

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 17, 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:** Vice Chair Patricia Morgan, Commissioner Brian Bridges, Commissioner Christine Norbut Beyer, Commissioner Babatunde P. Odubekun, Executive Director Christina C. Fullam, Deputy Director Shamecca Bernardini, Assistant Attorney General David Apy and members of the Commission staff. Commissioner Sarah Adelman participated by telephone beginning at 10:28 a.m.

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**I. CALL TO ORDER BY VICE CHAIR MORGAN**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:05 a.m. by Vice Chair Morgan. The Vice 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 JUNE 25, 2024 MEETING**

Commission members had no changes to the June 25, 2024 Minutes, which were approved unanimously on motion of Commissioner Odubekun, seconded by Commissioner Norbut Beyer, following the Executive Session of the meeting. Commissioner Adelman was not present at this time.

**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 4 to 0 (Bridges, Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Odubekun).

**IV. RECONVENING OF THE OPEN MEETING**

Following the Executive Session, Vice Chair Morgan reconvened the open meeting.

## **V. CASES**

### **42-22            Report of Preliminary Investigation Department of Banking and Insurance Commission Case No. 42-22**

Commissioner Norbut Beyer moved that the Commission find indications that the individual violated *N.J.A.C.* 19:61-5.9 by failing to file an OAQ 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 (Bridges, Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Odubekun).

## **VI. 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 Norbut Beyer seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried 4 to 0 (Bridges, Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Odubekun).

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

Following the Executive Session, Vice Chair Morgan reconvened the open meeting.

### **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 left the room for the discussion.

### **22-23            Jill Ross Department of Banking and Insurance Commission Case No. 22-23**

Commissioner Bridges moved that, pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 19:61-3.1(g), the Commission find that there are indications that Ross committed a technical violation of *N.J.A.C.* 19:61-5.9 and Section VI of the Uniform Ethics Code (“UEC”) by failing to complete an Outside Activity Questionnaire, as well as of the Recusal Rule, *N.J.A.C.* 19:61-7.1 et seq., but that the Commission should exercise its discretion and decline to take any further action as to Ross’s failure to file an OAQ and appropriate recusal given the lack of ethics training and guidance and dismiss these allegations, along with dismissing the allegations that Ross violated *N.J.S.A.* 52:13D-23(e)(3) and 23(e)(7) as

not supported by the evidence.

Commissioner Norbut Beyer seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Odubekun).

**15-24            Report of Preliminary Investigation  
State Parole Board  
Commission Case No. 15-24**

Commissioner Odubekun moved that the Commission authorize the State Parole Board to proceed with disciplinary action against the individual for violating Section VI of the UEC as alleged in the materials submitted and advise the Ethics Liaison Officer to review the proposed bar on outside employment. Commissioner Bridges seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Odubekun).

**16-24            Report of Preliminary Investigation  
Department of Health  
Commission Case No. 16-24**

Commissioner Norbut Beyer moved that the Commission authorize the Department of Health to proceed with disciplinary action against the individual for violating Section II, paragraphs 4 and 5 and Section III of the UEC as alleged in the materials submitted. Commissioner Odubekun seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Odubekun).

**17-24            Report of Preliminary Investigation  
Department of Transportation  
Commission Case No. 17-24**

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission authorize the Department of Transportation to proceed with disciplinary action against the individual for violating Section VIII of the UEC as alleged in the materials submitted. Commissioner Odubekun seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Odubekun).

**19-24            Report of Preliminary Investigation  
Department of Corrections  
Commission Case No. 19-24**

Commissioner Norbut Beyer moved that the Commission authorize the Department of Corrections to proceed with disciplinary action against the individual for violating Section II, paragraph 4 and Section IX of the UEC as alleged in the materials submitted. Commissioner Odubekun seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Odubekun).

**20-24            Report of Preliminary Investigation  
Motor Vehicle Commission  
Commission Case No. 20-24**

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission authorize the Motor Vehicle Commission to proceed with disciplinary action against the individual for violating Section II, paragraph 4 and paragraph 5 of the UEC as alleged in the materials submitted. Commissioner Odubekun seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Odubekun).

**21-24            Report of Preliminary Investigation  
Department of Community Affairs  
Commission Case No. 21-24**

Commissioner Norbut Beyer moved that the Commission authorize the Department of Community Affairs to proceed with disciplinary action against the individual for violating Section II, paragraphs 4 and 5 of the UEC as alleged in the materials submitted. Commissioner Bridges seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Odubekun).

**22-24            Report of Preliminary Investigation  
Department of Corrections  
Commission Case No. 22-24**

Commissioner Odubekun moved that the Commission authorize the Department of Corrections to proceed with disciplinary action against the individual for violating Section II, paragraphs 4, 5, and 7 of the UEC as alleged in the materials submitted. Commissioner Norbut Beyer seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Odubekun).

**23-24            Report of Preliminary Investigation  
Department of Education  
Commission Case No. 23-24**

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission authorize the Department of Education to proceed with disciplinary action against the individual for violating Section II, paragraph 5 of the UEC, as alleged in the materials submitted. Commissioner Norbut Beyer seconded the motion, which was passed 4 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Norbut Beyer and Odubekun). Vice Chair Morgan recused.

**24-24            Report of Preliminary Investigation  
Department of Transportation  
Commission Case No. 24-24**

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission authorize the Department of Transportation to proceed with disciplinary action against the individual for violating Section II, paragraph 4 and Section VI of the UEC, as alleged in the materials submitted. Commissioner Norbut Beyer seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Odubekun).

**25-24            Mukesh Roy, Trustee  
Stockton University  
Request for EO 14 (Corzine, 2006) Exception  
Commission Case No. 25-24**

Commissioner Odubekun moved that the Commission approve of the proposed waiver, as continuing the relationship between Stockton's student organizations and Nizam's Restaurant is in the public interest, to provide appropriate catering options for Stockton's student organization events. Commissioner Norbut Beyer seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Odubekun).

**26-24            Report of Preliminary Investigation**

**Department of Children and Families**  
**Commission Case No. 26-24**

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission authorize the Department of Children and Families to proceed with disciplinary action against the individual for violating Section II, paragraphs 4 and 5 of the UEC, as well as Section B, paragraphs 2 and 3, and Section G, paragraph 4, of the DCF Supplemental Code of Ethics, as alleged in the materials submitted. Commissioner Odubekun seconded the motion, which was passed 4 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Morgan and Odubekun). Commissioner Norbut Beyer recused.

**27-24            Report of Preliminary Investigation**  
**Department of Children and Families**  
**Commission Case No. 27-24**

Commissioner Odubekun moved that the Commission authorize the Department of Children and Families to proceed with disciplinary action against the individual for violating Section II, paragraphs 4 and 5 of the UEC, as well as Section B, paragraphs 2 and 3, and Section G, paragraph 4, of the DCF Supplemental Code of Ethics, as alleged in the materials submitted. Commissioner Bridges seconded the motion, which was passed 4 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Morgan and Odubekun). Commissioner Norbut Beyer recused.

**28-24            Report of Preliminary Investigation**  
**New Jersey Transit**  
**Commission Case No. 34-24**

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission authorize New Jersey Transit to proceed with disciplinary action against the individual for violating Section XIII of the UEC and the Anti-Nepotism Policy provisions of NJT's Supplemental Code of Ethics, as alleged in the materials submitted. Commissioner Norbut Beyer seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Odubekun).

**VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE**

**Casino Waiver Consent**

Commissioner Odubekun moved that the Commission approve casino employment waivers for Griffin (Stockton), Pozniewski (Stockton), Coleman (SPB), Kowalski (Stockton) and Salikram (DLPS). Commissioner Norbut Beyer seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Odubekun).

**Cannabis Waiver Consent**

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission approve a cannabis employment waiver for Bethke (DLPS), Sicknick (Stockton), Grant (DOC) and Cespuglio (DOC). Commissioner Norbut Beyer seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Morgan and Odubekun).

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission approve a cannabis employment waiver for Valian (DCF). Commissioner Odubekun seconded the motion, which was passed 4 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Morgan and Odubekun). Commissioner Norbut Beyer recused.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Shanna Cook*

Shanna Cook, Executive Assistant  
State Ethics Commission  
Date: November 25, 2024