

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of a Complaint by

FINAL DECISION

Pierre Obas,

Complainant

against

Docket # FIC 2023-0641

Chief, Police Department, Town of Bethel;
Police Department, Town of Bethel; and
Town of Bethel,

Respondents

June 26, 2024

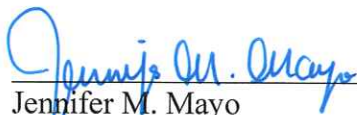
The above-captioned matter was scheduled to be heard as a contested case on May 30, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., at which time the respondents appeared, but the complainant did not appear to prosecute the case.

The hearing officer notes that Attorney Melanie P. O'Brien, counsel for the respondents, appeared at the hearing with a witness, a patrol officer for the Bethel Police Department. Attorney O'Brien represented that she had spent approximately five hours preparing for the hearing, which included two or more in-person meetings and multiple telephone conversations with certain members of the Bethel Police Department, along with reviewing the file and other preparations for the hearing. This was in addition to the two-hour round-trip travel for her to attend the hearing. Attorney O'Brien also reported that the officer's travel time to and from the hearing totaled approximately two hours.

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

1. The complaint is hereby dismissed for failure to prosecute.
2. The complainant is admonished for his failure to appear at the hearing in this matter, which failure resulted in a waste of scarce state and local resources.

Approved by Order of the Freedom of Information Commission at its regular meeting of June 26, 2024.



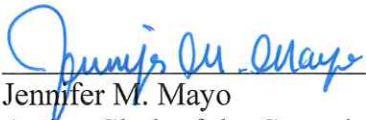
Jennifer M. Mayo
Acting Clerk of the Commission

PURSUANT TO SECTION 4-180(c), G.S., THE FOLLOWING ARE THE NAMES OF EACH PARTY AND THE MOST RECENT MAILING ADDRESS, PROVIDED TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION, OF THE PARTIES OR THEIR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE.

THE PARTIES TO THIS CONTESTED CASE ARE:

PIERRE OBAS, 8 McDermott Street, Danbury, CT 06810

CHIEF, POLICE DEPARTMENT, TOWN OF BETHEL; POLICE DEPARTMENT, TOWN OF BETHEL; AND TOWN OF BETHEL, c/o Attorney Melanie P. O'Brien, Law Offices of Melanie P. O'Brien LLC, PO Box 721, 12 Cross Hill Road, Bethel, CT 06801



Jennifer M. Mayo
Acting Clerk of the Commission