



**Minutes of the Government Records Council
March 26, 2019 – Closed Session**

The Council convened in closed session at 1:40 p.m. in Conference Room 129 of the Department of Community Affairs, Trenton, New Jersey. In attendance were: Robin Berg Tabakin, Esq. (Chairwoman), Jennifer Simons, Esq. (designee of Department of Education Commissioner, Dr. Lamont Repollet), Donald Palombi, Esq. (designee of Department of Community Affairs Commissioner, Lt. Governor Sheila Y. Oliver), and Steven Ritardi, Esq. (Public Member).

Also, in attendance were GRC Staff: Frank F. Caruso (Acting Executive Director), Rosemond Bordzoe (Secretary), John Stewart (Mediator) Samuel Rosado (Staff Attorney), and Deputy Attorney General Debra Allen.

Ms. Berg Tabakin called for a motion to go into closed session. Mr. Ritardi made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Palombi. The Council adopted the motion by a unanimous vote.

The Council met in closed session pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(7) to receive legal advice and discuss anticipated litigation in which the public body may become a party in the following matters:

- Edwin Sheppard (**FC Recusal**)
- Matthew Drange v. City of Plainfield Police Department (Union) (2015-229)
- Luis F. Rodriguez v. Kean University (2016-86)

Mr. Rosado introduced Mr. Sheppard's issues to the Council, including objections to counsel in his complaints, several of Mr. Sheppard's public comments at prior meetings, and potential recusal issues. The Council discussed multiple ideas for addressing these issues. DAG Allen provided legal advice to the Council on each issue. Mr. Caruso was not present during this discussion due to a recusal.

Mr. Rosado introduced GRC Complaint No. 2015-229 to the Council. The Council reviewed the records at issue here *in camera* and agreed with the conclusions as written.

Mr. Rosado introduced GRC Complaint No. 2016-85 to the Council. The Council reviewed the records *in camera* and agreed with the conclusions with a minor change to clarify that non-student employee names must be disclosed.

Ms. Berg Tabakin called for a motion to end the closed session. Mr. Palombi made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Simons. The Council adopted the motion by a unanimous vote. The closed session meeting concluded at 2:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Robin Berg Tabakin, Esq., Chair

Date Approved: April 30, 2019