

TO: Freedom of Information Commission  
FROM: Russell Blair  
RE: Minutes of the Commission's regular meeting of January 10, 2024

A regular meeting of the Freedom of Information Commission was held on January 10, 2024. The Commission meeting of January 10, 2024 was conducted in person. The meeting convened at 2:05 p.m. with the following Commissioners present:

Commissioner Owen P. Eagan, presiding  
Commissioner Kate Farrish  
Commissioner Stephen Fuzesi Jr. (participated by speakerphone)  
Commissioner Judith Ganswindt (participated by speakerphone)  
Commissioner Aigné Goldsby  
Commissioner Christopher P. Hankins  
Commissioner Matthew Streeter

Also present were staff members Colleen M. Murphy, Paula S. Pearlman, Danielle L. McGee, Nicholas Smarra, Jennifer Mayo and Russell Blair.

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

Those in attendance were informed that the January 10, 2024 regular meeting of the Commission was being recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2023-0100](#) Earl Bradley v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Social Services; and State of Connecticut, Department of Social Services

Earl Bradley appeared on his own behalf. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2023-0020](#) Lynn Stanley v. Town of East Windsor; First Selectman, Office of the First Selectman, Town of East Windsor; and Office of the First Selectman, Town of East Windsor

Lynn Stanley appeared on her own behalf alongside Attorney Keith Yagaloff. The Commissioners took a brief recess. The Commissioners unanimously voted to amend the Hearing Officer's Report. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report as amended. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2023-0024](#) Brian Smith v. Chairman, Board of Directors; State of Connecticut, Connecticut Port Authority; and Board of Directors, State of Connecticut, Connecticut Port Authority

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

[Docket #FIC 2023-0027](#) Margie Gookins v. Genevieve Cerf, Member, Representative Town Meeting, Town of Groton; and Representative Town Meeting, Town of Groton

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

[Docket #FIC 2023-0037](#) Janna Eastwood v. Town Clerk, Town of Fairfield; Director, Human Resources Department, Town of Fairfield; Human Resources Department, Town of Fairfield; and Town of Fairfield

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

[Docket #FIC 2023-0128](#) Ellen Nichols v. Chair, Board of Education, West Hartford Public Schools; Board of Education, West Hartford Public Schools; Executive Director, Cooperative Educational Services; and Cooperative Educational Services

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

[Docket #FIC 2023-0255](#) Johana Vazquez and The Day v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Education; and State of Connecticut, Department of Education

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

Attorney Danielle L. McGee reported that the Supreme Court on January 9, 2024, had denied the City of Bridgeport's petition for certification to appeal the Appellate Court decision in *City of Bridgeport v. FOI Commission*, AC 45287 and updated Commissioners on how that decision may affect several appeals filed by the City of Bridgeport that are pending in Superior Court.

Executive Director Colleen M. Murphy reported that work had been completed on the installation of three workstations in the Commission's library to accommodate new employees.

Executive Director Colleen M. Murphy also reported that a new paralegal had been hired and would begin work at the Commission on February 9, 2024, and that the Commission was in the final stages of hiring two attorneys and reviewing candidates for an administrative assistant position.

Executive Director Colleen M. Murphy informed Commissioners that a package of proposed legislation would be provided for their review at the next regular meeting and that discussions were already underway about potential changes to the FOI Act that may be proposed during the legislative session that begins February 7, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:39 p.m.

/s/ Russell Blair  
Russell Blair

**AMENDMENTS\***

Docket #FIC 2023-0020      Lynn Stanley v. Town of East Windsor; First Selectman, Office of the First Selectman, Town of East Windsor; and Office of the First Selectman, Town of East Windsor

At the end of the first sentence in Paragraph 14 of the Hearing Officer's Report add footnote 3:

**THE COMMISSION CAUTIONS THE RESPONDENTS THAT THE TERM "VEXATIOUS" IS AN EXPRESS TERM THAT IS UTILIZED IN §1-206(B)(6), G.S., AND THAT SUCH TERM SHOULD NOT BE USED LIGHTLY; THE RESPONDENTS ARE DIRECTED TO THE STATUTORY PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN §1-206(B)(6), G.S., AND THE COMMISSION'S DECISIONS WITH RESPECT THERETO FOR THE INTERPRETATION OF VEXATIOUS REQUESTER UNDER THE FOI ACT.**

At the end of Paragraph 14 of the Hearing Officer's Report add footnote 4:

**ALTHOUGH THE RESPONDENTS ULTIMATELY DID NOT IMPOSE SUCH A CHARGE ON THE COMPLAINANT, THE COMMISSION CAUTIONS THE RESPONDENTS THAT THE IMPOSITION OF SUCH A CHARGE TO INSPECT OR REVIEW PUBLIC RECORDS IS NOT AUTHORIZED UNDER THE FOI ACT.**