

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2, 2025 MEETING
OF THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
225 E. STATE STREET, 5TH FLOOR EAST
10 a.m.
(*Meeting was conducted via Zoom)

Present: Chair Stephanie Brown, Vice Chair Patricia Morgan, Commissioner Sarah Adelman, Commissioner Brian Bridges, Commissioner Christine Norbut Beyer, Commissioner Carrie Parikh, Commissioner Peter Stokes, Executive Director Christina C. Fullam, Deputy Director Shamecca Bernardini, Assistant Attorney General Rachel Doobrajh and members of the Commission staff.

I. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIR BROWN

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:01 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 5, 2024, 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.

Due to inclement weather in certain areas of New Jersey, the meeting was transferred to a virtual-only meeting on November 30, 2025. On same date, identical notices of the change in meeting format was provided to the Office of the Secretary of State, to be posted prominently on a board reserved for such announcements as well as distributed to two major newspapers in New Jersey.

II. MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 30, 2025 MEETING

Commission members had no changes to the September 30, 2025 Minutes, which were approved unanimously on motion of Commissioner Bridges, seconded by Commissioner Parikh, following the Executive Session of the meeting.

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 entered 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 7 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Morgan, Norbut Beyer, Parikh and Stokes).

IV. RECONVENING THE OPEN MEETING

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

V. CASES

**26-20 Paul Menz
 Department of Transportation
 Commission Case No. 26-20**

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission dismiss the allegations that Paul Menz violated the recusal rule *N.J.A.C. 19:61-7.1 et seq.* and *N.J.S.A. 52:13D-23(e)(3)* and *23(e)(7)*. Commissioner Norbut Beyer seconded the motion, which was passed 7 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Morgan, Norbut Beyer, Parikh and Stokes).

Commissioner Parikh moved that the Commission dismiss allegations that Paul Menz violated Section 17 of the Conflicts Law. Chair Brown seconded the motion, which was passed 7 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Morgan, Norbut Beyer, Parikh and Stokes).

**07-22 Report of Preliminary Investigations
 Department of Labor and Workforce Development
 Commission Case No. 07-22**

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission find indications that the former State official did violate Sections 23(e)(3) and 23(e)(7) of the Conflicts Law and/or Section II, paragraphs 4 and 5 of the UEC by attempting to receive an unwarranted benefit and/or violate the public trust by utilizing his access to the PUA system to review his family member's claim status, and that the Commission authorize staff to file a Complaint in the Office of Administrative Law. Chair Brown seconded the motion, which was passed 7 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Morgan, Norbut Beyer, Parikh and Stokes).

**16-23 Gissel Feliz
 Department of Corrections
 Commission Case No. 16-23**

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission dismiss the allegations that Gissel Feliz violated *N.J.S.A. 52:13D-25*, as well as Section II, paragraphs 4 and 6 of the Uniform Ethics Code and *N.J.S.A. 52:13D-23(e)(3)* and *23(e)(7)*. Commissioner Norbut Beyer seconded the motion, which was passed 7 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Morgan, Norbut Beyer, Parikh and Stokes).

**39-23 Zoe Scull
 Department of Health
 Commission Case No. 39-23**

Vice Chair Morgan moved that the Commission dismiss the allegations that Zoe Scull violated Section 25 of the Conflicts Law and/or Section 6 of the UEC. Commissioner Norbut Beyer seconded the motion, which was passed 6 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Morgan, Norbut Beyer, and Stokes). Commissioner Parikh recused.

48-23 Pablo Orozco

**Motor Vehicle Commission
Commission Case No. 48-23**

Chair Brown moved that the Commission dismiss the allegations that Pablo Orozco violated *N.J.S.A.* 52:13D-23(e)(3) and (e)(7) and/or Section II, paragraphs 4 and 5 and Section V of the Uniform Ethics Code. Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion, which was passed 7 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Morgan, Norbut Beyer, Parikh and Stokes).

**42-24A Jessica Nielsen
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Commission Case No. 42-24A**

Commissioner Parikh moved that the Commission dismiss the allegations that Jessica Nielsen violated Sections 23(e)(3) and 23(e)(7) of the Conflicts Law, and/or Section II, paragraphs 4 and 5 of the UEC, and further dismiss alleged violations that Jessica Nielsen violated the Recusal Rule, *N.J.A.C.* 19:61-7.1 et seq., or Sections 14 and 23(e)(6) of the Conflicts Law, UEC Section III and *N.J.A.C.* 19:61-6.9. Commissioner Norbut Beyer seconded the motion, which was passed 7 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Morgan, Norbut Beyer, Parikh and Stokes).

**42-24B Kia Inman
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Commission Case No. 42-24B**

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission dismiss the allegations that Kia Inman violated Sections 23(e)(3) and 23(e)(7) of the Conflicts Law, and/or Section II, paragraphs 4 and 5 of the UEC. Commissioner Adelman seconded the motion, which was passed 7 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Morgan, Norbut Beyer, Parikh and Stokes).

**37-25 Kunal Kaushal
Department of Transportation
Commission Case No. 37-25**

Commissioner Adelman moved that the Commission dismiss the allegations that Kunal Kaushal violated Sections 23(e)(3) and 23(e)(7) of the Conflicts Law and/or Section II, paragraphs 4 and 5 of the UEC or Section VIII of the UEC and Section 23(e)(7). Commissioner Norbut Beyer seconded the motion, which was passed 6 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Stokes). Commissioner Parikh recused.

**43-25 Harris Laufer
Cannabis Regulatory Commission
Commission Case No. 43-25**

Commissioner Parikh moved that the Commission grant the waiver to Laufer, pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 24:6I-24b(6)(b), to be seated as a CRC Commissioner. Commissioner Bridges seconded the motion, which was passed 6 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Morgan, Norbut Beyer, Parikh and Stokes). Chair Brown recused.

VI. 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 entered 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 6 to 0 (Bridges, Brown, Morgan, Norbut Beyer, Parikh and Stokes).

VII. RECONVENING THE OPEN MEETING

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

VIII. CASES

50-25 Report of Preliminary Investigation Department of Health Commission Case No. 50-25

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

51-25 Collins Day, Sr. Stockton University Request for Exception to Executive Order 14 (Corzine, 2006) Commission Case No. 51-25

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission approve the proposed waiver of Executive Order 14. Commissioner Norbut Beyer seconded the motion, which was passed 6 to 0 (Bridges, Brown, Morgan, Norbut Beyer, Parikh and Stokes)

52-25 Report of Preliminary Investigation Department of Health Commission Case No. 52-25

Vice Chair Morgan moved that the Commission authorize the Department to proceed with disciplinary action against the individual for the alleged violation of Section II, paragraphs 4 and 5 as well as Section VI of the Uniform Ethics Code, as alleged in the materials submitted. Commissioner Bridges seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Bridges, Brown, Morgan Norbut Beyer and Stokes). Commissioner Parikh recused.

53-25 Report of Preliminary Investigation Department of Children and Families Commission Case No. 53-25

Vice Chair Morgan moved that the Commission authorize the Department to proceed with disciplinary action against the individual for the alleged violation of Section II, paragraph 5 and Section VI of the Uniform Ethics Code, as well as Section H, paragraphs 1 and 12 of the DCF Supplemental Code of Ethics, as alleged in the materials submitted. Commissioner Bridges

seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Bridges, Brown, Morgan, Parikh and Stokes). Commissioner Norbut Beyer recused.

**54-25 Report of Preliminary Investigation
Department of Children and Families
Commission Case No. 54-25**

Commissioner Parikh moved that the Commission authorize the Department to proceed with disciplinary action against the individual for the alleged violation of Section II, paragraphs 4 and 5 of the UEC, as well as Section B, paragraph 3 and Section G, paragraphs 1 and 3 of the DCF Supplemental Code of Ethics, as alleged in the materials submitted. Commissioner Bridges seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Bridges, Brown, Morgan, Parikh and Stokes). Commissioner Norbut Beyer recused.

**55-25 Report of Preliminary Investigation
Department of Children and Families
Commission Case No. 55-25**

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission authorize the Department to proceed with disciplinary action against the individual for the alleged violation of Section II, paragraphs 4 and 6 of the UEC, as well as well as Section B, paragraphs 2 and 3 of the DCF Supplemental Code of Ethics, as alleged in the materials submitted. Commissioner Parikh seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Bridges, Brown, Morgan, Parikh and Stokes). Commissioner Norbut Beyer recused.

**56-25 Dhiraj Shah
New Jersey Institute of Technology
Request for Exception to Executive Order 14 (Corzine, 2006)
Commission Case No. 56-25**

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission approve the proposed waiver of Executive Order 14. Vice Chair Morgan seconded the motion, which was passed 6 to 0 (Bridges, Brown, Morgan, Norbut Beyer, Parikh and Stokes).

**59-25 Paul Aronsohn
Office of the Ombudsman for Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental
Disabilities and Their Families
Department of Treasury
Request for Advice
Commission Case No. 59-25**

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission render an advisory opinion, giving guidance on the permissibility of State employees contacting State agencies to receive services, either on their own behalf or representing a family member as a caregiver. Both are deemed permissible with limitations, as set forth in Advisory Opinion 45. Vice Chair Morgan seconded the motion, which was passed 6 to 0 (Bridges, Brown, Morgan, Norbut Beyer, Parikh and Stokes).

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE

Proposed 2026 Meeting Dates

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission approve the proposed 2026 Commission meeting dates. Vice Chair Morgan seconded the motion, which was passed 6 to 0 (Bridges, Brown, Morgan, Norbut Beyer, Parikh and Stokes).

Casino Waiver Consent

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission approve casino employment waivers for Casco-David (Stockton), Patel (Rowan) and Penate (LWD). Commissioner Parikh seconded the motion, which was passed 6 to 0 (Bridges, Brown, Morgan, Norbut Beyer, Parikh and Stokes).

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission approve casino employment waivers for Raeford (DCF) and Copsey (DCF). Chair Brown seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Bridges, Brown, Morgan, Parikh and Stokes). Commissioner Norbut Beyer recused.

Cannabis Waiver Consent

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission approve cannabis employment waiver for Green (DHS), Nance (DHS) and Roussell (Transit). Commissioner Norbut Beyer seconded the motion, which was passed 6 to 0 (Bridges, Brown, Morgan, Norbut Beyer, Parikh and Stokes).

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Shanna Cook

Shanna Cook, Executive Assistant
State Ethics Commission
Date: January 28, 2026