TO: Freedom of Information Commission

FROM: Russell Blair

RE: Minutes of the Commission's regular meeting of October 14, 2026

A regular meeting of the Freedom of Information Commission was held on October 14, 2026. The Commission's regular meeting of October 14, 2026 was conducted in person. The meeting convened at 2 p.m. with the following Commissioners present:

Commissioner Owen P. Eagan, presiding
Commissioner Kate Farrish (participated via speakerphone)
Commissioner Judith Ganswindt (participated via speakerphone)
Commissioner Aigné Goldsby Wells
Commissioner Christopher P. Hankins
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, Uswah A. Khan, Molly Steffes and Russell Blair.

The Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the Commission's regular meeting minutes of September 23, 2026.

Those in attendance were informed that the October 14, 2026 regular meeting of the Commission was being recorded.

Docket #FIC 2025-0871 Elijah El-Hajj-Bey v. Attorney General, State of Connecticut, Office of the Attorney General; and State of Connecticut, Office of the Attorney General

Elijah El-Hajj-Bey appeared on his own behalf. Deputy Associate Attorney General Gregory O'Connell appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

Docket #FIC 2025-0938 Julianne Cooke v. President, Pine Grove Niantic Association; and Pine Grove Niantic Association

Julianne Cooke appeared on her own behalf. Glenda Spencer and Lori Shedd-Nickerson appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

Docket #FIC 2025-0941 Lynnelle Jones v. Chair, Harbor Management Commission, City of Norwalk; Harbor Management Commission, City of Norwalk; and City of Norwalk

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

Docket #FIC 2025-0942 Lynnelle Jones v. Secretary, Harbor Management Commission, City of Norwalk; Harbor Management Commission, City of Norwalk; and City of Norwalk

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

Docket #FIC 2025-0946 Lee McCready v. Chairman, Board of Ethics, City of New London; Board of Ethics, City of New London; and City of New London

Lee McCready appeared on his own behalf. Attorney Jeffrey Londregan appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

Docket #FIC 2025-0954 Luz Bueno v Superintendent of Schools, Darien Public Schools; and Darien Public Schools

Luz Bueno appeared on her own behalf. Attorney Joseph Miller appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

Docket #FIC 2025-0956 Julianne Cooke v. President, Pine Grove Niantic Association; and Pine Grove Niantic Association

Julianne Cooke appeared on her own behalf. Glenda Spencer and Lori Shedd-Nickerson appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

Docket #FIC 2025-0968 Christie Kehoe v. Chief, Police Department, Town of North Haven; Police Department, Town of North Haven; and Town of North Haven

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

Docket #FIC 2025-0988 James Torlai 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 2025-0989 Jose Cruz v. Director, New Britain Public Library; and New Britain Public Library

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

Docket #FIC 2025-0991 Josiah Schlee v. Kathleen Holt, Healthcare Advocate, State of Connecticut, Office of the Healthcare Advocate; and State of Connecticut, Office of the Healthcare Advocate

Josiah Schlee appeared on his own behalf. Assistant Attorney General John Langmaid appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners voted 6-0 to amend the Hearing Officer's Report. The Commissioners voted 6-0 to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report as amended*. Commissioner Streeter was not present for the votes. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

Docket #FIC 2025-0998 Yair Kleinbaum v. Chief, Police Department, Town of Clinton; Police Department, Town of Clinton; and Town of Clinton

Yair Kleinbaum appeared on his own behalf. Attorney Jeffrey Kenendy appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners voted 6-0 to amend the Hearing Officer's Report. The Commissioners voted 6-0 to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report as amended*. Commissioners Streeter was not present for the votes. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

Docket #FIC 2025-1010 Melody Clegg v. First Selectman, Board of Selectmen, Town of Haddam; Board of Selectmen, Town of Haddam; and Town of Haddam

Melody Clegg appeared on her own behalf. Attorney Richard Carella appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners voted 5-0 to amend the Hearing Officer's Report. The Commissioners voted 5-0 to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report as amended*. Commissioners Goldsby Wells and Streeter were not present for the vote. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

Docket #FIC 2025-1011 Richard Sura v. Executive Director, Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments; and Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

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

Docket #FIC 2025-1013 Feizo Zeko 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 2025-1052 Aimee James and EWU Media LLC v. Chief, Police Department, City of Bristol; Police Department, City of Bristol; and City of Bristol

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

Docket #FIC 2025-1066 Thomas Mbajjwe v. Attorney General, State of Connecticut, Office of the Attorney General; and State of Connecticut, Office of the Attorney General

Assistant Attorney General Joshua Britt appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners voted 5-0 to amend the Hearing Officer's Report. The Commissioners voted 5-0 to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report as amended*. Commissioners Goldsby Wells and Streeter were not present for the vote. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

Docket #FIC 2025-1074 Katherine Sanchez v. Chief, Police Department, Town of Bethel; Police Department, Town of Bethel; and Town of Bethel

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

Docket #FIC 2025-1180 Deborah G. Stevenson v. State Representative Patrick Biggins, State of Connecticut, House of Representatives; and State of Connecticut, House of Representatives

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

The Commissioners voted 5-0 to deny the Appeal of Denial of Request for Expedited Hearing, dated October 1, 2026, and received by the Commission October 1, 2026, filed by Complainant, in *Linda T. Wihbey v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Social Services; and State of Connecticut, Department of Social Services*, Docket #FIC 2026-0602. Commissioners Goldsby Wells and Streeter were not present for the vote.

Executive Director and General Counsel Danielle L. McGee reported that the Supreme Court had granted the Petition for Certification filed by the plaintiff in Matthew Olson v. Freedom of Information Commission (Docket No. PSC 250436).

Executive Director and General Counsel Danielle L. McGee indicated the Commission planned to hold a Special Meeting in early December.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

/s/ Russell Blair
Russell Blair

AMENDMENTS*

Docket #FIC 2025-0991 Josiah Schlee v. Kathleen Holt, Healthcare Advocate, State of Connecticut, Office of the Healthcare Advocate; and State of Connecticut, Office of the Healthcare Advocate

Footnote 2 and the order in The Hearing Officer's Report are amended as follows:

[2]By email dated February 4, 202**6[**5**]**, the complainant also requested the imposition of a civil penalty against the respondents. It is found, however, that by email dated August 17, 2026, the complainant withdrew his request for a civil penalty against the respondents, and therefore, such request will not be further addressed herein.

1. Within forty-five (45) days of the Notice of Final Decision in this matter, the respondents shall provide the complainant with copies of the responsive records described in paragraph 14 of the findings, above, free of charge.

2. Within thirty (30) days from the date of the production of records described in paragraph 1 of the order, above, and every thirty (30) days thereafter, the respondents shall provide the complainant with copies of **[**the**]** 2,800 additional responsive emails **AND ATTACHMENTS THERETO**, free of charge, until the respondents have provided all records responsive to the complainant's request, described in paragraph 2 of the findings, above.

3. In complying with paragraphs 1 and 2 of the order, above, the respondents may withhold or redact such records, or portions thereof, to the extent such records 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, or portions thereof, are withheld pursuant to paragraph 3 of the order, above, the respondents shall submit an affidavit sworn or attested to by a person with the requisite knowledge to identify and briefly describe the withheld record, or portion thereof, and the statutory basis for withholding such information. Such affidavit shall be submitted **TO THE COMPLAINANT** together with the production of records to which it refers, as described in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the order, above.

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 may 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)**](B)**, G.S."

Docket #FIC 2025-0998 Yair Kleinbaum v. Chief, Police Department, Town of Clinton; Police Department, Town of Clinton; and Town of Clinton

Footnote 3 of the Hearing Officer's Report is amended as follows:

[3]The respondents redacted the portion of the call log containing information such as the caller's address. It is found that the complainant never raised any issue pertaining to the call logs during **[**either**]** **THE MAY 22, 2026** hearing. Rather the focus of the May 22, 2026 hearing, was whether the respondents failed to produce any additional records not otherwise known to the complainant.

Docket #FIC 2025-1010 Melody Clegg v. First Selectman, Board of Selectmen, Town of Haddam; Board of Selectmen, Town of Haddam; and Town of Haddam

Paragraphs 23 and 30 of the Hearing Officer's Report are amended as follows:

23. It is therefore found that the **PORTIONS OF THE** in camera records described in paragraph 16, above, are exempt from disclosure pursuant to §1-210(b)(10), G.S. Accordingly, it is concluded that the respondents did not violate the FOI Act by withholding such **PORTIONS OF THE IN CAMERA** records from the complainant.

30. It is therefore found that the **PORTIONS OF** the in camera records described in paragraph 24, above, are exempt from disclosure pursuant to §1-210(b)(4), G.S. Accordingly, it is concluded that the respondents did not violate the FOI Act by withholding such **PORTIONS OF THE** in camera records from the complainant.

Docket #FIC 2025-1066 Thomas Mbajjwe 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. The complaint is hereby dismissed.

2. THE COMPLAINANT IS HEREBY ADMONISHED FOR HIS FAILURE TO APPEAR AT THE CONTEST CASE HEARING, WHICH FAILURE RESULTED IN A WASTE OF SCARCE STATE RESOURCES.

3. THE COMPLAINANT IS CAUTIONED THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH §1-206(B)(3)(D), G.S., THE COMMISSION MAY CONSIDER A HISTORY OF NONAPPEARANCE AT ITS PROCEEDINGS AS CAUSE TO DECLINE SCHEDULING A CONTESTED CASE HEARING.