TO: Freedom of Information Commission

FROM: Russell Blair

RE: Minutes of the Commission's regular meeting of January 28, 2026

A regular meeting of the Freedom of Information Commission was held on January 28, 2026. The Commission meeting of January 28, 2026 was conducted in person. The meeting convened at 2:05 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 Aigné Goldsby Wells
Commissioner Thomas A. Hennick
Commissioner Christopher P. Hankins (participated via speakerphone)
Commissioner Matthew Streeter

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

The Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the Commission's regular meeting minutes of January 14, 2026.

Those in attendance were informed that the January 28, 2026 regular meeting of the Commission was being recorded.

Docket #FIC 2025-0093 Earl Bradley 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 2025-0095 Anthony Torres 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 2025-0243 Daryl Brantley 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 2021-0076 Diana Waller v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health; and State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health

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

Docket #FIC 2021-0077 Diana Waller v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health; and State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health

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

Docket #FIC 2025-0077 Katherine Camara v. Mark Raimo, Town Manager, Town of Watertown; and Town of Watertown

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

Docket #FIC 2025-0079 Linda Wihbey v. Attorney General, State of Connecticut, Office of the Attorney General; and State of Connecticut, Office of the Attorney General

Attorney Linda T. Wihbey appeared on her own behalf. Deputy Associate Attorney General Gregory O'Connell 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 for a second time. The Commissioners unanimously voted to amend the Hearing Officer's Report for a third time. The Commissioners unanimously voted to amend the Hearing Officer's Report for a fourth time. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report as amended.* The proceedings were digitally recorded.

Docket #FIC 2025-0085 Nancy Griswold v. Chairman, Water Pollution Control Authority, Town of Thomaston; Water Pollution Control Authority, 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 2025-0096 Christopher Crayton v. Ronnell Higgins, Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection; and State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection

Christopher Crayton appeared on his own behalf. Attorney Jennifer Miller 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 2025-0124 Ryan Salvas v. Heather Somers, Senator, State of Connecticut, General Assembly, State Senate; and State of Connecticut, General Assembly, State Senate

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

Docket #FIC 2025-0156 Tom Keller v. Chair, Brookfield Board of Education Negotiations and Personnel Subcommittee, Brookfield Public Schools; Brookfield Board of Education Negotiations and Personnel Subcommittee, Brookfield Public Schools; and Brookfield Public Schools

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

Docket #FIC 2025-0206 Victoria Murphy v. Chief, Police Department, City of New Britain; and Police Department, City of New Britain

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

The Commissioners unanimously voted to deny the complainant's appeal of denial of request for expedited processing, dated January 9, 2026, and received by the Commission on January 12, 2026, in Docket #FIC *2026-0004*, *Mark Wozar v. Chief, Police Department, Town of West Hartford; Police Department, Town of West Hartford; and Town of West Hartford*.

Executive Director Colleen M. Murphy reported that a new appeal had been filed in Superior Court dated January 7, 2026, Director of Public Records, State of Connecticut, et al. v. Freedom of Information Commission et al., HHB-CV26-6102379-S, regarding the Commission's Final Decision in Docket #FIC 2024-0885.

Executive Director Colleen M. Murphy reported that the legislature's Regulation Review Committee had approved updates to the Commission's regulations at a meeting on January 27, 2026.

Executive Director Colleen M. Murphy reported that applications for the position of Executive Director and General Counsel closed on January 27, 2026.

Managing Director Paula S. Pearlman presented the Commission's 2026 legislative package. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the package as presented.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

/s/ Russell Blair
Russell Blair

AMENDMENTS*

Docket #FIC 2025-0079 Linda Wihbey v. Attorney General, State of Connecticut, Office of the Attorney General; and State of Connecticut, Office of the Attorney General

Paragraphs 2 and 48(a) of the Hearing Officer's Report are amended as follows:

2. It is found that, on June 12, 2015, a federal qui tam[1] action was filed [jointly] under seal by Brittany Ames Mahoney ("the relator;" i.e., informer) [and the United States Department of Justice ("US DOJ")] against Dr. Abbas Mohammadi and his businesses, Columbia Dental, P.C. and Columbia Oral Maxillofacial Imaging, LLC (collectively "Columbia Dental"). Such action alleged violation of both the Federal False Claims Act[2] for overbilling for dental services and other related matters under the Connecticut Medicaid Assistance Program (the "qui tam action").[3]

48. It is found that the respondents were a party to pending litigation within the meaning of §1-210(b)(4), G.S., during the following time periods:

> (a) qui tam action: from June 12, 2015, when the **RELATOR FILED** [respondents joined] the complaint in federal court, until October 1, 2020, when the matter was finally adjudicated through a stipulated judgment entered by the court, as described in paragraphs 3 through 6, above;

Appendix B of the Hearing Officer's Report is amended as follows:

IC-2025-0079-000311 through IC-2025-0079-000315

IC-2025-0079-000963

IC-2025-0079-001060 through IC-2025-0079-001062

IC-2025-0079-001090 through IC-2025-0079-001098

IC-2025-0079-001324 through IC-2025-0079-001325

IC-2025-0079-001924 through IC-2025-0079-001926

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[2] A qui tam action is "[a]n action brought by an informer, under a state statute which establishes a penalty for the commission or omission of a certain act, and provides that the same shall be recoverable in a civil action, [with] part of the penalty to go to any person who… bring[s] such action and the remainder to go to the state or some other institution…." Black's Law Dictionary 1126 (5th ed. 1979).

[3] 31 U.S.C. §3729, et seq.

[4] See United States of America/State of Connecticut v. Columbia Dental P.C., et al., Docket No. 3:15-cv-00918-SRU.

IC-2025-0079-002090 through IC-2025-0079-002092

IC-2025-0079-002232 through IC-2025-0079-002234

IC-2025-0079-004065 through IC-2025-0079-004076

IC-2025-0079-004909 through IC-2025-0079-004913

IC-2025-0079-005035

IC-2025-0079-005098

IC-2025-0079-005222

Appendix D of the Hearing Officer's Report is amended as follows:

IC-2025-0079-000962**, IC 2025-0079-00094 AND** [through] IC-2025-0079-000965

IC-2025-0079-001313 through IC-2025-0079-001317

IC-2025-0079-002196

IC-2025-0079-002639

IC-2025-0079-003596

IC-2025-0079-003597

IC-2025-0079-003929

IC-2025-0079-004564

IC-2025-0079-005034

[IC-2025-0079-005035]

IC-2025-0079-005097

[IC-2025-0079-005098]

Appendix E of the Hearing Officer's Report is amended as follows:

IC-2025-0079-002799 through IC-2025-0079-002801

IC-2025-0079-003128 through **IC-2025-0079-003154**

Docket #FIC 2025-0096 Christopher Crayton v. Ronnell Higgins, Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection; and State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection

The Hearing Officer's Report is amended as follows:

54. It is found that the volume of records is relatively small: five responsive body cam videos, only three of which were redacted and, together, the three redacted body cam videos consist of less than ninety minutes of total video footage. [It is also found that, g]**G**iven the nature of the requested records**, AND THE FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF THIS CASE,** it is found that [the respondents knew, or should have known, that] such records were of high importance to the complainant.