

MINUTES OF JUNE 3, 2025 MEETING
OF THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
225 E. STATE STREET, 5TH FLOOR EAST
10 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Brian Bridges, Executive Director Christina C. Fullam, Deputy Director Shamecca Bernardini, Assistant Attorney General Rachel Doobraj, Assistant Attorney General Matthew Reagan and members of the Commission staff.

Chair Brown, Vice Chair Patricia Morgan, Commissioner Sarah Adelman and Commissioner Victor Herlinsky participated by telephone.

I. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIR BROWN

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:04 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.

II. MINUTES OF THE APRIL 1, 2025 MEETING

Commission members had no changes to the April 1, 2025 Minutes, which were approved unanimously on motion of Commissioner Herlinsky, seconded by Commissioner Bridges, following the Executive Session of the meeting.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE

Appeal of 2025 FDS/COI Penalties

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission approve the request for waiver of the civil penalty incurred due to the late filing of their Financial Disclosure Statements or Conflicts of Interest forms for Morton (DVRPC). Commissioner Herlinsky seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky and Morgan).

Casino Waiver Consent

Commissioner Herlinsky moved that the Commission approve casino employment waivers for Rando (Stockton), Pfeifer (Stockton), Garth (Stockton), Wise (Stockton), Miller (Stockton), Puchalski (WPU), Ajayi-Joseph (BPU), Forcier, (DOT), Schuman (DLPS) and Diaz-Sandoval (NJTransit). Chair Brown seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky and Morgan).

Cannabis Waiver Consent

Commissioner Herlinsky moved that the Commission approve cannabis employment waiver for Williams (NJTransit). Commissioner Bridges seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky and Morgan).

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission approve cannabis employment waiver for Stone (DHS). Commissioner Herlinsky seconded the motion, which was passed 4 to 0 (Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky and Morgan).

IV. RECESS OF THE OPEN MEETING

Commissioner Herlinsky 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 Adelman seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried 5 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky and Morgan).

V. RECONVENING THE OPEN MEETING

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

V. CASES

44-21 Request for Reconsideration Department of Law and Public Safety Commission Case No. 44-21

Chair Brown moved that the Commission find indications that the former LPS employee violated the Recusal Rule, *N.J.A.C.* 19:61-7.1 seq., because, while they did transfer the relevant files to another attorney in their work unit, they did not formally recuse from those matters prior to soliciting Price Meese for employment. Commissioner Bridges seconded the motion, which was passed 3 to 2 (Bridges, Brown and Morgan in favor; Adelman and Herlinsky opposed).

Chair Brown moved that the Commission find indications that the former LPS employee violated the post-employment restrictions set forth in Section VIII of the UEC by directly soliciting an interested party with whom they had substantial and direct contact for employment, but exercise its discretion by declining to take further action as to this allegation and dismiss the allegation, and that all remaining allegations be dismissed. Commissioner Bridges seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky and Morgan).

46-22 Anika Andrews-Spillman
Department of Environmental Protection
Commission Case No. 46-22

Commissioner Herlinsky moved that the Commission approve the proposed settlement In the Matter of Anika Andrews-Spillman, with a civil penalty of \$1,500, as outlined in the Consent Order. Commissioner Bridges seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky and Morgan).

20-23 Julio Marengo
State Parole Board
Commission Case No 20-23

Vice Chair Morgan moved that pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 19:61-3.1(g)*, the Commission dismiss the allegations that Julio Marengo violated Sections 23(e)(3) and 23 (e)(7) of the Conflicts Law and Section II, paragraphs 4 and 5 as well as Section V of the UEC Commissioner Norbut Beyer seconded the motion, which was passed 4 to 0 (Adelman, Herlinsky, Morgan and Norbut Beyer). Commissioner Bridges recused.

14-25 Appeal of Denial of Secondary Employment Request
Rutgers University
Commission Case No. 14-25

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission reverse the decision of ELO Woods to disapprove the employee's OAQ, finding that the employee's outside employment is approvable with conditions to include adherence to the rules set forth in the Uniform Ethics Code. Commissioner Herlinsky seconded the motion, which was passed 4 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown and Herlinsky).

18-25 Report of Preliminary Investigation
Department of Corrections
Commission Case No. 18-25

Commissioner Herlinsky moved that the Commission authorize the Department to proceed with disciplinary action against the individual for alleged violations of Section II, paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of the UEC as alleged in the materials submitted. Commissioner Bridges seconded the motion, which was passed 4 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown and Herlinsky).

19-25 Report of Preliminary Investigation
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Commission Case No. 19-25

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission authorize the Department to proceed with disciplinary action against the individual for alleged violations of Section II, paragraphs 4 and 5 as well as Section VI of the UEC as alleged in the materials submitted. Commissioner Herlinsky seconded the motion, which was passed 4 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown and Herlinsky).

**20-25 Report of Preliminary Investigation
Department of Children and Families
Commission Case No. 20-25**

Commissioner Herlinsky moved that the Commission authorize the Department to proceed with disciplinary action against the individual for alleged violations of 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, Brown and Herlinsky).

**21-25 Sumit Mukherjee, Trustee
The College of New Jersey
Request for Exception to Executive Order 14 (Corzine, 2006)
Commission Case No. 21-25**

Commissioner Herlinsky moved that the Commission proposed waiver, as the contract between JP Morgan Chase and TCNJ is subject to the competitive bidding laws applicable to TCNJ. Commissioner Bridges seconded the motion, which was passed 4 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown and Herlinsky).

**22-25 Report of Preliminary Investigation
Department of Children and Families
Commission Case No. 22-25**

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission authorize the Department to proceed with disciplinary action against the individual for alleged violations of 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 Herlinsky seconded the motion, which was passed 4 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown and Herlinsky).

**24-25 Report of Preliminary Investigation
Department of Children and Families
Commission Case No. 24-25**

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission authorize the Department to proceed with disciplinary action against the individual for alleged violations of Section II, paragraphs 4, 5, and 6 of the UEC, as well as Section B, paragraphs 2 and 3 and Section G, paragraphs 1 and 4 of the DCF Supplemental Code of Ethics as alleged in the materials submitted. Commissioner Herlinsky seconded the motion, which was passed 4 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown and Herlinsky).

VI. 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: July 22, 2025