

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 24, 2023 MEETING
OF THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
225 E. STATE STREET, 5TH FLOOR EAST
11 a.m.

Present: Chair Stephanie A. Brown, Vice Chair Patricia C. Morgan, Commissioner Sarah Adelman, Commissioner Victor J. Herlinsky, Jr., Commissioner Babatunde P. Odubekun, Executive Director Joy-Michele Johnson, Deputy Director Christina C. Fullam, Assistant Attorney General Melissa Dutton Schaffer and members of the Commission staff.

I. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIR BROWN

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:24 a.m. by Chair Brown. The Chair announced that adequate notice of the date, time and place of the meeting had been provided to the Office of the Secretary of State on December 6, 2022 to be posted prominently on a board reserved for such announcements. On the same date, identical notices of the meeting date were distributed to two major newspapers in New Jersey.

II. MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 29, 2022 MEETING

Commission members had one change to the November 29, 2022 Minutes. The minutes were approved as corrected.

III. RECESS OF THE OPEN MEETING

Chair Brown moved that the open session be recessed and that, pursuant to Section 10:4-12(b) of the Open Public Meetings Act, the Commission enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters, matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, and investigations of possible violations of the law. Pursuant to Section 10:4-13(b) of the Act, the discussion conducted in closed session may be disclosed to the public when there is no longer a need to maintain the confidentiality of same. Commissioner Odubekun seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried 5 to 0 (Adelman, Brown, Herlinsky, Morgan and Odubekun).

IV. RECONVENING OF THE OPEN MEETING

Following the Executive Session, Chair Brown reconvened the open meeting.

V. CASES

**46-17 Christopher Rodriguez
Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness
Commission Case No. 46-17**

Commissioner Odubekun moved that the Commission approve the proposed Consent Order and authorize the Executive Director and Vice Chair to sign it. Commissioner Adelman seconded the motion, which was passed 4 to 0 (Adelman, Herlinsky, Morgan and Odubekun). Chair Brown recused.

**22-22 Mark Levenson
Department of State
Commission Case No. 22-22**

Commissioner Adelman moved that pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 19:61-3.1(g)*, the Commission dismiss the allegations that Mark Levenson violated Sections 23(e)(3) and 23(e)(7) of the Conflicts Law. Commissioner Odubekun seconded the motion, 4 to 0 (Adelman, Brown, Morgan and Odubekun). Commissioner Herlinsky recused.

**48-22 Report of Preliminary Investigation
State Parole Board
Commission Case No. 48-22**

Commissioner Adelman moved that the Commission authorize SPB to proceed with disciplinary action against an individual for violating Section II, Preamble and Paragraph 4 of the UEC as alleged in the material submitted. Commissioner Odubekun seconded the motion, 5 to 0 (Adelman, Brown, Herlinsky, Morgan and Odubekun).

**01-23 Report of Preliminary Investigation
Department of Corrections
Commission Case No. 01-23**

Commissioner Herlinsky moved that the Commission authorize DOC to proceed with disciplinary action against an individual for violating Section II paragraph 5 of the UEC as alleged in the materials submitted. Commissioner Adelman seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Adelman, Brown, Morgan, Herlinsky and Odubekun).

**02-23 Report of Preliminary Investigation
Department of Law and Public Safety
Commission Case No. 02-23**

Commissioner Odubekun moved that the Commission authorize the Department to proceed with disciplinary action against an individual for violating Section II Paragraphs 3, 4, and 5 of the UEC as alleged in the materials submitted. Commissioner Morgan seconded the motion, which was passed 3 to 1 (Brown, Morgan and Odubekun, Herlinsky opposed). Commissioner Adelman abstained.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE

2022 Compliance Report

Compliance Officer Rachel Santitoro presented the 2022 Compliance Reviews to the Commission and reported on the updates to the Compliance program beginning 2023.

Casino Waiver Consent

Commissioner Adelman moved that the Commission approve casino employment waivers for Hudson (Stockton), D'Ambrosio (Stockton), Steinacker (Stockton), Monroe (CRDA), Salway (CRDA) and Daniel (LWD). Commissioner Odubekun seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Adelman, Brown, Herlinsky, Morgan and Odubekun).

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice Chair Morgan moved to adjourn the meeting. Chair Brown seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Shanna Cook

Shanna Cook, Administrative Assistant
State Ethics Commission
Date: March 14, 2023