

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by

FINAL DECISION

Michael Katzmark,

Complainant

against

Docket # FIC 2025-0485

Paula Cofrancesco, First Selectman, Town
of Bethany; and Town of Bethany,

Respondents

May 27, 2026

The above-captioned matter was heard as a contested case on October 31, 2025, at which time only the complainant appeared.

After the hearing convened, the complainant's counsel represented on the record that he "was not aware" that the hearing was proceeding as scheduled until he received a call from the Commission that same morning. He further represented that he had recently been in settlement discussions with the respondents' counsel and that the parties agreed to work towards a settlement in lieu of appearing at the hearing.

The hearing officer in this matter noted on the record that, prior to the hearing's commencement, neither party had filed a motion for a postponement or continuance for her to rule upon; accordingly, she convened the hearing as scheduled.¹

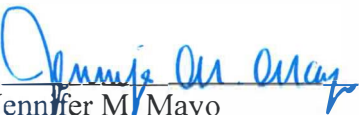
The complainant's counsel then requested a brief recess to contact the respondents and confer with his client. After reaching an agreement with the respondents off the record, the complainant withdrew his appeal to the Commission on the record.

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

1. Based on the withdrawal of the complaint, the complaint is dismissed.

¹ The Commission takes administrative notice of an email from the complainant's counsel, sent to the Commission at 3:48 p.m. the afternoon before the hearing (on October 30, 2025). In such email, the complainant's counsel informed the Commission that the parties in the above-captioned matter had agreed amongst themselves that they would not appear at the hearing scheduled for October 31, 2025, based upon the respondents' representation that they would provide the records at issue to the complainant within the next two weeks. However, such email did not contain either a motion to postpone the hearing in this matter or a withdrawal of the complaint.

Approved by Order of the Freedom of Information Commission at its regular meeting of May 27, 2026.

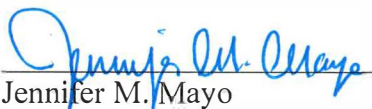

Jennifer M. Mayo
Acting Clerk of the Commission

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:

MICHAEL KATZMARK, c/o Attorney John A. Parese, 2319 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518

PAULA COFRANCESCO, FIRST SELECTMAN, TOWN OF BETHANY; AND TOWN OF BETHANY, c/o Attorney Vincent M. Marino, The Marino Law Firm, LLC, 657 Orange Center Road, Orange, CT 06477


Jennifer M. Mayo
Acting Clerk of the Commission