

TO: Freedom of Information Commission
FROM: Russell Blair
RE: Minutes of the Commission's regular meeting of March 25, 2026

A regular meeting of the Freedom of Information Commission was held on March 25, 2026. The Commission's regular meeting of March 25, 2026 was conducted in person. The meeting convened at 2 p.m. with the following Commissioners present:

Commissioner Jonathan J. Einhorn, presiding
Commissioner Kate Farrish (participated via speakerphone)
Commissioner Judith Ganswindt
Commissioner Aigné Goldsby Wells
Commissioner Christopher P. Hankins (participated via speakerphone)
Commissioner Thomas A. Hennick
Commissioner Matthew Streeter

Also present were staff members Paula S. Pearlman, Valicia D. Harmon, Danielle L. McGee, C. Zack Hyde, 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 March 11, 2026.

Those in attendance were informed that the March 25, 2026 regular meeting of the Commission was being recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2025-0219](#) Gregory Johnson v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Correction; and State of Connecticut, Department of Correction

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

[Docket #FIC 2020-0541](#) Vicki Boshka v. Chairperson, Board of Education, Monroe Public Schools; Board of Education, Monroe Public Schools; and Monroe Public Schools

Robert Boshka appeared on behalf of the complainant. Attorney Jeffrey Donofrio appeared on behalf of the respondents. 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

Diana Severo (formerly Waller) appeared on her own behalf. Attorney Lisa Kessler appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

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

Diana Severo (formerly Waller) appeared on her own behalf. Attorney Lisa Kessler appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2025-0208](#) Terrance Burton v. Fernando Spagnuolo, Chief, Police Department, City of Waterbury; Police Department, City of Waterbury; and City of Waterbury

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

[Docket #FIC 2025-0213](#) Zachary DiPalma v. Secretary, State of Connecticut, Office of Policy & Management; and State of Connecticut, Office of Policy

Zachary DiPalma appeared on his own behalf. Attorney Kara Murphy appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2025-0218](#) Barry Natale v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; and State of Connecticut, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Attorney Melinda Decker 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 2025-0224](#) Barry Natale v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Energy & Environmental Protection; and State of Connecticut, Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

Attorney Melinda Decker appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2025-0221](#) Michelle N. Holmes v. Chief, Police Department, City of Bridgeport; Police Department, City of Bridgeport; and City of Bridgeport

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

[Docket #FIC 2025-0222](#) William Santiago v. Tyisha Toms, 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.

[Docket #FIC 2025-0229](#) Tara Carr v. Chair, Board of Ethics, Town of Brookfield; Board of Ethics, Town of Brookfield; and Town of Brookfield

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

[Docket #FIC 2025-0252](#) Nancy Griswold v. Thomas J. Mueller, Chairman, Water Pollution Control Authority, Town of Thomaston; Water Pollution Control Authority, 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 unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2025-0269](#) Kathleen D. Griffin v. Moderator, Representative Town Meeting, Town of Fairfield; Representative Town Meeting, Town of Fairfield; and Town of Fairfield

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

[Docket #FIC 2025-0504](#) Alison Muller v. Executive Director, State of Connecticut, Connecticut Technical Education and Career System; and State of Connecticut, Connecticut Technical Education and Career System

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

[Docket #FIC 2025-0630](#)

Ryan Salvas v. Jack Joslyn, Selectman, Board of Selectmen, Town of Sterling; Board of Selectmen, Town of Sterling; and Town of Sterling

Ryan Salvas appeared on his own behalf. Attorney Rich Roberts appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

The Commissioners unanimously voted to Summarily Deny Leave to Schedule a Hearing Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §1-206(b)(2) in *David Godbout v. Town Clerk, Town of East Lyme; Chief, Police Department, Town of East Lyme; Police Department, Town of East Lyme; Chair, Board of Police Commissioners, Town of East Lyme; Board of Police Commissioners, Town of East Lyme; and Town of East Lyme*, Docket #FIC 2026-0023.

The Commissioners unanimously voted to Summarily Deny Leave to Schedule a Hearing Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §1-206(b)(2) in *David Godbout v. William Tong, Attorney General, State of Connecticut, The Office of the Attorney General; and State of Connecticut, The Office of the Attorney General*, Docket #FIC 2026-0048.

The Commissioners unanimously voted to Summarily Deny Leave to Schedule a Hearing Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §1-206(b)(2) in *David Godbout v. Assessor, Town of East Lyme; and Town of East Lyme*, Docket #FIC 2026-0062.

The Commissioners unanimously voted to deny the Second Amended Motion to Reopen and Reconsider Dismissal dated March 6, 2026 and received by the Commission on March 6, 2026, filed by the Complainant in *Alfred P. Mayo v. Treasurer, State of Connecticut, Office of the State Treasurer; and State of Connecticut, Office of the State Treasurer*, Docket #FIC 2025-0166.

Attorney Nicholas A. Smarra reported on the Superior Court decision dated March 12, 2026, in Town Manager, Town of Groton and Town of Groton v. State of Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission, Docket No. HHB-CV24-608967-S. The appeal was dismissed and the Commission's decision in the underlying case upheld.

Interim Executive Director Paula S. Pearlman reported that Commissioners Streeter and Hennick had recently been reappointed.

Commissioner Farrish reported that she had attended Sunshine Fest, held March 15-17, 2026, in Washington, D.C., along with Attorney Nicholas A. Smarra, who participated in a panel on vexatious requesters.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

/s/ Russell Blair
Russell Blair

AMENDMENTS*

Docket #FIC 2025-0218 Barry Natale v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut,
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; and State
of Connecticut, Department of Energy and Environmental
Protection

Paragraphs 3 and 10 of the Hearing Officer's Report are amended as follows:

3. It is found that, by email dated March 21, 2025, the respondents informed the complainant that his February 19th records request was duplicative of a prior records request he had submitted to them on [November 21, 2024 (“November 21st] **JANUARY 28, 2025** (“**JANUARY 28th** records request”) and that no records exist that are responsive to the February 19th records request.

10. It is found that, in response to the complainant's [November 21st] **JANUARY 28th** records request, by email dated January 14, 2025, the respondents stated the following:

[i]in response to the job posting for the Environmental Safety Representative (Boating Safety) position (recruitment no. 240923-3445AR-001), the Department received 59 applications that were certified to proceed to consideration. Those applications were then thoroughly reviewed, and your application was found to have met 3 of the preferred qualifications out of a possible score of 9. Additionally, as previously communicated to you by human resources personnel, your application was not in conformance with the application instructions, as the work experience that was listed on the application was chronologically out of order. During this recruitment process, the Department has followed all applicable statutes and regulations related to hiring, including Connecticut General Statutes Section 5-224.