

TO: Freedom of Information Commission
FROM: Russell Blair
RE: Minutes of the Commission's regular meeting of March 13, 2024

A regular meeting of the Freedom of Information Commission was held on March 13, 2024. The Commission meeting of March 13, 2024 was conducted in person. The meeting convened at 2:09 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 (arrived 2:43 p.m.)
Commissioner Aigné Goldsby
Commissioner Christopher P. Hankins
Commissioner Matthew Streeter

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

The Commissioners voted 7-0 to approve the Commission's regular meeting minutes of February 28, 2024. Commissioner Ganswindt was not present for the vote.

Those in attendance were informed that the March 13, 2024 regular meeting of the Commission was being recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2023-0118](#) Gregory Johnson v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Correction; and State of Connecticut, Department of Correction

The Commissioners voted 7-0 to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. Commissioner Ganswindt was not present for the vote. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2023-0168](#) Richard Quint v. Director, State of Connecticut, Judicial Review Council; and State of Connecticut, Judicial Review Council

Richard Quint appeared on his own behalf. Assistant Attorney General Alma Nunley appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners voted 7-0 to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. Commissioner Ganswindt was not present for the vote. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2023-0109](#) Nicholas Tella v. Erika Wienceski, First Selectwoman, Board of

Selectmen, Town of Willington; Board of Selectmen, Town of Willington; Chair, School Building Committee, Willington Public Schools, Town of Willington; School Building Committee, Willington Public Schools, Town of Willington; Willington Public Schools, Town of Willington; Chair, Board of Finance, Town of Willington; Board of Finance, Town of Willington; and Town of Willington

Nicholas Tella appeared on his own behalf. The Commissioners voted 8-0 to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2023-0169](#) Attie Lordan and Anita Arakelian v. Superintendent of Schools, West Hartford Public Schools; Director of Finance and Planning, West Hartford Public Schools; and West Hartford Public Schools

Attie Lordan and Anita Arakelian appeared on their own behalf. Attorney Julie Reznik appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners voted 7-0 to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report, with Commissioner Eagan abstaining. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2023-0180](#) Joe Quaranta v. First Selectman, Board of Selectmen, Town of Roxbury; Board of Selectmen, Town of Roxbury; and Town of Roxbury

The Commissioners unanimously voted 7-0 to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. Commissioner Ganswindt was not present for the vote. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2023-0209](#) Joe Quaranta v. Chairman, Board of Finance, Town of Roxbury; Board of Finance, Town of Roxbury; and Town of Roxbury

The Commissioners unanimously voted 7-0 to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. Commissioner Ganswindt was not present for the vote. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2023-0219](#) Joe Quaranta v. First Selectman, Board of Selectmen, Town of Roxbury; Board of Selectmen, Town of Roxbury; and Town of Roxbury

The Commissioners unanimously voted 7-0 to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. Commissioner Ganswindt was not present for the vote. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2023-0387](#)

Jennifer Pardus v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut,
Department of Social Services; and State of Connecticut,
Department of Social Services

Jennifer Pardus appeared on her own behalf. Attorney Michael Slitt appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners voted 8-0 to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

Attorney Valicia D. Harmon reported on a February 27, 2024 decision in the Supreme Court in *John Drumm, Chief of Police et al. v. Freedom of Information Commission et al.*, SC 20656. The case was remanded back to the Commission for further proceedings.

Attorney Danielle L. McGee reported on a March 5, 2024 decision in the Appellate Court in *Town of Avon et al. v. Joseph Sastre et al.*, AC 45885. The Court upheld a Superior Court decision affirming the Commission's final decision in Docket # FIC-2020-0133, *Joseph R. Sastre v. Brandon Robertson, Town Manager, Town of Avon; and Town of Avon.*

Executive Director Colleen M. Murphy reported that Commissioners Eagan, Ganswindt, Farrish and Fuzesi appeared before the General Assembly's Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee on March 5, 2024 and had their nominations approved for consideration in the House and Senate.

Executive Director Colleen M. Murphy reported that the Commission's new administrative assistant would begin work on April 5, 2024.

Managing Director and Associate General Counsel Paula S. Pearlman and Director of Education and Communications Russell Blair updated Commissioners on the status of FOI-related legislation under consideration by the General Assembly.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

/s/ Russell Blair
Russell Blair