

TO: Freedom of Information Commission
FROM: Russell Blair
RE: Minutes of the Commission's regular meeting of May 14, 2025

A regular meeting of the Freedom of Information Commission was held on May 14, 2025. The Commission meeting of May 14, 2025 was conducted in person. The meeting convened at 2:08 p.m. with the following Commissioners present:

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

Also present were staff members Colleen M. Murphy, Paula S. Pearlman, Valicia D. Harmon, C. Zack Hyde, Mary-Kate Smith, Nicholas A. Smarra, Marybeth G. Sullivan, Paul V. Arce, J. Max McCann, Jennifer Mayo and Russell Blair.

The Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the Commission's regular meeting minutes of April 23, 2025.

Those in attendance were informed that the May 14, 2025 regular meeting of the Commission was being recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2024-0279](#) Andres Sosa v. Angel Quiros, Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Correction; and State of Connecticut Department of Correction

Andres Sosa appeared on his own behalf. The respondents did not appear. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2024-0347](#) Andres Sosa v. Secretary, State of Connecticut, Office of Policy and Management; and State of Connecticut, Office of Policy and Management

Andres Sosa 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 2024-0453](#) Antwon Brown v. Chief, Police Department, Town of Plainfield; Police Department, Town of Plainfield; and Town of Plainfield

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

[Docket #FIC 2020-0158](#) Sheri Speer v. Mayor, City of Norwich; Department of Public Works, City of Norwich; and City Manager, City of Norwich

The Commissioners voted 8-0 to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. Commissioner Einhorn abstained from the vote. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2024-0277](#) Allison Quiron v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, State Department of Education; and State of Connecticut, State Department of Education

Attorney Mary Alice Moore-Leonhardt appeared on behalf of the complainant. Attorney Michael McKeon appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2024-0292](#) Davco Realty Group LLC v. Town Manager, Town of Killingly; and Town of Killingly

Glen Voccio appeared on behalf of the complainant. Attorney Ken Slater appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2024-0302](#) John Blessington v. Chairman, Board of Directors, Willington Public Library; and Board of Directors, Willington Public Library

The Commissioners unanimously voted to amend the Hearing Officer's Report. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report as amended.*

[Docket #FIC 2024-0327](#) Thomas Birmingham v. Executive Director, Livable City Initiative, City of New Haven; Livable City Initiative, City of New Haven; and City of New Haven

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

[Docket #FIC 2024-0329](#) Tymothee Kelley-Anderson v. City Assessor, Assessor's Office, City of New Haven; Assessor's Office, City of New Haven; and City of New Haven

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

[Docket #FIC 2024-0330](#) Patricia Cofrancesco v. Office of the Corporation Counsel, City of New Haven; and City of New Haven

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

[Docket #FIC 2024-0331](#) Patricia Cofrancesco v. Office of the Corporation Counsel, City of New Haven; and City of New Haven

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

[Docket #FIC 2024-0332](#) Joseph Sokolovic v. Chair, Board of Education, Bridgeport Public Schools; and Board of Education, Bridgeport Public Schools

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 2024-0353](#) TaShun Bowden-Lewis v. Chairperson, State of Connecticut, Public Defender Services Commission; and State of Connecticut, Public Defender Services Commission

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 2024-0357](#) Andrew Brown and The Connecticut Mirror v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health; and State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health

Andrew Brown appeared on his own behalf. Attorney Lisa Kessler appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners voted 8-0 to amend the Hearing Officer's Report. The

Commissioners voted 8-0 to adopt the Hearing Officer's Report as amended* Commissioner Farrish abstained from both votes. The proceedings were digitally recorded.

[Docket #FIC 2024-0368](#) Roger Codding v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Administrative Services; and State of Connecticut, Department of Administrative Services

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

[Docket #FIC 2024-0447](#) Keep the Promise Coalition v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; and State of Connecticut, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

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

[Docket #FIC 2024-0484](#) Bridgeport Firefighters for Merit Employment, Inc.; James McMahon; Kraig Moran; and Eric Spooner v. Personnel Director, Civil Service Commission, City of Bridgeport; Personnel Examiner, Civil Service Commission, City of Bridgeport; Civil Service Commission, City of Bridgeport; 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 2024-0533](#) Samuel Carter Jr. V. Director, Support Enforcement Services, State of Connecticut, Judicial Branch; and Support Enforcement Services, State of Connecticut, Judicial Branch

Samuel Carter Jr. appeared on his own behalf. Attorney Andre Tarutin 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 *Cambridge Properties v. Mayor, Town of Stratford; and Town of Stratford*, Docket #FIC 2024-0845.

The Commissioners unanimously voted to Deny the Motion for Reconsideration dated May 1, 2025 and received by the Commission on May 1, 2025, filed by Complainant in *Richard Kosinski v. State of Connecticut, Neutral Arbitrator Selection Committee; Douglas Cho, Director, State of Connecticut, Connecticut Board of Mediation and Arbitration; and State of Connecticut, Connecticut Board of Mediation and Arbitration*, Docket #FIC 2024-0231.

The Commissioners unanimously voted to Deny the Motion for Reconsideration dated April 30, 2025 and received by the Commission on May 1, 2025, filed by Respondents in *Richard Kosinski v. State of Connecticut, Neutral Arbitrator Selection Committee; Douglas Cho, Director, State of Connecticut, Connecticut Board of Mediation and Arbitration; and State of Connecticut, Connecticut Board of Mediation and Arbitration*, Docket #FIC 2024-0231.

Attorney Mary-Kate Smith reported on the Superior Court Decision dated May 6, 2025 in Chief, Police Department, City of Bridgeport v. Freedom of Information Commission, Docket No. HHB-CV-23-6081763S. The Court upheld the Commission's Final Decision in Docket #FIC 2022-0363, *Evan Parzych v. Chief, Police Department, City of Bridgeport; Police Department, City of Bridgeport; and City of Bridgeport*. The Commissioners took no action.

Director of Education and Communications Russell Blair reported on FOI-related legislation that is pending in the General Assembly.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

/s/ Russell Blair
Russell Blair

AMENDMENTS*

Docket #FIC 2024-0302 John Blessington v. Charman, Board of Directors, Willington Public Library; and Board of Directors, Willington Public Library

The Hearing Officer's Report is amended as follows:

9. THE COMMISSION NOTES THAT TRAINING NORMALLY WOULD BE WARRANTED UNDER THE FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF THIS CASE. HOWEVER, IN ITS DISCRETION, THE COMMISSION DECLINES TO IMPOSE TRAINING AS A REMEDY BASED ON THE FACT THAT THE COMMISSION'S STAFF CONDUCTED FOI ACT TRAINING FOR THE RESPONDENTS ON NOVEMBER 25, 2024, AFTER THE HEARING ON THIS MATTER.

1. [Within two weeks of the date of the Notice of Final Decision in this matter, the respondents shall contact the Commission's Director of Education and Communications to schedule training on the FOI Act.

2.] Henceforth, the respondents shall strictly comply with the open meeting and minutes provisions of §1-225(a), G.S.

Docket #FIC 2024-0332 Joseph Sokolovic v. Chair, Board of Education, Bridgeport Public Schools; and Board of Education, Bridgeport Public Schools

The entirety of the Hearing Officer's Report following the first introductory paragraph is stricken, and the following is substituted:

BY EMAIL DATED MAY 14, 2025, THE COMPLAINANT INFORMED THE COMMISSION THAT HE WISHED TO WITHDRAW THE COMPLAINT IN THE ABOVE-CAPTIONED MATTER. THE COMMISSION TAKES ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICE OF SUCH WITHDRAWAL.

THE FOLLOWING ORDER BY THE COMMISSION IS HEREBY RECOMMENDED ON THE BASIS OF THE RECORD CONCERNING THE ABOVE-CAPTIONED COMPLAINT:

1. BASED ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE COMPLAINT, THE COMPLAINT IS DISMISSED.

Docket #FIC 2024-0353 TaShun Bowden-Lewis v. Chairperson, State of Connecticut,
Public Defender Services Commission; and State of
Connecticut, Public Defender Services Commission

Paragraphs 39 and 40 of the Hearing Officer's Report are amended as follows:

39. [It is found that, b] **By** email dated May 14, 2024, the Deputy Associate Attorney General/Chief of the Employment, Workers' Compensation and Labor Section of the State of Connecticut Office of the Attorney General informed the complainant's counsel that a special hearing that had been scheduled to take place on May 21, 2024 in the matter of Tashun Bowden-Lewis would not be going forward as scheduled and that the special hearing would instead take place on June 4, 2024.

40. [It is found that t] The respondent commission convened a special meeting on May 21, 2024 ("May 21, 2024 Meeting"). [It is found that t] The minutes for the May 21, 2024 Meeting state that the respondent commission convened in executive session to discuss Tashun Bowden-Lewis. [It is found that n] Neither the complainant nor her counsel was present at the May 21, 2024 Meeting[, due to the email described in paragraph 39, above].

Docket #FIC 2024-0357 Andrew Brown and The Connecticut Mirror v. Commissioner,
State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health; and State of
Connecticut, Department of Public Health

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

¹The Commission notes that the Children's Center of Hamden is a privately [owned] **OPERATED** psychiatric residential treatment facility ("PRTF") that provides services to individuals under the age of 21.