

MINUTES OF MARCH 11, 2025 MEETING
OF THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
225 E. STATE STREET, 5TH FLOOR EAST
10 a.m.

Present: Chair Stephanie Brown, Commissioner Sarah Adelman, Commissioner Brian Bridges, Commissioner Victor Herlinsky, Commissioner Christine Norbut Beyer, Executive Director Christina C. Fullam, Deputy Director Shamecca Bernardini, 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 February 3, 2025, 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 FEBRUARY 3, 2025 MEETING

Commission members had no changes to the February 3, 2025, Minutes, which were approved unanimously on motion of Commissioner Bridges, seconded by Commissioner Herlinsky, 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 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 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown and Herlinsky).

IV. RECONVENING THE OPEN MEETING

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

V. CASES

**16-20 Christopher Neuwirth
Department of Health
Commission Case No. 16-20**

Commissioner Norbut Beyer moved that the Commission dismiss the allegations that Christopher Neuwirth 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) by using his State position to benefit his outside business interest. Commissioner Bridges seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky and Norbut Beyer).

**46-22 Report of Preliminary Investigation
New Jersey Environmental Protection
Commission Case No. 46-22**

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission find indications that the individual did violate the Recusal Rule, *N.J.A.C.* 19:61-7.1 *et seq.*, as well as Section II, paragraph 3 and Section IX of the Uniform Ethics Code, as well as indications that they violated the public trust, *N.J.S.A.* 52:13D-23(e)(7) and Section II, paragraph 4 of the Uniform Ethics Code, by failing to recuse from personnel actions involving a personal friend 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 Norbut Beyer seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky and Norbut Beyer).

**30-24 Matthew Sage
Ocean County Board of Elections
Commission Case No. 30-24**

Commissioner Herlinsky moved that the Commission dismiss the allegations that Matthew Sage 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 Bridges seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky and Norbut Beyer).

**03-25 Report of Preliminary Investigation
Department of Community Affairs
Commission Case No. 03-25**

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

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE

Casino Waiver Consent

Chair Brown moved that the Commission approve casino employment waivers for Patel (DLPS) and Payne (NJ Transit). Commissioner Norbut Beyer seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Herlinksy and Norbut Beyer).

Cannabis Waiver Consent

Commissioner Norbut Beyer moved that the Commission approve a cannabis employment waiver for Reid (DHS). Commissioner Bridges seconded the motion, which was passed 4 to 0 (Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky and Norbut Beyer). Commissioner Adelman recused.

Chair Brown moved that the Commission approve a cannabis employment waiver for Ramos (DLPS). Commissioner Bridges seconded the motion, which was passed 4 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown and Norbut Beyer). Commissioner Herlinsky abstained.

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission approve a cannabis employment waiver for Green (DLPS) and Cicconsanti (Rutgers). Chair Brown seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky and Norbut Beyer).

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Herlinsky 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: March 25, 2025