

TO: Freedom of Information Commission

FROM: Russell Blair

RE: Minutes of the Commission's regular meeting of November 19, 2025

A regular meeting of the Freedom of Information Commission was held on November 19, 2025. The Commission meeting of November 19, 2025 was conducted in person. The meeting convened at 2:12 p.m. with the following Commissioners present:

Commissioner Owen P. Eagan, presiding
Commissioner Jonathan J. Einhorn
Commissioner Kate Farrish
Commissioner Stephen Fuzesi Jr. (participated via speakerphone)
Commissioner Judy Ganswindt
Commissioner Aigné Goldsby Wells
Commissioner Thomas A. Hennick
Commissioner Christopher P. Hankins
Commissioner Matthew Streeter

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

The Commissioners voted 7-0 to approve the Commission's regular meeting minutes of October 22, 2025. Commissioner Ganswindt abstained from the vote.

Those in attendance were informed that the November 19, 2025 regular meeting of the Commission was being recorded.

Docket #FIC 2024-0810 Jarrel Baker v. Roderick Porter, Chief, Police Department, City of Bridgeport; Police Department, City of Bridgeport; and City of Bridgeport

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

Docket #FIC 2024-0823 Ahmaad Lane v. Angel Quiros, Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Correction; and State of Connecticut, Department of Correction

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

Docket #FIC 2025-0135 Marvin Owens 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 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

Jason LaChapelle appeared on his own behalf. Attorney Chelsea McCallum appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to amend the Hearing Officer's Report After Reconsideration. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report After Reconsideration as amended.* The proceedings were digitally recorded.

Docket #FIC 2024-0709 Nancy Griswold v. Tony Adili, Zoning Enforcement Officer and Land Use Administrator, Building and Land Use Department, Town of Thomaston; Building and Land Use Department, Town of Thomaston; and Town of Thomaston

Nancy Griswold appeared on her own behalf. Attorney Nicole Byrne appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners voted 8-1 to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report with Commissioner Farrish opposed. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

Docket #FIC 2024-0818 Nancy Griswold v. Edmond V. Mone, First Selectman, Selectman's Office, Town of Thomaston; Selectman's Office, Town of Thomaston; and Town of Thomaston

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

Docket #FIC 2024-0715 Jacob Simkovitz v. Chief, Fire Department, Town of Easton; Fire Department, Town of Easton; and Town of Easton

Jacob Simkovitz appeared on his own behalf. 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 2024-0737 Lori Boyko v. Holly McGrath, Chairperson, Library Board of Trustees, Town of Simsbury; Library Board of Trustees, Town of Simsbury; and Town of Simsbury

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

Docket #FIC 2024-0756 Adam Osmond v. Attorney General, State of Connecticut, Office of the Attorney General; and State of Connecticut, Office of the Attorney General

Assistant Attorney General John Langmaid 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 2024-0808 Katherine Revello and Connecticut Inside Investigator v. Chief, Police Department, Town of Manchester; Police Department, Town of Manchester; and Town of Manchester

Attorney David Schultz and Grace Chisholm appeared on behalf of the complainants. 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 Farrish recused herself from the votes. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

Docket #FIC 2024-0820 Mark Wozar v. Chief, Police Department, Town of West Hartford; Police Department, Town of West Hartford; and Town of West Hartford

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

Docket #FIC 2024-0839 Mark Wozar v. Chief, Police Department, Town of West Hartford; Police Department, Town of West Hartford; and Town of West Hartford

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

Docket #FIC 2024-0841 Mark Wozar v. Chief, Police Department, Town of West Hartford; Police Department, Town of West Hartford; and Town of West Hartford

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

Docket #FIC 2024-0830 Michael Ceppetelli v. Jason E. Bowsza, First Selectman, Board of Selectmen, Town of East Windsor; Board of Selectmen, Town of East Windsor; and Town of East Windsor

Attorney Scott Lingenfelter appeared on behalf of the complainant. 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 2024-0855 Michael Gyetvan 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 unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

Docket #FIC 2025-0003 Shannon Carter v. Director, Department of Public Works, City of New Haven; Department of Public Works, City of New Haven; and City of New Haven

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

Docket #FIC 2025-0005 Shannon Carter v. Community Services Administrator, Community Services Administration, City of New Haven; Community Services Administration, City of New Haven; and City of New Haven

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

Docket #FIC 2025-0038 Joe Glenn v. Superintendent, Groton Public Schools; and Groton Public Schools

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

Docket #FIC 2025-0284 Michael Santana v. Chief, Police Department, City of New Haven; Police Department, City of New Haven; and City of New Haven

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

Docket #FIC 2024-0297 Kay Ding v. Director, Department of Health and Human Services, City of Hartford; Department of Health and Human Services, City of Hartford; and City of Hartford

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

Docket #FIC 2025-0315 Sean Allen v. Mayor, Office of the Mayor, Town of New Milford; Office of the Mayor, Town of New Milford; Director, Personnel Department, Town of New Milford; Personnel Department, Town of New Milford; and Town of New Milford

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

The Commissioners unanimously voted to grant Respondents' Motion for Reconsideration dated November 7, 2025 and received by the Commission on November 7, 2025, filed by the Respondents in *Michael Donnelly v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Administrative Services; and State of Connecticut, Department of Administrative Services*, Docket #FIC 2024-0656, and to remand the matter to the Hearing Officer for the purpose of reviewing Paragraphs 4 and 5 only of the order in the Final Decision.

The Commissioners unanimously voted to add to the agenda consideration of the appointment of a personnel search committee for executive level employment candidates for the position of Executive Director and General Counsel of the Freedom of Information Commission.

The Commissioners unanimously voted to appoint Executive Director Colleen M. Murphy, Human Resource Generalist Charla Vincent and Commissioners Eagan, Farrish, Hennick and Goldsby-Wells to a personnel search committee for executive level employment candidates for the position of Executive Director and General Counsel of the Freedom of Information Commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

/s/ Russell Blair
Russell Blair

AMENDMENTS*

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 Hearing Officer's Report is amended as follows:

Paragraph 83:

83. The Commission has no desire to cast aside recommendations of the Secretary of the State. However, it must do so when it believes that such recommendations are contrary to law and the disclosure provisions of the FOI Act. The Commission finds that the recommendation described in paragraph 82, above, and the recommendations in the [updated] **UNDATED** and unsigned [opinion] letter, are erroneous, and stand in direct contradiction of § 1-210(a), G.S.

Order 1:

1. Within 45 days of the Notice of Final Decision **AFTER RECONSIDERATION** in this matter, the respondents shall provide the complainant with copies of the requested sample and in-person ballots cast at the June 11, 2024, stand-alone budget referendum in this matter, and described in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the findings, above, free of charge.

Docket #FIC 2024-0715 Jacob Simkovitz v. Chief, Fire Department, Town of Easton; Fire Department, Town of Easton; and Town of Easton

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

1. Within fourteen (14) days of the date of the Notice of Final Decision in this matter, the respondents shall refund the complainant the \$23.50 they improperly charged him for the records responsive to his request described in paragraph 2 of the findings of fact, above.

2. WITHIN FOURTEEN (14) DAYS OF THE DATE OF THE NOTICE OF FINAL DECISION IN THIS MATTER, THE RESPONDENT FIRE CHIEF SHALL CONTACT THE COMMISSION'S PUBLIC EDUCATION OFFICER TO SCHEDULE A TRAINING ON THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE EASTON FIRE COMMISSION ALSO ATTEND SUCH TRAINING.

[2.]3. Henceforth, the respondents shall strictly comply with the fee provisions of §§1-211 and 1-212, G.S.

Docket #FIC 2024-0756 Adam Osmond v. Attorney General, State of Connecticut,
Office of the Attorney General; and State of Connecticut, Office
of the Attorney General

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

1. Within thirty (30) days of the Notice of Final Decision in this matter, the respondents shall: (i) conduct a thorough and diligent search for all (both computer-stored and hardcopy) records described in paragraph 2 of the findings, above; and (ii) submit to the Commission an affidavit sworn to or attested by a person with the requisite knowledge describing details of such search which shall include, but not be limited to, the date the search was commenced, the locations searched, and the specific keywords used by the respondents to search computer-stored records. Such affidavit shall be submitted to the Commission via email, at foi@ct.gov, with copy to the complainant.
2. Within sixty (60) days of conducting such search, the respondents shall provide the complainant with all records responsive to his request described in paragraph 2 of the findings, above, unredacted and free of charge.
3. [In complying with paragraph 2 of the order above, the respondents may withhold or redact such records, or portions thereof, that are the subject of a mandatory exemption, including the attorney-client privilege, set forth in § 52-146r, G.S., as incorporated in §1-210(b)(10), G.S.] **IN COMPLYING WITH PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE ORDER ABOVE, THE RESPONDENTS MAY WITHHOLD OR REDACT SUCH RECORDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, THAT ARE THE SUBJECT OF A MANDATORY EXEMPTION, INCLUDING THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE, SET FORTH IN § 52-146R, G.S., AS INCORPORATED IN §1-210(B)(10), G.S.**
4. If any records are withheld pursuant to [a mandatory exemption as described in] paragraph 3 of this order, above, the respondents shall submit an affidavit sworn to or attested by a person with the requisite knowledge which identifies and briefly describes the withheld record and the statutory basis for withholding the record. Such affidavit shall be submitted within sixty (60) days of the Notice of Final Decision in this matter.
5. If the respondents fail to comply with any order set forth in paragraphs 1 through 4, above, the complainant may file an appeal with the Commission, and such appeal may be afforded expedited treatment. The respondents are cautioned that if, after a hearing, the Commission concludes that they have violated any order herein, the Commission will consider the imposition of a civil penalty for such violation(s).
6. Henceforth, the respondents shall strictly comply with the disclosure provisions of §§1-210(a) and 1-212(a), G.S., and the fee provisions of §1-212(a), G.S.

Docket #FIC 2024-0808 Katherine Revello and Connecticut Inside Investigator v. Chief,
Police Department, Town of Manchester; Police Department,
Town of Manchester; and Town of Manchester

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

1. 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.

2. IN THE EVENT THE COMPLAINANTS SUBMIT ANOTHER REQUEST TO THE RESPONDENTS FOR AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READER DATA FOR THE PAST 30 DAYS, AND SUCH REQUEST IS DENIED, THE COMPLAINANTS MAY APPEAL SUCH DENIAL TO THE COMMISSION, AND THE COMMISSION MAY AFFORD SUCH APPEAL EXPEDITED TREATMENT.