

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by

FINAL DECISION

Sanjay Gupta,

Complainant

against

Docket # FIC 2025-0517

Superintendent of Schools, West Hartford
Public Schools; and West Hartford Public
Schools,

Respondents

June 10, 2026

The above-captioned matter was consolidated for purposes of hearing with Docket #FIC 2025-0518, Sanjay Gupta v. Town Clerk, Town of West Hartford, et al. and scheduled to be heard on November 14, 2025. Both the complainant and the respondents appeared at such hearing, at which time the complainant offered exhibits on the complaint in this matter. The hearing was then continued to allow the hearing officer to rule on objections to the complainant's proffered exhibits, to afford the respondents the opportunity to proffer their own exhibits, and to afford both parties the opportunity to provide testimony and argument on the complaint.

Prior to the adjournment of the November 14, 2025, consolidated hearing, the hearing officer asked whether the parties would prefer to schedule a continued hearing in the matter before or after the new year, noting the upcoming end-of-year holidays. On the record at such hearing, the complainant deferred to the respondents, citing a recent email from the respondents' counsel regarding the respondents' availability in a separate matter. The respondents' counsel represented that she would resend such email to the complainant, as it contained dates for both her and the respondents' witnesses' availability. The hearing officer then engaged in the following colloquy with the parties:

Respondents' counsel: I can send that email again. I sent it with respect to yesterday's hearing [in a different matter to which the complainant is a party], advising as to my witnesses' and my availability. And so, I can certainly send that again to provide –

Hearing Officer: Okay, so...why don't you send it to our main address –

Respondents' counsel: foi@ct.gov?

Hearing Officer: Correct. And you can put it to the attention of the scheduler. And just note that, for the continued hearing, these are the dates you'd like to work around. And that will help expedite the process, because she'll look at that and have something to work

with right away, rather than waiting to reach out to both sides. So, if you're amenable to that, Mr. Gupta, that's very helpful.

Complainant: I just want to be helpful in any way I can.

Hearing Officer: Okay. Great. So, if you want, after Attorney Lauture sends her email, if you want to respond to it saying you agree, and then the scheduler can work on it right away. That way there won't be any question as to whether you object to following those dates.

Complainant: Okay.

The Commission notes that, on November 16, 2025, two days after the first hearing in this matter, the respondents' counsel emailed, to both the Commission and the complainant, a list of dates on which the respondents were not available for a continued hearing. The complainant did not respond to the Commission regarding such dates provided by the respondents' counsel.

On December 2, 2025, after waiting two weeks for a response from the complainant, the Commission issued a notice of the continued hearing date to the parties, notifying them that the continued hearing had been scheduled for January 9, 2026.

Later that day, on December 2, 2025, the complainant raised, for the first time, a conflict with the continued hearing date and requested that the hearing be postponed. The hearing officer denied such request the next day, on December 3, 2025, citing the complainant's failure to meet the standard for postponing a hearing set forth in §1-21j-34a(b), R.C.S.A. After failing to respond to such denial for four weeks, the complainant filed a request for reconsideration on January 5, 2026, which the hearing officer likewise denied the next day, citing the same grounds.

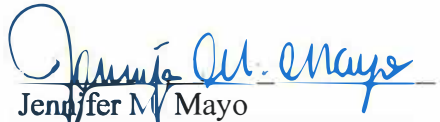
The continued hearing in this matter was subsequently convened as scheduled on January 9, 2026, at which time the respondents' counsel appeared with one witness, the respondent school district's director of finance and planning; however, the complainant did not appear to prosecute the complaint. At such continued hearing, the hearing officer took up and ruled upon the objections raised at the November 14, 2025, hearing by the respondents to exhibits proffered by the complainant. The respondents' witness, the school district's director of finance and planning, then gave testimony regarding the respondents' processing of the complainant's request at issue.

On January 14, 2026, the complainant filed a motion to reopen the hearing, which motion was denied by the hearing officer on January 15, 2026.

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

1. The complaint is hereby dismissed for failure to prosecute.

Approved by Order of the Freedom of Information Commission at its regular meeting of June 10, 2026.

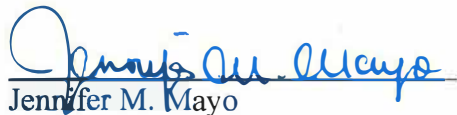

Jennifer M. Mayo
Acting Clerk of the Commission

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:

SANJAY GUPTA, 54 Orchard Road, West Hartford, CT 06117

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, WEST HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS; AND WEST HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS, c/o Attorney Cynthia Lauture, Office of the Corporation Counsel, 50 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT 06107



Jennifer M. Mayo
Acting Clerk of the Commission