

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 28, 2023 MEETING  
OF THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
225 E. STATE STREET, 5<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR EAST  
10 a.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Present:** Commissioner Sarah Adelman, Commissioner Brian Bridges, Commissioner Victor J. Herlinsky, Jr., Commissioner Christine Norbut Beyer, Executive Director Joy-Michele Johnson, Deputy Director Christina C. Fullam, Assistant Attorney General Melissa Dutton Schaffer and members of the Commission staff. Chair Stephanie A. Brown and Commissioner Babatunde P. Odubekun participated by telephone. Vice Chair Patricia C. Morgan arrived at 10:25 a.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

**I. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIR BROWN**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:11 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 SEPTEMBER 26, 2023 MEETING**

Commission members had no changes to the September 26, 2023 Minutes, which were approved unanimously on motion of Commissioner Herlinsky, seconded by Commissioner Bridges, following the Executive Session of the meeting. Vice Chair Morgan was not present for the vote and Commissioner Adelman abstained.

**III. RECESS OF THE OPEN MEETING**

Commissioner Bridges 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 Adelman seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried 6 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky, Norbut Beyer and Odubekun). Vice Chair Morgan was not present for the vote.

#### **IV. RECONVENING OF THE OPEN MEETING**

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

#### **V. CASES**

**16-20            Report of Preliminary Investigation  
                    Department of Health  
                    Commission Case No. 16-20**

Commissioners discussed the status of this matter in executive session and no action was taken. Vice Chair Morgan recused and was not present in the room during the discussion.

**36-21            Report of Preliminary Investigation  
                    Department of Education  
                    Commission Case No. 36-21**

Commissioner Norbut Beyer moved that pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 19:61-3.1(h)*, the Commission find indications that the individual violated section 23(e)(3) and 23(e)(7) of the Conflicts Law, as well as the Recusal Rule, *N.J.A.C. 19:61-7.1 et seq.*, and Section 23(e)(7) of the Conflicts Law; and that the Commission authorize staff to undertake efforts to settle the matter by way of Consent Order prior to the filing of the Complaint in the Office of Administrative Law. Commissioner Bridges seconded the motion, which was passed 4 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown and Norbut Beyer) Commissioner Herlinsky and Commissioner Odubekun abstained. Vice Chair Morgan recused.

**52-23            Report of Preliminary Investigation  
                    Motor Vehicle Commission  
                    Commission Case No. 52-23**

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission authorize MVC to proceed with disciplinary action against the individual for violating Section II, paragraphs 4 and 5 and Section III of the UEC by processing transactions for vehicle dealerships and title services without the customer present and without authorization from upper management, as well as accepting compensation from an outside source for doing so. Commissioner Adelman seconded the motion, which was passed 7 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky, Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Odubekun).

**53-23            Request for Advice  
                    Voluntary Advisory Committee Members  
                    Real Estate Commission  
                    Department of Banking and Insurance  
                    Commission Case No. 53-23**

Commissioner Herlinsky moved that pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 52:13D-21(g)*, issue an advisory opinion to the members of the Voluntary Advisory Committee that the July 21, 2011 Advisory Opinion of this Commission issued to the Real Estate Commission is applicable to them, and that therefore, they may not act as continuing education providers for licensed real estate brokers, salespersons, or broker/salespersons while they serve on the VAC. Commissioner Bridges seconded the motion, which was passed 7 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky, Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Odubekun).

**55-23            Report of Preliminary Investigation**

**Department of Children and Families**  
**Commission Case No. 55-23**

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission authorize DCF to proceed with disciplinary action against the individual for violating Section II, paragraph 4 of the UEC, as alleged in the materials submitted. Commissioner Adelman seconded the motion, 6 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky, Morgan and Odubekun). Commissioner Norbut Beyer recused.

**VI. ADMINISTRATIVE**

**Casino Waiver Consent**

Commissioner Norbut Beyer moved that the Commission approve casino employment waivers for Salvo (DLPS), Patel (DLPS), Madrid (Stockton) and Suhr (CCC). Commissioner Herlinsky seconded the motion, which was passed 7 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky, Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Odubekun).

**2024 Meeting Dates**

Vice Chair Morgan moved that the Commission approved the proposed 2024 meeting dates. Commissioner Bridges seconded the motion, which was passed 7 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky, Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Odubekun).

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Commissioner Herlinsky moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Bridges seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

*Shanna Cook*

Shanna Cook, Executive Assistant  
State Ethics Commission  
Date: January 16, 2024