

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 25, 2024 MEETING  
OF THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
225 E. STATE STREET, 5<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR EAST  
10 a.m.

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**Present:** Chair Stephanie A. Brown, Commissioner Sarah Adelman, Commissioner Brian Bridges, Commissioner Victor J. Herlinsky, Jr., Commissioner Christine Norbut Beyer, Executive Director Christina C. Fullam, Assistant Attorney General David Apy and members of the Commission staff. Vice Chair Patricia Morgan and Commissioner Babatunde P. Odubekun participated by telephone.

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**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 APRIL 9, 2024 MEETING**

Commission members had no changes to the April 9, 2024 Minutes, which were approved unanimously on motion of Commissioner Herlinsky, seconded by Commissioner Odubekun, following the Executive Session of the meeting. Commissioner Adelman abstained.

**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 Herlinsky seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried 7 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky, Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Odubekun).

**IV. RECONVENING OF THE OPEN MEETING**

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

## **V. CASES**

**36-21      Yasmin E. Hernandez  
Department of Education  
Commission Case No. 36-21 COMPLAINT UPDATE**

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission approve the Complaint and authorize it to be served on Yasmin Hernandez and filed with the Office of Administrative Law, in the event that she files an Answer denying the allegations. Commissioner Norbut Beyer seconded the motion, which was passed 6 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky, Norbut Beyer and Odubekun). Vice Chair Morgan recused.

**09-24      Appeal of Denial of Secondary Employment Request  
Department of Children and Families  
Commission Case No. 09-24**

Commissioner Herlinsky moved that the Commission affirm the decision of the Department's Ethics Liaison Officer that the individual's secondary employment is not approvable. Commissioner Bridges seconded the motion, which was passed 6 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky, Morgan and Odubekun). Commissioner Norbut Beyer recused.

**10-24      Report of Preliminary Investigation  
Department of Law and Public Safety  
Commission Case No. 10-24**

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 5 of the Uniform Ethics Code ("UEC") by showing his badge and invoking his State position in an incident with a civilian while off-duty. Commissioner Herlinsky seconded the motion, which was passed 7 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky, Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Odubekun).

**12-24      Report of Preliminary Investigation  
Department of Banking and Insurance  
Commission Case No. 12-24**

Commissioner Adelman moved that pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 19:61-3.1(h)*, the Commission find indications that the individual violated Section II, paragraph 6 of the Uniform Ethics Code ("UEC") by disclosing confidential information, including personal identifying information ("PII") to the target of an investigation he was conducting. Commissioner Herlinsky seconded the motion, which was passed 7 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky, Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Odubekun).

**13-24      Report of Preliminary Investigation  
Stockton University  
Commission Case No. 13-24**

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 II, paragraphs 3, 4, and 5 of the Uniform Ethics Code ("UEC") by initiating the approval of their own supplemental pay, without proper authorization or notice, and by keeping said supplemental pay while on a leave from Stockton

when they were not performing the duties for which they were receiving supplemental pay. Commissioner Adelman seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 1 (Adelman, Brown, Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Odubekun, Commissioner Herlinsky opposed). Commissioner Bridges recused.

## **VI. ADMINISTRATIVE**

### **Supplemental Code of Ethics - Department of Health**

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission approve the supplemental code for the DOH. Commissioner Odubekun seconded the motion, which was passed 7 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky, Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Odubekun).

### **Appeal of 2024 FDS/COI Penalties**

Commissioner Norbut Beyer moved that the Commission approve the request for waivers of the civil penalty incurred due to the late filing of their Financial Disclosure Statements or Conflicts of Interest forms for Nassarallah (HESAA), Goodale (SPB) and Pottinger (NJCU). Commissioner Adelman seconded the motion, which was passed 7 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky, Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Odubekun).

### **Casino Waiver Consent**

Commissioner Herlinsky moved that the Commission approve casino employment waivers for Martiere (SPB), DiTizio (LWD), Bohn (DOC) and Berry (Stockton). Commissioner Bridges seconded the motion, which was passed 7 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky, Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Odubekun).

Commissioner Herlinsky moved that the Commission approve casino employment waivers for Cantz (DCF), Powell (DCF), Psilopoulos (DCF) and Holland (DCF). Commissioner Bridges seconded the motion, which was passed 6 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky, Morgan and Odubekun). Commissioner Norbut Beyer recused.

### **Cannabis Waiver Consent**

Commissioner Herlinsky moved that the Commission approve a cannabis employment waiver for Joseph (DCF). Commissioner Adelman seconded the motion, which was passed 6 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky, Morgan and Odubekun). Commissioner Norbut Beyer recused.

Commissioner Herlinsky moved that the Commission approve a cannabis employment waiver for Williams (Rutgers) and Nance (DLPS). Commissioner Norbut Beyer seconded the motion, which was passed 7 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky, Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Odubekun).

**IX. 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: September 10, 2024