TO: Freedom of Information Commission

FROM: Thomas A. Hennick

RE: Minutes of the Commission’s regular meeting of September 25, 2019

A regular meeting of the Freedom of Information Commission was held on September 25, 2019, in the Freedom of Information Hearing Room, 18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, Connecticut. The meeting convened at 2:09 p.m. with the following Commissioners present:

Commissioner Owen P. Eagan, presiding
Commissioner Jay Shaw (participated via speakerphone)
Commissioner Matthew Streeter
Commissioner Christopher P. Hankins

Also present were staff members, Mary E. Schwind, Victor R. Perpetua, Valicia D. Harmon, Kathleen K. Ross, Matthew D. Reed, Danielle L. McGee, Cindy Cannata, and Thomas A. Hennick.

The Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the Commission’s regular meeting minutes of September 11, 2019.

Those in attendance were informed that the Commission does not ordinarily record the remarks made at its meetings, but will do so on request.

Docket #FIC 2018-0705 Victor Velasco v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Correction; and State of Connecticut, Department of Correction

The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer’s Report.

Docket #FIC 2018-0730 GerJuan Tyus v. Peter Reichard, Chief, Police Department, City of New London; Police Department, City of New London; and City of New London

The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer’s Report.

Docket #FIC 2018-0731 GerJuan Tyus v. Peter Reichard, Chief, Police Department, City of New London; Police Department, City of New London; and City of New London

The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer’s Report.
Docket #FIC 2018-0732  GerJuan Tyus v. Peter Reichard, Chief, Police Department, City of New London; Police Department, City of New London; and City of New London

The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer’s Report.

Docket #FIC 2019-0257  GerJuan Tyus v. Peter Reichard, Chief, Police Department, City of New London; Police Department, City of New London; and City of New London

The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer’s Report.

Docket #FIC 2019-0333  GerJuan Tyus v. Peter Reichard, Chief, Police Department, City of New London; Police Department, City of New London; and City of New London

The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer’s Report.

Docket #FIC 2019-0347  GerJuan Tyus v. Peter Reichard, Chief, Police Department, City of New London; Police Department, City of New London; and City of New London

The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer’s Report.

Docket #FIC 2018-0587  James Torlai v. James P. Wardwell, Chief, Police Department, City of New Britain; Police Department, City of New Britain; and City of New Britain

The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer’s Report.

Docket #FIC 2018-0679  Francis Barron v. Director of Human Resources, Greenwich Public Schools; and Greenwich Public Schools

Francis Barron appeared on his own behalf. Attorney Abby Wadler appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners returned the matter to the Hearing Officer for further review.
Docket #FIC 2019-0075
Kenneth Krayske v. Rollin Cook, Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Correction; and State of Connecticut, Department of Correction

The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer’s Report.

Docket #FIC 2019-0138
Michael Bracken, Jr. v. Eric Osanitsch, Chief, Police Department, Town of Windsor Locks; Police Department, Town of Windsor Locks; and Town of Windsor Locks

Michael Bracken appeared on his own behalf. The Commissioners unanimously voted to amend the Hearing Officer’s Report. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer’s Report as amended.* The proceedings were recorded digitally.

Docket #FIC 2019-0251
Ida Klaneski and Stanley Klaneski v. Mayor, Town of Plymouth; and Town of Plymouth

Ida and Stanley Klaneski appeared on their own behalf. Attorney William Hamzy appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to amend the Hearing Officer’s Report. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer’s Report as amended.* The proceedings were recorded digitally.

Docket #FIC 2019-0319

The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer’s Report.

Docket #FIC 2019-0367
Richard Kosinski v. First Selectman, Town of Oxford; Finance Department, Town of Oxford; and Town of Oxford

The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer’s Report.
Commissioners unanimously voted to deny a motion to reconsider the final decision dated September 12, 2019 and received by the Commission on September 12, 2019, filed by complainant in Ethan Book v. Christopher Rosario, Member, Connecticut General Assembly; and Connecticut General Assembly, Docket #FIC 2018-0560. The proceeding was recorded digitally.

Commissioners reviewed the order of dismissal in Scott Parsons vs. Freedom of Information Commission, et. al, CV-18-6047762-S (Sept. 9, 2019). No action was taken.

Mary E. Schwind reported that work continued on filling the agency’s vacant paralegal position. She reported that approximately 80 applications had been received.

Commissioners and staff observed a moment of silence for former FOI Commission Chairman Andrew O’Keefe who passed away earlier in the week.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

* See attached for amendments
The Hearing Officer’s Report is amended as follows:

2. By letter of complaint filed on March 6, 2019, the complainant appealed to the Commission alleging that the respondents violated the Freedom of Information (“FOI”) Act by failing to provide him with certain public records. **THE COMPLAINANT REQUESTED THE IMPOSITION OF CIVIL PENALTIES AGAINST THE RESPONDENTS.**

15. **THE COMMISSION DECLINES TO IMPOSE CIVIL PENALTIES IN THIS MATTER.**

The order in the Hearing Officer’s Report is amended as follows:

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

1. The respondents shall provide the complainants with any additional records responsive to the complainants’ request at no cost to the complainant.

2. Henceforth, the respondents shall strictly comply with the disclosure provisions of §§1-210 and 1-212, G.S.

[3. Furthermore, the Commission admonishes the respondents for their failure to appear for the hearing in this matter.]