TO: Freedom of Information Commission

FROM: Russell Blair

RE: Minutes of the Commission's regular meeting of August 27, 2025

A regular meeting of the Freedom of Information Commission was held on August 27, 2025. The Commission meeting of August 27, 2025 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

Commissioner Aigné Goldsby Wells

Commissioner Thomas A. Hennick

Commissioner Matthew Streeter

Also present were staff members Colleen M. Murphy, Paula S. Pearlman, Valicia D. Harmon, Danielle L. McGee, Nicholas A. Smarra, Marybeth G. Sullivan, Paul V. Arce, Jonathan McCann, Jennifer Mayo and Russell Blair.

The Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the Commission's regular meeting minutes of August 13, 2025.

Those in attendance were informed that the August 27, 2025 regular meeting of the Commission was being recorded.

<u>Docket #FIC 2024-0535</u> Andres Sosa v. Angel Quiros, Commissioner, State of

Connecticut, Department of Correction; and State of

Connecticut, Department of Correction

Andres Sosa appeared on his own behalf. Attorney Jennifer Lepore appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

Docket #FIC 2024-0593 Christopher Brown v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut,

Department of Correction; and State of Connecticut,

Department of Correction

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

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<u>Docket #FIC 2024-0530</u> Jim Torlai 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.

Docket #FIC 2024-0532 Lucy von Brachel v. Chairperson, First Selectman's RFP

Evaluation Committee, Town of Greenwich; First Selectman's RFP Evaluation Committee, Town of Greenwich; and Town of

Greenwich

Lucy von Brachel appeared on her own behalf. Attorney Andrew McPherson 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.

<u>Docket #FIC 2024-0559</u> Martin Edgar v. Superintendent of Schools, Hartford Public

Schools; Hartford Public Schools; Michael Downes, President, Hartford Federation of Substitute Teachers; and Hartford

Federation of Teachers

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

Docket #FIC 2024-0580 C.J. Mozzochi v. Marshall Porter, Chief, Police Department,

Town of Glastonbury; Police Department, Town of

Glastonbury; and Town of Glastonbury

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

Docket #FIC 2024-0605 Lee McCready v. Chairman, Board of Ethics, City of New

London; Board of Ethics, City of New London; and City of

New London

Lee McCready appeared on his own behalf. Attorney Brian Estep appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to deny the complainant's motion to reopen. The Commissioners voted 7-1 to amend the Hearing Officer's Report, with Commissioner Farrish opposed. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report as amended*. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

<u>Docket #FIC 2024-0633</u> Dana Ravenberg v. Adjutant General, State of Connecticut,

Connecticut Military Department; and State of Connecticut,

Connecticut Military Department

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

Docket #FIC 2024-0634 Marli Rudko v. First Selectman, Office of the First Selectman,

Town of Colchester; and Office of the First Selectman, Town of

Colchester

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

<u>Docket #FIC 2024-0654</u> Peter Currin v. Director of Insurance and Risk Management,

State of Connecticut, State Insurance and Risk Management Board; and State of Connecticut, State Insurance and Risk

Management Board

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

<u>Docket #FIC 2024-0657</u> Daniel Wehking v. First Selectman, Board of Selectmen, Town

of Ridgefield; Board of Selectmen, Town of Ridgefield; and

Town of Ridgefield

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

<u>Docket #FIC 2024-0736</u> Jennifer Norman v. Chair, Board of Education, Griswold Public

Schools; and Board of Education, Griswold Public Schools

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

<u>Docket #FIC 2024-0821</u> Matthew McCluser v. Keith Mello, Chief, Police Department,

City of Milford; Police Department, City of Milford; and City of

Milford

The Commissioners took no action. The matter was marked off prior to the meeting.

Docket #FIC 2025-0829 Mike Savino and NBC Connecticut; and Len Besthoff and NBC

Connecticut v. City Attorney, Office of the City Attorney, City

of Bridgeport; Office of the City Attorney, City of Bridgeport; and City of Bridgeport

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

<u>Docket #FIC 2025-0173</u> Jim Haddadin v. Mayor, City of Shelton; and City of Shelton

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.

The Commissioners unanimously voted to add an agenda item to consider whether to reconsider the Commission's Final Decision, issued July 23, 2025, in Docket #FIC 2024-0445, Jason LaChapelle v. Bernie Dennier, First Selectman, Board of Selectmen, Town of Colchester; Board of Selectmen, Town of Colchester; and Town of Colchester. The Commissioners voted 5-3 to reconsider the Final Decision and remand the case to the hearing officer, with Commissioners Hennick, Goldsby Wells and Streeter opposed.

Attorney Valicia D. Harmon reported that two new appeals had been filed in Superior Court: *David Godbout v. Freedom of Information Commission, State of Connecticut*, HHB-CV25-5038820-S, challenging the Commission's final decision in PRVR #4, <u>Police Department, Town of East Lyme; Board of Education, East Lyme Public Schools; and Town of East Lyme v. David Godbout; and Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities v. State of Connecticut, Freedom of Information Commission et al., HHB-CV25-6098347-S challenging the Commission's final decision in Docket No. FIC-2024-0383, <u>Chandler Holcomb v. Executive Director, State of Connecticut, Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities;</u> and State of Connecticut, Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities.</u>

Executive Director Colleen M. Murphy reported that the Commission's annual legislative report had recently been distributed to Commissioners and Commission staff.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

/s/ Russell Blair Russell Blair

AMENDMENTS*

Docket #FIC 2024-0532

Lucy von Brachel v. Chairperson, First Selectman's RFP Evaluation Committee, Town of Greenwich; First Selectman's RFP Evaluation Committee, Town of Greenwich; and Town of Greenwich

Paragraph 25 and Paragraph 1 of the order in the Hearing Officer's Report are amended as follows:

- 25. It is found that as a result of the additional search ordered by the undersigned Hearing Officer, the respondents located and disclosed 311 pages of records, [five of which were not included in the prior two packets of records provided to the complainant (described in paragraphs 11 and 16, above)]MOST OF WHICH HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED TO THE COMPLAINANT. 5 It is further found that the [five pages of] previously undisclosed records were characterized by the complainant as containing "no substantive information."
- 1. Within thirty (30) days of the date of the Notice of Final Decision in this matter, the respondents shall conduct a search for records responsive to the complainant's request described in paragraph 2 of the findings, above. Such search shall be limited to only those emails stored on personal devices and accounts of Fred Camillo, Ken Borsuk, AND Ben Branyan[, and Andy Duus]. Personal accounts and devices may be searched by the owners of such accounts or devices. If any individual herein is no longer employed by the respondents, the respondents shall make a good faith attempt to contact such individual(s) and ask them to retrieve and provide responsive records from such individual(s)' personal devices or accounts. Furthermore, the respondents shall provide any records located to the complainant.

Docket #FIC 2024-0605

Lee McCready v. Chairman, Board of Ethics, City of New London; Board of Ethics, City of New London; and City of New London

Paragraph 2 of the order in the Hearing Officer's Report is amended as follows:

2. Within **THIRTY** (30)[fourteen (14)] days of the Notice of the Final Decision, the respondents shall undertake a search for additional records, including emails, both on personal and town email accounts, by, to or from the Chairperson and other members of the respondent Board that are responsive to the complainant's September 13, 2024 request. The respondents shall provide the complainant with a copy of such records and emails, if any are located, free of charge. Within **FORTY-FIVE** (45)[thirty (30)] days of the Notice of the Final Decision, the respondents shall also provide an affidavit to the complainant and the Commission, prepared by a person with knowledge of the efforts taken, and detailing the scope and results of their search.

Docket #FIC 2025-0173 Jim Haddadin v. Mayor, City of Shelton; and City of Shelton

The Hearing Officer's Report is amended as follows:

Strike everything after the introductory paragraph and replace with the following:

ON AUGUST 20, 2025, THE COMPLAINANT, VIA EMAIL, WITHDREW HIS COMPLAINT. THE COMMISSION TAKES ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICE OF THE COMPLAINANT'S WITHDRAWAL.

THE FOLLOWING ORDER BY THE COMMISSION IS HEREBY RECOMMENDED ON THE BASIS OF THE RECORD CONCERNING THE ABOVE-CAPTIONED COMPLAINT:

1. BASED UPON THE WITHDRAWAL, THE COMPLAINT IS DISMISSED.