

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by

FINAL DECISION

Christopher Avcollie,

Complainant

against

Docket # FIC 2025-0577

Mayor, City of Stamford; and City of
Stamford,

Respondents

May 27, 2026

The above-captioned matter was heard as a contested case on March 19, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., at which time the respondents appeared, but the complainant did not appear to prosecute the case.

The undersigned hearing officer notes that Attorney Michael Toma, counsel for the respondents, appeared at the hearing with a witness. Specifically, it is noted that Attorney Toma appeared with a Stamford Public Schools principal, who was prepared to testify at the scheduled hearing. Attorney Toma represented that he had spent at least two hours preparing outlines, questions, proposed exhibits, legal argument and the witness to testify. It is also noted that they both traveled from Stamford to attend the hearing, which involves an approximately one-and-a-half-hour drive each way, and that the principal was required to leave school during a time when the other school administrator was scheduled to be at parent-teacher conferences.

It is noted that the complainant called the Commission on March 19, 2026, after receiving a voicemail from Commission staff and after the hearing officer had convened the contested case hearing. The complainant apologized that he did not recall that a hearing had been scheduled and stated that he wanted to withdraw the complaint. Thereafter, by email, dated March 19, 2026 at 11:27 a.m., the complainant informed the Commission that he wished to withdraw the complaint. In his March 19, 2026 email, the complainant also apologized for any inconvenience or misunderstanding.

The Commission takes administrative notice of the complainant's March 19, 2026 email withdrawing the complaint.

In the future, the Commission urges the complainant to: (a) inform the Commission, in advance, when he does not intend to appear at a contested case hearing; and (b) if he intends to withdraw a complaint, to do so prior to the contested case hearing. The complainant's failure to do either of the above in this case resulted in a waste of scarce state and municipal resources.

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

1. Based upon the withdrawal, the complaint is hereby dismissed.

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



Molly Steffes
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:

CHRISTOPHER AVCOLLIE, Carey & Associates, PC, 71 Old Post Road, Suite One, Southport, CT 06890

MAYOR, CITY OF STAMFORD; AND CITY OF STAMFORD, c/o Attorney Michael S. Toma, Office of Corporation Counsel, City of Stamford, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT 06904


Molly Steffes
Acting Clerk of the Commission