

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 9, 2024 MEETING
OF THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
225 E. STATE STREET, 5TH FLOOR EAST
10 a.m.

Present: Chair Stephanie A. Brown, Vice Chair Patricia Morgan, Commissioner Brian Bridges, Commissioner Victor J. Herlinsky, Jr., Commissioner Babatunde P. Odubekun, Deputy Director Christina C. Fullam, Assistant Attorney General Melissa Schaffer, Assistant Attorney General David Apy and members of the Commission staff.

I. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIR BROWN

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:07 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 November 29, 2023 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 MARCH 12, 2024 MEETING

Commission members had no changes to the March 12, 2024 Minutes, which were approved unanimously on motion of Commissioner Bridges, seconded by Commissioner Herlinsky, following the Executive Session of the meeting. Vice Chair Morgan abstained.

III. RECESS OF THE OPEN MEETING

Vice Chair Morgan 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 Bridges seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried 5 to 0 (Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky, Morgan and Odubekun).

IV. RECONVENING OF THE OPEN MEETING

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

V. CASES

58-23 Report of Preliminary Investigation Department of Children and Families Commission Case No. 58-23

Commissioner Bridges moved that pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 19:61-3.1(h), the Commission find indications that the individual violated Section II, paragraphs 4 and 7 of the Uniform Ethics Code (“UEC”), as well as Section G, paragraph 3 of the DCF Supplemental Code of Ethics, by representing his outside employer in a matter pending before the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (“DCP&P”), but not violations of Section II, paragraph 5 of the UEC or Section H, paragraph 3 of the DCF Supplemental Code of Ethics. Vice Chair Morgan seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky, Morgan and Odubekun).

05-24 Report of Preliminary Investigation Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Commission Case No. 05-24

Commissioner Odubekun moved that pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 19:61-3.1(h), the Commission find indications that the individual violated Section II, paragraph 4 and Section VI of the Uniform Ethics Code (“UEC”) by using his State vehicle to deliver DoorDash, an outside business activity which he did not disclose on his Outside Activity Questionnaire (“OAQ”). Commissioner Herlinsky seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky, Morgan and Odubekun).

06-24 Report of Preliminary Investigation Department of Law and Public Safety Commission Case No. 06-24

Commissioner Herlinsky moved that pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 19:61-3.1(h), the Commission find indications that the individual violated Section II, paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Uniform Ethics Code (“UEC”) by invoking his State position while making threats to local government employees. Commissioner Bridges seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky, Morgan and Odubekun).

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE

Casino Waiver Consent

Vice Chair Morgan moved that the Commission approve casino employment waivers for Gyening (NJTransit), Cahill (Stockton), Cargill (Stockton), Myers-Reid (Stockton), Steinacker (Stockton), Shah (LWD), Povolny (LWD), Marques (LWD), Salas (DOH), Moreau (LWD). Commissioner Herlinsky seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky, Morgan and Odubekun).

Cannabis Waiver Consent

Commissioner Odubekun moved that the Commission approve a cannabis employment waiver for Hardrick (NJIT). Commissioner Herlinsky seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky, Morgan and Odubekun).

Personnel Matter

Commissioner Herlinsky moved to appoint Christina Fullam to the position of Executive Director of the State Ethics Commission effective April 9, 2024. Commissioner Bridges seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky, Morgan and Odubekun).

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Shanna Cook

Shanna Cook, Executive Assistant
State Ethics Commission
Date: June 18, 2024