

TO: Freedom of Information Commission

FROM: Russell Blair

RE: Minutes of the Commission's special meeting of December 17, 2025

A special meeting of the Freedom of Information Commission was held on December 17, 2025. The Commission meeting of December 17, 2025 was conducted in person. The meeting convened at 1:03 p.m. with the following Commissioners present:

Commissioner Owen P. Eagan, presiding
Commissioner Jonathan J. Einhorn
Commissioner Kate Farrish
Commissioner Stephen Fuzesi Jr.
Commissioner Judy Ganswindt
Commissioner Aigné Goldsby Wells (arrived at the meeting at 1:36 p.m.)
Commissioner Thomas A. Hennick
Commissioner Christopher P. Hankins (participated via speakerphone)
Commissioner Matthew Streeter

Also present were staff members Colleen M. Murphy, Paula S. Pearlman, Danielle L. McGee, C. Zack Hyde, Marybeth G. Sullivan, Jonathan McCann, Jennifer Mayo and Russell Blair.

Those in attendance were informed that the December 17, 2025 special meeting of the Commission was being recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2025-0040](#) Jeffery Evans 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 voted 8-0 to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. Commissioner Goldsby Wells was not present for the vote. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2024-0840](#) Kimberly Ciprian v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Revenue Services; and State of Connecticut, Department of Revenue Services

Kimberly Ciprian appeared on her own behalf. Attorney Louis Bucari appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners voted 8-0 to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. Commissioner Goldsby Wells was not present for the vote. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2025-0027](#) Tremayne Maestri v. Chairman, Board of Education, Bristol Public Schools; and Board of Education, Bristol Public Schools

Tremayne Maestri and Jessica Sandler appeared on their own behalf. Attorney Joseph Miller appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners voted 8-0 to amend the Hearing Officer's Report. The Commissioners voted 8-0 to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report as amended.* Commissioner Goldsby Wells was not present for the votes. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2025-0036](#)

Conner Drigotas and Connecticut Inside Investigator v. Director of Public Records, State of Connecticut, University of Connecticut; and State of Connecticut, University of Connecticut

Attorney Shannon Walsh-Whitty appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners voted 8-0 to amend the Hearing Officer's Report. Commissioner Goldsby Wells was not present for the vote. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report as amended.* The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2025-0037](#)

Conner Drigotas and Connecticut Inside Investigator v. Chairman, State of Connecticut, Board of Regents, Connecticut State Colleges and Universities; and State of Connecticut, Board of Regents, Connecticut State Colleges and Universities

Attorney Christopher Engler appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to amend the Hearing Officer's Report. The Commissioners unanimously voted to amend the Hearing Officer's Report a second time. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report as amended.* The proceedings were digitally recorded.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

/s/ Russell Blair
Russell Blair

AMENDMENTS*

Docket #FIC 2025-0027 Tremayne Maestri v. Chairman, Board of Education, Bristol
Public Schools; and Board of Education, Bristol Public Schools

The order in the Hearing Officer's Report is amended as follows:

1. Forthwith, the respondents shall undertake a diligent and thorough search for all records responsive to the request described in paragraph 2 of the findings, above, and within [forty-five (45)] **SIXTY (60)** days of the date of the Notice of Final Decision in this matter, the respondents shall provide the complainants with unredacted copies of such records, free of charge.

Docket #FIC 2025-0036 Conner Drigotas and Connecticut Inside Investigator v. Director
of Public Records, State of Connecticut, University of
Connecticut; and State of Connecticut, University of
Connecticut

The Hearing Officer's Report is amended as follows:

56. Consequently, it is found that the records described in paragraphs 43 and 45, above, are not exempt from disclosure pursuant to §1-210(b)(17), G.S.⁷[, and that the respondents failed to comply with a valid order of the Commission.]

[56. With respect to the respondents' failure to comply with the Commission's in camera order, described in paragraph 41, above, the Commission notes that §1-240(b), G.S., provides:

[a]ny member of any public agency who fails to comply with an order of the Freedom of Information Commission shall be guilty of a class B misdemeanor and each occurrence of failure to comply with such order shall constitute a separate offense.

57. Henceforth, the respondents shall strictly comply with the disclosure requirements of the FOI Act. In this regard, the respondents shall not permit the automatic purging of any records that are the subject of an FOI request.]

The remaining paragraphs and internal references were amended accordingly.

Docket #FIC 2025-0037 Conner Drigotas and Connecticut Inside Investigator v.
Chairman, State of Connecticut, Board of Regents, Connecticut
State Colleges and Universities; and State of Connecticut, Board
of Regents, Connecticut State Colleges and Universities

The Hearing Officer's Report is amended as follows:

30. At the hearings in this matter, the respondents testified as to various reasons for their initial delay in producing responsive records to the complainants. The respondents testified, and it is found, that, at the time of the complainants' initial records requests, the respondents' [Interim General Counsel] **SENIOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF STUDENT CONDUCT AND COMPLIANCE**, Angelo Simoni, was the individual responsible for responding to FOI requests and would have been responsible for the consolidated records request at issue here. The respondents also testified, and it is found, that [Attorney] **MR. Simoni** should have entered the consolidated records request in the respondents' GovQA system for tracking FOI requests, but there is no evidence that the consolidated records request was ever entered into GovQA or that [Attorney] **MR. Simoni** performed any other work on such request, other than informing the individual institutions that the BOR's central office would be consolidating the initial records requests. The respondents further testified, and it is found, that [Attorney] **MR. Simoni** left the respondents' employment in January or February of 2024, and the respondents did not realize, until May of 2024, that the consolidated records request had not been fulfilled by [Attorney] **MR. Simoni**.

The following order by the Commission is hereby recommended on the basis of the record concerning the above-captioned complaint:

1. Forthwith, the respondents shall undertake a diligent and thorough search for "all records" responsive to the complainants' consolidated records request, as described in paragraphs 2 and 37 of the findings, above, from January 1, 2018 to September 12, 2023. Within sixty (60) days of the date of the Notice of Final Decision in this matter, the respondents shall provide the complainants with unredacted copies of any such previously undisclosed records, **IF SUCH RECORDS EXIST**, free of charge.