

TO: Freedom of Information Commission
FROM: Russell Blair
RE: Minutes of the Commission's regular meeting of September 27, 2023

A regular meeting of the Freedom of Information Commission was held on September 27, 2023. The Commission meeting of September 27, 2023 was conducted in person. The meeting convened at 2:05 p.m. with the following Commissioners present:

Commissioner Owen P. Eagan, presiding
Commissioner Matthew Streeter
Commissioner Jonathan J. Einhorn
Commissioner Aigné Goldsby (participated by speakerphone)
Commissioner Christopher P. Hankins
Commissioner Stephen Fuzesi Jr.

Also present were staff members Colleen M. Murphy, Paula S. Pearlman, Valicia D. Harmon, Mary-Kate Smith, Danielle L. McGee, C. Zack Hyde, Kevin W. Munn, Nicholas Smarra, Jennifer F. Miller, Jennifer Mayo and Russell Blair.

The Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the Commission's regular meeting minutes of September 13, 2023.

Those in attendance were informed that the September 27, 2023 regular meeting of the Commission was being recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2022-0463](#) Sergio Correa v. James Rovella, Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection; and State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection

Sergio Correa appeared on his own behalf via speakerphone. Attorney Cynthia Isales appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2023-0031](#) Sergio Correa v. James Rovella, Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection; and State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection

Sergio Correa appeared on his own behalf via speakerphone. Attorney Cynthia Isales appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2022-0483](#) Ian Cooke v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection; and State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection

The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2022-0468](#) Avi Kamrat v. Chair, Board of Education, Town of Hamden; and Board of Education, Town of Hamden

The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2022-0473](#) Sheri Speer v. Corporation Counsel, Office of Corporation Counsel, City of Norwich; Office of Corporation Counsel, City of Norwich; and City of Norwich

The Commissioners voted 5-0 to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. Commissioner Einhorn abstained. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2022-0488](#) USA Waste and Recycling, Inc. v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; and State of Connecticut, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2022-0494](#) Linda Dalessio v. Chief of Staff and General Counsel, State of Connecticut, Office of the Secretary of the State; and State of Connecticut, Office of the Secretary of the State

Linda Dalessio appeared on her own behalf. Assistant Attorney General Alma Nunley appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2022-0602](#) Linda Dalessio v. Chief of Staff and General Counsel, State of Connecticut, Office of the Secretary of the State; and State of Connecticut, Office of the Secretary of the State

Linda Dalessio appeared on her own behalf. Assistant Attorney General Alma Nunley appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2022-0546](#) Remi Onopa v. City Assessor, Office of the City Assessor, City of Meriden; Office of the City Assessor, City of Meriden; and City of Meriden

The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2022-0590](#) Meghan Friedmann and Hearst Media Connecticut v. Chief, Police Department, Town of Old Saybrook; Police Department, Town of Old Saybrook; and Town of Old Saybrook

The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2023-0045](#) Joseph Watley v. First Selectman, Town of Thomaston; Land Use Administrator, Town of Thomaston; Assessor, Town of Thomaston; and Town of Thomaston

The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2023-0103](#) Alexandra Thomas v. Mayor, Town of New Milford; Town Council, Town of New Milford; and Town of New Milford

The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

The Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the Request to Summarily Deny Leave to Schedule a Hearing Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §1-206(b)(2) in *David Godbout v. Colleen Murphy, Executive Director, State of Connecticut, Freedom of Information Commission; and State of Connecticut, Freedom of Information Commission*, Docket # FIC 2022-0491.

Executive Director Colleen M. Murphy reported that arguments had been scheduled for October 19, 2023 in the Appellate Court in *Town of Avon et al. v. Joseph Sastre et al.*, AC 45885, an appeal from a Superior Court decision regarding the Commission's final decision in FIC-2020-0133. Attorney Murphy also reported that a hearing would be held on October 10, 2023 in *David Godbout v. Freedom of Information Commission*, HHB-CV22-5032223-S, an appeal of the Commission's decision to summarily deny leave to schedule a hearing in Docket # FIC-2021-0146, *David Godbout v. Colleen Murphy, Executive Director, State of Connecticut, Freedom of Information Commission; and State of Connecticut, Freedom of Information Commission*.

Executive Director Colleen M. Murphy reported that Managing Director and Associate General Counsel Paula S. Pearlman recently received the Champion of Open Government award from the Connecticut Council on Freedom of Information for her work monitoring and

helping to craft FOI legislation. Attorney Murphy also reported that the Commission's annual conference will be held on October 20, 2023 at The Riverhouse in Haddam, and that the Commission is in the midst of hiring a few positions.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

Russell Blair