

TO: Freedom of Information Commission
FROM: Russell Blair
RE: Minutes of the Commission's regular meeting of May 8, 2024

A regular meeting of the Freedom of Information Commission was held on May 8, 2024. The Commission meeting of May 8, 2024 was conducted in person. The meeting convened at 2 p.m. with the following Commissioners present:

Commissioner Owen P. Eagan, presiding
Commissioner Kate Farrish
Commissioner Stephen Fuzesi Jr.
Commissioner Judith Ganswindt
Commissioner Aigné Goldsby Wells (arrived 2:25 p.m.)
Commissioner Christopher P. Hankins
Commissioner Matthew Streeter

Also present were staff members Colleen M. Murphy, Valicia D. Harmon, Nicholas Smarra, Mary-Kate Smith, Kevin W. Munn, Marybeth Sullivan, Jennifer Mayo, Molly Steffes, Stephanie Tessmer and Russell Blair.

The Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the Commission's regular meeting minutes of April 24, 2024.

Those in attendance were informed that the May 8, 2024 regular meeting of the Commission was being recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2023-0452](#) 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 2023-0241](#) Anita Arakelian v. Chairman, Board of Education, West Hartford Public Schools; Board of Education, West Hartford Public schools; Chair, Policy Subcommittee, Board of Education, West Hartford Public Schools; and Policy Subcommittee, Board of Education, West Hartford Public Schools

Anita Arakelian appeared on her own behalf. Attorney Cynthia Lauture appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners voted 5-0 to adopt the Hearing Officer's

Report. Commissioner Eagan abstained and Commissioner Goldsby Wells was not present for the vote. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2023-0243](#) Supriyo Chatterjee v. Executive Director, CT Next; and CTNext

Supriyo Chatterjee appeared on his own behalf. Attorney Christopher Cahill appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2023-0244](#) Joao Campos v. Keith White, Chief, Police Department, Town of Monroe; Police Department, Town of Monroe; and Town of Monroe

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

[Docket #FIC 2023-0245](#) Joao Campos v. Keith White, Chief, Police Department, Town of Monroe; Police Department, Town of Monroe; and Town of Monroe

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

[Docket #FIC 2023-0248](#) Heather Sutter and Bruce A. McDermott v. Town Manager, Town of Groton; and Town of Groton

Attorney Edward Moukawsher and Bruce A. McDermott appeared on behalf of the complainants. Attorney Kristi Kelly appeared on behalf of the respondents. 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 2023-0263](#) Jermaine Rogers v. Office of the City Attorney, City of Bridgeport; and City of Bridgeport

Attorney Dina Scalo appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to remand the matter to the Hearing Officer. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2023-0474](#) Matthew Waggner v. 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.

Attorney Valicia D. Harmon reported that two new appeals had been filed in Superior Court: *Attie Lordan and Anita Arakelian v. Freedom of Information Commission*, HHB-CV24-5035910-S, challenging the Commission's final decision in FIC-2023-0169, *Attie Lordan and Anita Arakelian v. Superintendent of Schools, West Hartford Public Schools, et al.*; and *Karolyn Ryan v. Freedom of Information Commission, et al.*, regarding the Commission's decision not to schedule a hearing in Docket No. FIC-2024-0030, *Karolyn Ryan v. Department of Children and Families*.

Attorney Valicia D. Harmon reported that *Paul Michalski v. Freedom of Information Commission*, HHB-CV23-6077756-S, an appeal of the Commission's final decision in Docket No. FIC-2022-0120, *Paul Michalski v. Chairman, Board of Education, Town of Dairen, et al.*, had been remanded to the Commission for further proceedings.

Executive Director Colleen M. Murphy reported that Commissioner Sherman London, who served from 1996-2013, had passed away recently at the age of 102. Chairman Eagan asked to Commissioners and staff to participate in a moment of silence in remembrance of Commissioner London.

Executive Director Colleen M. Murphy reported that the Connecticut Foundation for Open Government was hosting a panel on the Freedom of Information Act on May 22, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at the Bridgeport Public Library with Commission Attorney Mary-Kate Smith participating as a panelist.

The Commissioners unanimously voted to appoint Molly Steffes and Stephanie Tessmer as Acting Clerks of the Commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

/s/ Russell Blair
Russell Blair

AMENDMENTS

Docket #FIC 2023-0248 Heather Sutter and Bruce A. McDermott v. Town Manager, Town of Groton; and Town of Groton

Paragraphs 23k and 50 of the Hearing Officer's Report are amended as follows:

k. IC-2023-0248-006, Lines 178-180, **185** (not responsive; attorney-client privilege)

50. With respect to IC-2023-0248-003 (lines 79 and 90-98), IC-2023-0248-004 (lines 117 and 128-129), IC-2023-0248-005 (lines 148, 153-154, and 174-177), IC-2023-0248-006 (lines 178-**180** and 185), IC-2023-0248-006 (line 189 and line 190, up to and including the comma on line 190), IC-2023-0248-008 (lines 233-234 and 245-246), IC-2023-0248-009 (lines 266-272 and 277), and IC-2023-0248-009 (lines 280-282, up to and including the comma on line 282) it is found that: (i) the substance of such communications were actually disclosed by Attorney Cody at the June 15, 2022 PZC meeting; (ii) the Town and the PZC did not object to such disclosure; and (iii) Attorney Cody's comments were published in the publicly available meeting minutes of the PZC. It is therefore found that the attorney-client privilege has been waived for those portions of such records.