

TO: Freedom of Information Commission
FROM: Russell Blair
RE: Minutes of the Commission's regular meeting of October 23, 2024

A regular meeting of the Freedom of Information Commission was held on October 23, 2024. The Commission meeting of October 23, 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 (participated via speakerphone)
Commissioner Stephen Fuzesi Jr.
Commissioner Aigné Goldsby Wells
Commissioner Judith Ganswindt
Commissioner Christopher P. Hankins
Commissioner Thomas A. Hennick
Commissioner Matthew Streeter

Also present were staff members Colleen M. Murphy, Paula S. Pearlman, Valicia D. Harmon, C. Zack Hyde, Mary Kate Smith, Nicholas A. Smarra, Danielle L. McGee, Paul V. Arce, Molly Steffes, and Russell Blair.

The Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the Commission's regular meeting minutes of October 9, 2024.

Those in attendance were informed that the October 23, 2024 regular meeting of the Commission was being recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2023-0565](#) Ian Cooke v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Administrative Services; and State of Connecticut Department of Administrative Services

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

[Docket #FIC 2023-0586](#) Michael Ward v. Chief, Police Department, City of Stamford; Police Department, City of Stamford; Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection; and State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection

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

[Docket #FIC 2023-0595](#) Esteban Hernaiz v. Chief, Police Department, City of Hartford; Police Department, City of Hartford; and City of Hartford

Esteban Hernaiz appeared on his own behalf. Attorney Nathalie Feola-Guerrieri appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2023-0679](#) Brandon Jones v. Jason Thody, Chief, Police Department, City of Hartford; Police Department, City of Hartford; and City of Hartford

Attorney Nathalie Feola-Guerrieri appeared on behalf of the respondents. The complainant who appeared on his own behalf initially stated that he wished to be heard, but subsequently chose not to do so. The Commissioners voted 7-1 to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report with Commissioner Streeter opposed. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2023-0564](#) 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 2023-0581](#) Joao Campos v. 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 2023-0582](#) Joao Campos v. Chief, Police Department, Town of Monroe; Police Department, Town of Monroe; and Town of Monroe

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

[Docket #FIC 2023-0578](#) Sheri Speer v. Corporation Counsel, Office of Corporation Counsel, City of Norwich; Office of Corporation Counsel, City of Norwich; and City of Norwich

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

[Docket #FIC 2023-0608](#) Howard Gardner v. Chief Executive Officer, Housing Authority of the City of Bridgeport; and Housing Authority of the City of Bridgeport

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

[Docket #FIC 2023-0634](#) Joe Glenn v. Superintendent of Schools, New London Public Schools; and New London Public Schools

Joe Glenn appeared on his own behalf. Attorney Elizabeth Smith appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2023-0639](#) Michael Mourning v. Chief Executive Officer, Housatonic Area Regional Transit District; Chair, Board of Directors, Housatonic Area Regional Transit District; Board of Directors, Housatonic Area Regional Transit District; and Housatonic Area Regional Transit District

Michael Mourning appeared on his own behalf. Attorney Mark Sommaruga appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2023-0678](#) Theresa Conroy v. Mayor, 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 2024-0216](#) Amy Lappos v. Chairman, Board of Education, Middletown Public Schools; and Board of Education, Middletown Public Schools

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

[Docket #FIC 2024-0229](#) Lenci Gjino 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.

Attorney Nicholas A. Smarra reported on the October 7, 2024 Superior Court decision in *Richard H. Kosinski v. Freedom of Information Commission*, Docket No. HHB-CV23-5035156-S, an appeal of the Commission's final decision in Docket #FIC 2023-0021, *Richard Kosinski v. Chairman, Connecticut State Board of Mediation and Arbitration*; and *Connecticut State Board of Mediation and Arbitration*. The Court dismissed the appeal. The Commissioners took no action.

Attorney Valicia D. Harmon reported that an appeal had been filed in Superior Court (Docket No. HHB-CV24-6090337-S) regarding the Commission's final decision 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*. The Commissioners took no action.

Executive Director and General Counsel Colleen M. Murphy reported on the Commission's upcoming annual conference scheduled for October 25, 2024, at The Riverhouse in Haddam. In addition, Executive Director Murphy reported that the two vacant staff attorney positions at the Commissions were going through the approval process.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

/s/ Russell Blair
Russell Blair