



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

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AMENDED MINUTES  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR TELEPHONIC MEETING  
Via Webex  
April 17, 2024  
9:30 A.M.

**I. Call to Order**

Commissioner Penny was present via Webex and called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. Commissioners Sonia Asare, Shannon Bergquist, and Greg Piecuch were present via Webex. Agency staff was also present and present via Webex.

**II. Approval of the Minutes**

*1. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of April 3, 2024*

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of April 3, 2024. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

**III. Administrative Reports**

Executive Director and General Counsel Michael J. Brandi provided the Commission with several administrative updates. The agency's budget remains on target for the current fiscal year. It is anticipated that the agency will see a surplus due to staff vacancies. Interviews for vacant positions and other recruitment is also ongoing. SEEC staff continue to prepare for the upcoming CEP season. We've already had a number of candidate committees submit their contribution forms for pre-application review. Trainings are also ongoing for candidates, treasurers, and staff alike. Lastly, Commission staff continue to monitor pending legislation as the legislature works toward its May 8<sup>th</sup> adjournment date.

**IV. Public Session**

*1. Discussion of Agency Organization, Staff Roles and Internal Process*

Chairman Penny announced that the Commission has scheduled a Special Meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at the Commission office to discuss this matter in greater detail.

**V. Pending Complaints and Investigations**

**A. Public Session**

1. In the Matter of a Referral by the Campaign Audit & Disclosure Unit.

File No. 2021-137NF

Proposed Final Decision

Respondent:

Robert Farrington

Hearing Officer:

Shannon R.T. Bergquist

Prosecutor:

James B. Heffernan

Hearing Officer Commissioner Shannon R.T. Bergquist summarized the above referenced matter and Proposed Final Decision in File No. 2021-137NF. She recommended adoption of the Proposed Final Decision.

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Asare to adopt the Final Decision in File No. 2021-137NF. So voted by a vote of 3-0-1, with Commissioner Bergquist abstaining.

**VI. Executive Session per General Statutes §§ 1-200(6)(B) and (E), and 1-210(b)(1), (3),(4),(10) and General Statutes §9-7a, as amended by Public Act 11-48 §300 (Preliminary draft and agency consideration of enforcement action and exempt records relative thereto)**

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist at 9:46 A.M. to proceed into Executive Session pursuant to General Statutes §§ 1-200(6)(B) and (E), and 1-210(b)(1), (3),(4),(10) to discuss strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims and exempt records. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

Commissioners Penny, Asare, Bergquist, and Piecuch were present via Webex. Staff members present via Webex were: Michael J. Brandi, Sheri-Lyn Lagueur, Shannon Clark Kief, Salman Munir, Renata Rydzewski, William Smith, James Heffernan, Johnny Ross, III, Stephanie Fish, Ron Perry, Joshua Foley, Aaron Charney, Maryam Bitar, and Stephen Palmer.

The Commission returned to public session at 11:06 A.M.

Returning to public session, the Commission took the following action:

1. In re. Commission Initiated Investigation of September 14, 2023 Referral by Bridgeport Police Department

File No. 2023-052

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2023-052. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Recommendation of Counsel.

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2023-052. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

2. In re. Commission Initiated Investigation of September 8, 2023 Referral by Bridgeport Police Department  
File No. 2023-053  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: William B. Smith

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2023-053. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Recommendation of Counsel.

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2023-053. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

3. In the Matter of the Senate Republican Leadership Committee  
File No. 2018-118  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: William B. Smith

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2018-118. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Recommendation of Counsel.

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2018-118. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Robert H. Ficeto, Wolcott  
File No. 2023-019  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: James B. Heffernan  
Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

This matter is continued.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Kevin W. Coughlin, Branford  
File No. 2023-023  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: James B. Heffernan  
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

This matter is continued.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Richard Balboni, South Windsor  
File No. 2023-097  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: James B. Heffernan  
Legal Investigator: Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

This matter is continued.

7. In the Matter of a Complaint by William Tuttle, Fairfield  
File No. 2023-026  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: Johnny Ross, III  
Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

Attorney Johnny Ross, III summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2023-026. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Picuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2023-026. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

8. In the Matter of a Complaint by Lawrence M. Riefberg, Danbury  
File No. 2023-095  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: Johnny Ross, III  
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

Attorney Johnny Ross, III summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2023-095. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Picuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2023-095,



pending receipt of the signed agreement within 10 business days. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

***VII. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session***

***VIII. Adjournment***

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist at 11:25 A.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0. Unless otherwise noted, all votes of the Commission are unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by,



Sheri-Lyn Lagueux  
Clerk of the State Elections Enforcement Commission

**May 1, 2024**

Date approved

(By the State Elections Enforcement Commission)