

TO: Freedom of Information Commission
FROM: Russell Blair
RE: Minutes of the Commission's regular meeting of October 25, 2023

A regular meeting of the Freedom of Information Commission was held on October 25, 2023. The Commission meeting of October 25, 2023 was conducted in person. The meeting convened at 2:04 p.m. with the following Commissioners present:

Commissioner Owen P. Eagan, presiding
Commissioner Jonathan J. Einhorn
Commissioner Kate Farrish
Commissioner Stephen Fuzesi Jr.
Commissioner Judith Ganswindt
Commissioner Aigné Goldsby
Commissioner Christopher P. Hankins
Commissioner Matthew Streeter

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

Judith Ganswindt was sworn in as a Commissioner of the Freedom of Information Commission.

The Commissioners voted 7-0 to approve the Commission's regular meeting minutes of October 11, 2023. Commissioner Farrish abstained.

Those in attendance were informed that the October 25, 2023 regular meeting of the Commission was being recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2022-0507](#) Gregory Weathers v. Roderick Porter, Chief, Police Department, City of Bridgeport; Police Department, City of Bridgeport; City of Bridgeport

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

[Docket #FIC 2022-0594](#) Terrance Allen v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Correction; and State of Connecticut, Department of Correction

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

[Docket #FIC 2019-0376](#) Matthew LaVecchia v. Chairman, Board of Fire Commissioners, City of Milford; Board of Fire Commissioners, City of Milford; City of Milford

Matthew LaVecchia appeared on his own behalf. Attorney Debra Kelly appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners voted 4-4 to remand the matter to the Hearing Officer in order to reopen the hearing with Commissioners Ganswindt, Goldsby, Hankins and Streeter in opposition. The motion failed. The Commissioners unanimously voted to amend the Hearing Officer's Report. The Commissioners voted 4-4 to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report as amended with Commissioners Ganswindt, Goldsby, Hankins and Streeter in opposition. The motion failed. The Commissioners unanimously voted to reconsider the Hearing Officer's Report as amended. The Commissioners unanimously voted to reconsider the motion to remand the matter to the Hearing Officer in order to reopen the hearing. The Commissioners voted 7-1 to remand the matter to the Hearing Officer in order to reopen the hearing with Commissioner Goldsby in opposition.

The Commissioners took a brief recess. Commissioner Einhorn left the meeting and did not participate in any additional votes.

[Docket #FIC 2020-0007](#) Halina Trelski v. Auditors of Public Accounts, State of Connecticut, Office of the Auditors of Public Accounts; and state of Connecticut, Office of the Auditors of Public Accounts

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

[Docket #FIC 2022-0530](#) Marc Lemcke v. First Selectwoman, Town of Westport; and Town of Westport

Marc Lemcke appeared on his own behalf. Attorney Nicholas Bamonte appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2022-0558](#) Marli Rudko v. Andreas Bisbikos, First Selectman, Town of Colchester; Executive Assistant, Town of Colchester; Town Clerk, Town of Colchester; and Town of Colchester

Marli Rudko appeared on her own behalf. Attorney Sarah Gleason appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

Docket #FIC 2023-0126 Daniel Kokoszka v. O'Donovan Murphy, Director of Judicial Marshal Services; and Judicial Marshal Services

Daniel Kokoszka appeared on his own behalf. Attorney Andrei Tarutin appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to remand the matter to the Hearing Officer in order to reopen the hearing. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2023-0228](#) Kathleen Callahan v. Chairman, Election District Revision Commission, Town of Stratford; Election District Revision Commission, Town of Stratford; and Town of Stratford

Kathleen Callahan appeared on her own behalf. Brian LeClerc appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

The Commission voted unanimously to amend the meeting agenda to consider the Appellate Court's October 24, 2023 decision in *City of Bridgeport et al. v. Freedom of Information Commission*, AC 45287, an appeal of a Superior Court decision that overturned the Commission's final decision in Docket # FIC-2019-0516, *Marlando Daley v. Chief, Armando Perez, City of Bridgeport et al.* Attorney Danielle L. McGee reported the Appellate Court reversed the trial court's decision in favor of the Commission. The Commissioners took no action.

Executive Director Colleen M. Murphy reported that nearly 250 people attended the Commission's annual conference on October 20, 2023 at The Riverhouse in Haddam and thanked staff for their work organizing the event.

Executive Director Colleen M. Murphy reported that she has been appointed to a legislative task force studying the use of artificial intelligence technology by public agencies in Connecticut. The task force has met twice so far and will report its findings to the General Assembly by February 1, 2024. Attorney Nicholas Smarra has been assisting with the task force work.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Russell Blair

AMENDMENTS

Docket #FIC 2019-0376 Matthew LaVecchia v. Chairman, Board of Fire
Commissioners, City of Milford; Board of Fire Commissioners,
City of Milford; City of Milford

Paragraph 2 of the order in the Hearing Officer's Report is amended as follows:

2. [The complainant is admonished for his failure to appear at the hearing in this matter, which failure resulted in a waste of scarce state and local resources.]