective quotation or misrepresentation of its Findings to be an unfair campaign practice.

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- The candidate will publicly repudiate materials or actions made on behalf of their candidacy that violate this Statement of Principles.