

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of a Complaint by

FINAL DECISION

John Blessington,

Complainant

against

Docket # FIC 2024-0302

Chairman, Board of Directors, Willington  
Public Library; and Board of Directors,  
Willington Public Library,

Respondents

May 14, 2025

The above-captioned matter was heard as a contested case on September 26, 2024, at which time the complainant and the respondents appeared, stipulated to certain facts, and presented testimony, exhibits and argument on the complaint.

After consideration of the entire record, the following facts are found and conclusions of law are reached:

1. The respondents are public agencies within the meaning of §1-200(1), G.S.
2. By complaint dated and filed May 30, 2024, the complainant appealed to this Commission, alleging that the respondents violated the Freedom of Information ("FOI") Act by failing to timely post the minutes for the regular meeting of the respondent Board of Directors, Willington Public Library ("WPL") held on May 8, 2024.
3. It is found that the respondents held a regular meeting of the WPL on May 8, 2024.
4. Section 1-225(a), G.S., provides, in relevant part:

[t]he meetings of all public agencies, except executive sessions ... shall be open to the public. .... Not later than seven days after the date of the session to which such minutes refer, such minutes shall be available for public inspection and posted on such public agency's Internet web site, if available, except that no public agency of a political subdivision of the state shall be required to post such minutes on an Internet web site. Each public agency shall make, keep and maintain a record of the proceedings of its meetings.

(Emphasis added.)

5. At the hearing on this matter, the complainant testified, and it is found, that the meeting minutes of the May 8, 2024 meeting were not posted on the WPL website as of May 29, 2024, the day before he filed his complaint with the Commission, as referenced in paragraph 2, above.

6. The respondents' witness, the Vice Chair of the WPL, admitted, and it is found, that the minutes of the May 8, 2024 meeting were not posted with the Town Clerks' office until June 24, 2024. The Vice Chair also testified, and it is found, that the Town Clerk, after receiving meeting minutes, is responsible for ensuring that WPL minutes are posted to the WPL website. It is therefore found that the earliest the May 8, 2024 meeting minutes could have been posted to the WPL website was June 24, 2024.

7. It is found that the May 8, 2024 meeting minutes were posted forty-seven days after the May 8, 2024 meeting.

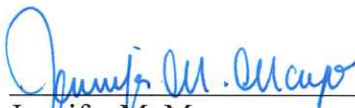
8. Consequently, it is concluded that the respondents violated §1-225(a), G.S., by failing to timely file the minutes of the May 8, 2024 meeting.<sup>1</sup>

9. The Commission notes that training normally would be warranted under the facts and circumstances of this case. However, in its discretion, the Commission declines to impose training as a remedy based on the fact that the Commission's staff conducted FOI Act training for the respondents on November 25, 2024, after the hearing on this matter.

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

1. Henceforth, the respondents shall strictly comply with the open meeting and minutes provisions of §1-225(a), G.S.

Approved by Order of the Freedom of Information Commission at its regular meeting of May 14, 2025.

  
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Jennifer M. Mayo  
Acting Clerk of the Commission

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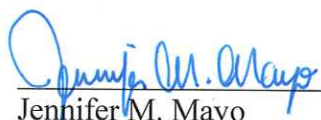
<sup>1</sup> The Commission also notes that the complainant testified that the WPL failed to timely post its meeting minutes on other occasions as well and the respondents did not dispute such testimony at the hearing on this matter.

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:

**JOHN BLESSINGTON**, 29 Mason Road, Willington, CT 06279

**CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, WILLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY; AND  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, WILLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**, 7 Ruby Road, Willington,  
CT 06279



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Jennifer M. Mayo  
Acting Clerk of the Commission