

TO: Freedom of Information Commission
FROM: Russell Blair
RE: Minutes of the Commission's regular meeting of April 8, 2026

A regular meeting of the Freedom of Information Commission was held on April 8, 2026. The Commission's regular meeting of April 8, 2026 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 Judith Ganswindt
Commissioner Aigné Goldsby Wells
Commissioner Christopher P. Hankins
Commissioner Thomas A. Hennick
Commissioner Matthew Streeter

Also present were staff members Danielle L. McGee, Paula S. Pearlman, Valicia D. Harmon, C. Zack Hyde, Nicholas A. Smarra, Marybeth G. Sullivan, Paul V. Arce, Jonathan McCann, Molly Steffes and Russell Blair.

The Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the Commission's regular meeting minutes of March 25, 2026.

Those in attendance were informed that the April 8, 2026 regular meeting of the Commission was being recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2025-0246](#) Alika McFarlane v. Chief, Police Department, City of Bridgeport; Police Department, City of Bridgeport; and City of Bridgeport

Alika McFarlane appeared on his own behalf. 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.

[Docket #FIC 2025-0250](#) Alika McFarlane v. Chief, Police Department, Town of Fairfield; Police Department, Town of Fairfield; and Town of Fairfield

Alika McFarlane appeared on his own behalf. Attorney Madeline Diamont appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2025-0247](#) John Morgan v. 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 2025-0254](#) Shardel Ragin v. Chief, Police Department, City of Bridgeport; Police Department, City of Bridgeport; and City of Bridgeport

Shardel Ragin 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 2025-0238](#) Richard Leighton v. Chairperson, Planning & Zoning Commission, Town of Deep River; Planning & Zoning Commission, Town of Deep River; and Town of Deep River

Attorney Ken Slater appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to amend the Hearing Officer's Report. The Commissioners voted 7-1 to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report as amended*, with Commissioner Streeter opposed. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2025-0251](#) Antonio Robinson v. Roderick Porter, 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 2025-0257](#) Dayna and Juan Arriola v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Children and Families; and State of Connecticut, Department of Children and Families

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

[Docket #FIC 2025-0261](#) DeVaughn Ward v. Attorney General, State of Connecticut, The Office of the Attorney General; and State of Connecticut, The Office of the Attorney General

Devaughn Ward appeared on his own behalf. Assistant Attorney General John Langmaid appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to continue the matter to a special meeting on April 15, 2026 at 10 a.m. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2025-0263](#) Kyle LaPorte v. Chief, Police Department, Town of South Windsor; Police Department, Town of South Windsor; and Town of South Windsor

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

[Docket #FIC 2025-0265](#) Daniel Wehking v. Superintendent of Schools, Ridgefield Public Schools; Chairperson, Board of Education, Ridgefield Public Schools; Board of Education, Ridgefield Public Schools; and Ridgefield Public Schools

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

[Docket #FIC 2025-0266](#) Bridget Nimani v. Chief, Police Department, Town of Bloomfield; Police Department, Town of Bloomfield; and Town of Bloomfield

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

[Docket #FIC 2025-0272](#) Greg Alprin 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 2025-0278](#) Miriam Bleich v. Superintendent of Schools, West Hartford Public Schools; and West Hartford Public Schools

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

[Docket #FIC 2025-0285](#) David C. Wold v. First Selectman, Town of Greenwich; and Town of Greenwich

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

[Docket #FIC 2025-0287](#) Francisco Grasso v. Building Official, Building Division, City of New London; Building Division, City of New London; and City of New London

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

[Docket #FIC 2025-0290](#) Ally LeMaster, and CT Examiner; Gregory Stroud; and Andy Thibault 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 2025-0316](#) Nancy Griswold v. Ralph Celone, Chairman, Planning and Zoning Commission, Town of Thomaston; Planning and Zoning Commission, Town of Thomaston; and Town of Thomaston

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

Attorney Valicia D. Harmon reported on an appeal filed April 2, 2026, in Superior Court: Mark Wozar v. Freedom of Information Commission et al., Docket No. HHB-CV26-5040269-S.

Director of Education and Communications Russell Blair gave a brief update on FOI-related legislation under consideration by the General Assembly.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

/s/ Russell Blair
Russell Blair

AMENDMENTS*

Docket #FIC 2025-0246 Alika McFarlane v. Chief, Police Department, City of Bridgeport; Police Department, City of Bridgeport; and City of Bridgeport

Paragraph 24 and the order in the Hearing Officer's Report are amended as follows:

24. The Commission is also concerned by the respondents' failure to produce witnesses to testify on three separate occasions, as described in paragraphs 8, 9, and 14, above. The respondents are cautioned that such failure in the future [may] **WILL** warrant consideration of the imposition of a civil penalty against the respondents.

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 records responsive to the request described in paragraph 2 of the findings, above, and, if such search produces records that have not been provided to the complainant, the respondents shall provide a copy of such records, free of charge, to the complainant within fourteen (14) days of the date of the Notice of Final Decision in this matter.

2. Within fourteen (14) days of the date of the Notice of Final Decision in this matter, the respondents shall provide the complainant with an affidavit from someone with direct knowledge of the search described in paragraph 1 of the order, above, detailing how such search was conducted and by whom. The affidavit shall also attest to whether any additional records were located during such search and what, if any, exemptions are being claimed by the respondents.

3. If the respondents fail to comply with any order set forth in paragraphs 1 through 2, above, the complainant may file an appeal with the Commission, and such appeal may be afforded expedited treatment.

4. Henceforth, the respondents shall strictly comply with the disclosure provisions of §§1-210(a) and 1-212(a), G.S.

5. THE RESPONDENTS ARE CAUTIONED THAT THEIR FAILURE TO PRODUCE WITNESSES TO TESTIFY IN THE COMMISSION'S PROCEEDINGS IN THE FUTURE WILL WARRANT THE CONSIDERATION OF A CIVIL PENALTY.

6. WITHIN FOURTEEN (14) DAYS OF THE DATE OF THE NOTICE OF FINAL DECISION IN THIS MATTER, THE RESPONDENT CHIEF OF POLICE FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT IS ORDERED TO SUBMIT AN AFFIDAVIT TO THE COMPLAINANT AND THE COMMISSION ATTESTING AS TO THE FACT THAT THE ENTIRE CASE FILES RESPONSIVE TO THE REQUESTS AT

ISSUE IN THIS MATTER WERE HANDED OVER TO THE STATE’S ATTORNEY’S OFFICE AND THAT THE RESPONDENT POLICE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT MAINTAIN A COPY OF SUCH RECORDS.

Docket #FIC 2025-0254 Shardel Ragin v. Chief, Police Department, City of Bridgeport;
Police Department, City of Bridgeport; and City of Bridgeport

Paragraph 9 of the Hearing Officer’s Report is amended as follows:

9. It is found that the request was delivered to Jordan Francis without a date stamp and that it is unknown when the [Bridgeport respondents] **MAIL HANDLER** first received the complainant’s request. The Bridgeport respondents’ witness testified that the respondents could not account for the lapse in time from the complainant’s mailing of the request on March 19, 2025, to its delivery to Jordan Francis on April 25, 2025.

Docket #FIC 2025-0238 Richard Leighton v. Chairperson, Planning & Zoning
Commission, Town of Deep River; Planning & Zoning
Commission, Town of Deep River; and Town of Deep River

The Hearing Officer’s Report is amended with the addition of the following footnote:

2. By complaint received and filed on April 10, 2025, the complainant¹ appealed to this Commission alleging that the respondents violated the Freedom of Information (“FOI”) Act by discussing his job performance and potential discipline during its March 20, 2025 regular meeting, without notifying him that his job performance would be discussed at such meeting.

¹ **THE COMPLAINANT, RICHARD LEIGHTON, IS THE BUILDING OFFICIAL FOR THE TOWN OF DEEP RIVER.**