

TO: Freedom of Information Commission
FROM: Russell Blair
RE: Minutes of the Commission's regular meeting of May 22, 2024

A regular meeting of the Freedom of Information Commission was held on May 22, 2024. The Commission meeting of May 22, 2024 was conducted in person. The meeting convened at 2:03 p.m. with the following Commissioners present:

Commissioner Owen P. Eagan, presiding
Commissioner Kate Farrish
Commissioner Stephen Fuzesi Jr.
Commissioner Aigné Goldsby Wells (arrived 2:11 p.m.)
Commissioner Christopher P. Hankins
Commissioner Matthew Streeter

Also present were staff members Colleen M. Murphy, Paula S. Pearlman, Valicia D. Harmon, Mary-Kate Smith, Kevin W. Munn, C. Zack Hyde, Marybeth Sullivan, Cynthia A. Cannata, Molly Steffes and Russell Blair.

The Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the Commission's regular meeting minutes of May 8, 2024.

Those in attendance were informed that the May 22, 2024 regular meeting of the Commission was being recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2023-0265](#) James Mitchell v. Angel Quiros, 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 2023-0294](#) Gerardo Torres v. Chief, Police Department, City of Bridgeport; Police Department, City of Bridgeport; and City of Bridgeport

Attorney Dina Scalo appeared on behalf of the respondents. The complainant did not appear. The Commissioners voted 5-1 to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report with Commissioner Streeter opposed. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2023-0477](#) Bryant Abbott v. Director, Health Department, Town of Trumbull; Health Department, Town of Trumbull; and Town of Trumbull

The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. 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 complainant did not appear. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2023-0276](#) Lynn Harrington v. Director, Park & Recreation Department, Town of Kent; Park & Recreation Department, Town of Kent; Chairman, Park & Recreation Commission, Town of Kent; Abigail Smith Hanby, as Commissioner, Park & Recreation Commission, Town of Kent; Park & Recreation Commission, Town of Kent; First Selectman, Town of Kent; and Town of Kent

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

[Docket #FIC 2023-0277](#) Thomas Egan v. Comptroller, Office of the Comptroller, City of Ansonia; Office of the Comptroller, City of Ansonia; and City of Ansonia

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

[Docket #FIC 2023-0471](#) Thomas Egan v. Kurt Miller, Comptroller, Finance Department, City of Ansonia; Finance Department, City of Ansonia; and City of Ansonia

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

[Docket #FIC 2023-0291](#) Luz E Bueno v. Chair, Advisory Committee on Sustainability, Town of Darien; Advisory Committee on Sustainability, Town of Darien; and Town of Darien

Luz E Bueno appeared on her own behalf. Attorney John Wayne Fox appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners voted 5-0 to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. Commissioner Fuzesi abstained. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2023-0311](#) Allco Renewable Energy Limited v. Town Clerk, Town of Somers; and Town of Somers

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 2023-0338](#) Michael Spilo v. Chair, Central Middle School Building Committee, Greenwich Public Schools; Central Middle School Building Committee, Greenwich Public Schools; and Greenwich Public Schools

Attorney Andrew McPherson appeared on behalf of the respondents. The complainant did not appear. The Commissioners voted 5-0 to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. Commissioner Farrish was not present for the vote. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2023-0352](#) Benjamin Lipp v. Director of Public Records, State of Connecticut, University of Connecticut; and State of Connecticut, University of Connecticut

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

[Docket #FIC 2023-0356](#) Juan Arriola; Diane Gagnon; and John Russell v. Chair, Board of Education, Hampton Public Schools; and Board of Education, Hampton Public Schools

Juan Arriola appeared on his own behalf. Attorney Abby Booth appeared on behalf of the respondents. Attorney Thomas B. Mooney appeared on behalf of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education and Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, who sought permission to provide argument as amicus curiae. The Commissioners voted 5-0 to permit argument from the amicus curiae and to allow the respondents and amicus curiae to split 10 minutes for oral arguments. The Commissioners voted 5-0 to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. Commissioner Farrish was not present for the votes. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

The Commissioners voted 5-0 to grant the Motion for Stay dated May 14, 2024, filed by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection and the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection in Docket #FIC 2023-0259, *Jean Farricielli v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; and State of Connecticut, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection*, until such time as the Superior Court rules on a motion for stay should the matter be appealed within the applicable time period for filing such appeal. Commissioner Farrish was not present for the vote.

Attorney Valicia D. Harmon reported that an appeal had been filed in Superior Court, HHB-CV24-60866355-S, *Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities v. City of*

Bridgeport, et al., regarding the Commission's decision to modify the case caption in Docket #FIC-2023-0468, *Attorney Paul Testa v. Executive Director, State of Connecticut, Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities*; and *State of Connecticut, Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities*, a matter currently pending before the Commission.

Executive Director Colleen M. Murphy reported that two staff attorney positions at the FOIC had recently been posted and the Commission is actively recruiting for the roles.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

/s/ Russell Blair
Russell Blair

AMENDMENTS*

Docket #FIC 2023-0311 Allco Renewable Energy Limited v. Town Clerk, Town of Somers; and Town of Somers

Paragraph 26 of the Hearing Officer's Report is amended as follows:

26. Based upon a careful inspection of the in camera records identified in paragraph 25, above, it is found that the records claimed to be exempt from disclosure pursuant to § 1-210(b)(5)(B), G.S., consist entirely of a lease agreement between **THE RESPONDENT TOWN AND A THIRD PARTY** [two third-party entities] and attached land records.