

TO: Freedom of Information Commission

FROM: Russell Blair

RE: Minutes of the Commission's regular meeting of August 26, 2026

A regular meeting of the Freedom of Information Commission was held on August 26, 2026. The Commission's regular meeting of August 26, 2026 was conducted in person. The meeting convened at 2:02 p.m. with the following Commissioners present:

Commissioner Owen P. Eagan, presiding
Commissioner Kate Farrish
Commissioner Judith Ganswindt
Commissioner Aigné Goldsby Wells
Commissioner Christopher P. Hankins
Commissioner Thomas A. Hennick
Commissioner Kerry J. Robair
Commissioner Matthew Streeter

Also present were staff members Danielle L. McGee, Valicia D. Harmon, C. Zack Hyde, Mary-Kate Smith, Nicholas A. Smarra, Marybeth G. Sullivan, Paul V. Arce, Uswah A. Khan, Jennifer Mayo and Russell Blair.

The Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the Commission's regular meeting minutes of August 12, 2026.

Those in attendance were informed that the August 26, 2026 regular meeting of the Commission was being recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2025-0820](#) Joe Baltas 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 2025-0832](#) Roderick Rogers 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 2025-0779](#) Ryan Salvas v. Director, Northeast District Department of Health; and Northeast District Department of Health

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

[Docket #FIC 2025-0781](#) Joshua Good v. Chief, Police Department, City of Ansonia;
Police Department, City of Ansonia; and City of Ansonia

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

[Docket #FIC 2025-0783](#) Jacob Simkovitz v. Tax Collector, Easton Fire District No. 1;
and Easton Fire District No. 1

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

[Docket #FIC 2025-0802](#) Andrew Corea v. Chair, Board of Ethics, Town of Brookfield;
Board of Ethics, Town of Brookfield; and Town of Brookfield

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

[Docket #FIC 2025-0804](#) Jim Haddadin v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut,
Connecticut Department of Children and Families; and State of
Connecticut, Connecticut Department of Children and Families

Attorney Charlotte Shea appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners voted 7-1 to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report, with Commissioner Hankins opposed. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2025-0811](#) Robert Kriwitsky v. Bryan T. Cafferelli, Commissioner, State of
Connecticut, Department of Consumer Protection; and State of
Connecticut, Department of Consumer Protection

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

[Docket #FIC 2025-0825](#) Julianne Cooke v. President, Pine Grove Niantic Association;
and Pine Grove Niantic Association

Julianne Cooke appeared on her 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*.

[Docket #FIC 2025-0848](#) John Hall, III v. Chief, Westbrook Ambulance Association; and Westbrook Ambulance Association

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

[Docket #FIC 2025-0870](#) Karla Leon v. Chief, Police Department, Town of Manchester; Police Department, Town of Manchester; and Town of Manchester

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

[Docket #FIC 2025-0872](#) John Jevitts v. Compliance Officer, State of Connecticut, Connecticut State Community College; and State of Connecticut, Connecticut State Community College

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

[Docket #FIC 2025-0884](#) Michael Mourning v. Executive Director, State of Connecticut, Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities; and State of Connecticut, Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities

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

[Docket #FIC 2025-0888](#) Amber Allen v. Chief, Police Department, Town of Suffield; Police Department, Town of Suffield; and Town of Suffield

Amber Allen appeared on her own behalf. Attorney Derek Donnelly appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2025-0905](#) Nancy Griswold v. Enforcement Officer, Planning & Zoning Commission, Town of Norfolk; Planning & Zoning Commission, Town of Norfolk; and Town of Norfolk

Nancy Griswold appeared on her own behalf. Attorney Michael Zizka appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners voted 3-5 to amend the Hearing Officer's Report, with Commissioners Eagan, Farrish and Goldsby Wells in support. The amendment failed. The Commissioners voted 7-1 to remand the matter to staff for further review, with Commissioner Streeter opposed. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2025-0911](#)

Keith Massimino v. Town Attorney, Law Department, Town of Wallingford; Law Department, Town of Wallingford; and Town of Wallingford

Attorney Janis Small 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 2025-0922](#)

Sharon Pealer v. Chairman, Town Council, Town of Ledyard; Town Council, Town of Ledyard; and Town of Ledyard

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

[Docket #FIC 2025-0937](#)

Julianne Cooke v. President, Pine Grove Niantic Association; and Pine Grove Niantic Association

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

Attorney Paul V. Arce reported on the Memorandum of Decision dated July 29, 2026, in Ian Cooke v. Freedom of Information Commission, et al., Docket No. HHB-CV24-5037203-S. The appeal was dismissed.

Attorney Valicia D. Harmon reported three Commission decisions had recently been appealed in Superior Court:

- Docket #FIC 2025-0537, Jacqueline Rabe Thomas v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Correction; and State of Connecticut, Department of Correction
- Docket #FIC 2025-0585, Nancy Griswold v. Chairman, Planning and Zoning Commission, Town of Norfolk; Planning and Zoning Commission, Town of Norfolk; and Town of Norfolk
- Docket #FIC 2025-0655, Rickford Kirton v. Danielle Wong, Chairperson, Town Council, Town of Bloomfield; Town Council, Town of Bloomfield; and Town of Bloomfield

Attorney Valicia D. Harmon reported that the appeal was withdrawn in Superior Court in Executive Director, Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments et al. v. Freedom of Information Commission et al., HHB-CV26-610593-S.

Executive Director Danielle L. McGee reported that Attorney Kathleen Foster would be joining the Commission as a Staff Attorney in October 2026 and that the Commission is continuing to work to fill one remaining attorney vacancy.

Director of Education and Communications Russell Blair reported that the annual Freedom of Information Conference was scheduled for September 25, 2026 at The Riverhouse in Haddam.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

/s/ Russell Blair
Russell Blair

AMENDMENTS*

Docket #FIC 2025-0825 Julianne Cooke v. President, Pine Grove Niantic Association;

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

2. [Forthwith, the respondents, or their designee, shall arrange for an FOI Act training session to be conducted by staff of the FOI Commission. The respondents, or their designee, shall forthwith contact the FOI Commission to schedule such training session.]**THE RESPONDENTS' ACTIONS, CONCERNING OR RELATING TO THE AGENDA ITEM ENTITLED "WATER ACESS," AT THE RESPONDENTS' AUGUST 18, 2025 MEETING, ARE HEREBY DECLARED NULL AND VOID.**

Docket #FIC 2025-0911 Keith Massimino v. Town Attorney, Law Department, Town of Wallingford; Law Department, Town of Wallingford; and Town of Wallingford

Footnote 1 in the Hearing Officer's Report is amended as follows:

¹With respect to the Town Attorney's request that the complainant utilize a different email account or address to make a request, the Commission need not address such issue, as under the specific facts and circumstances of this case, the complainant complied with the Town Attorney's request and received all of the requested records. [The respondents are reminded however that § 1-210(a), G.S., prohibits public agencies from adopting policies or imposition conditions on the right to access public records beyond what is provided for in the FOI Act..]