

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by

FINAL DECISION
UPON REMAND

Jacqueline Rabe Thomas, Investigative
Reporter,

Complainant

against

Docket # FIC 2023-0558

Secretary, State of Connecticut, Office of
Policy and Management; and State of
Connecticut, Office of Policy and
Management,

Respondents

June 25, 2025

The above-captioned matter was heard as a contested case on May 31, 2024, at which time the complainant and the respondents appeared, stipulated to certain facts, and presented testimony, exhibits, and argument on the complaint. On September 17, 2024, the hearing officer issued a Hearing Officer's Report.

The Commission adopted the Hearing Officer's Report and issued a Final Decision in this matter at its regular meeting on October 9, 2024, ordering disclosure of certain requested records. Such Final Decision was appealed by the respondents. See Secretary, State of Connecticut, Office of Policy and Management, et al. v. Freedom of Information Commission, et al. (HHB-CV-24-6091229-S).

Subsequently, by letter dated March 24, 2025, the complainant informed the Commission that she was not pursuing this matter any further and wished to withdraw her complaint. The Commission takes administrative notice of such withdrawal.

On May 22, 2025, the respondents, complainant, and Commission filed a joint motion with the Superior Court requesting an order remanding the matter to the Commission pursuant to §4-183(j), G.S., "for further proceedings in accordance with its regulations and procedures consistent with its receipt of [the complainant's] withdrawal of her complaint to the Commission." On May 23, 2025, the respondents refiled the same joint motion on behalf of the parties, amended to include Certification of Service.

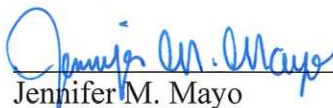
On May 27, 2025, the Court granted, without objection, the parties' joint motion requesting an order for remand. On such date, the Court also issued the following order: "This matter is hereby remanded to the Freedom of Information Commission for further proceeding in accordance with its regulations and procedures based on its receipt of [complainant] defendant Rabe Thomas' withdrawal of her complaint to the Commission."

In light of the complainant's March 24, 2025 letter of withdrawal, the Commission finds that there is no longer a contested case, and the matter is now moot. See Department of Public Safety v. Freedom of Information Commission, et al., 103 Conn. App. 571 (2007) (where the complainant notified the Commission that the requested records had been disclosed and requested that it take no further action on her complaint, the Court concluded that the matter became moot, as a controversy no longer existed). In the absence of a contested case, the Commission lacks subject matter jurisdiction in this matter.

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

1. Based on the complainant's March 24, 2025 letter of withdrawal, the Commission's October 9, 2024 Final Decision is rescinded, and the complaint is hereby dismissed.

Approved by Order of the Freedom of Information Commission at its regular meeting of June 25, 2025.


Jennifer M. Mayo
Acting Clerk of the Commission

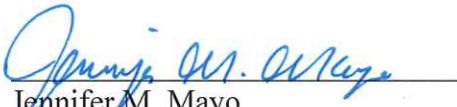
PURSUANT TO SECTION 4-180(c), G.S., THE FOLLOWING ARE THE NAMES OF EACH PARTY AND THE MOST RECENT MAILING ADDRESS, PROVIDED TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION, OF THE PARTIES OR THEIR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE.

THE PARTIES TO THIS CONTESTED CASE ARE:

JACQUELINE RABE THOMAS, INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER, Hearst CT Media, 1022 Boulevard, Apt. 303, West Hartford, CT 06133-0238

SECRETARY, STATE OF CONNECTICUT, OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT; AND STATE OF CONNECTICUT, OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT, c/o Attorney Gareth D. Bye and Attorney Kara A. T. Murphy, General Counsel, Office of Policy and Management, 450 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT

OFFICE OF CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER, DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES, c/o Attorney Deborah D. Sullivan, 55 Farmington Avenue, 8th Floor, Hartford, CT 06105


Jennifer M. Mayo
Acting Clerk of the Commission