MINUTES OF APRIL 21, 2026 MEETING
OF THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
225 E. STATE STREET, 5TH FLOOR EAST
10 a.m.

Present: Vice Chair Patricia Morgan, Commissioner Carrie Parikh, Commissioner Peter Stokes, Commissioner Jacquelyn Suarez, Acting Executive Director Shamecca Bernardini, Acting Deputy Director Rachel Eger, Assistant Attorney General Rachel Doobrajh and members of the Commission staff.

I. CALL TO ORDER BY VICE CHAIR MORGAN

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:18 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 December 18, 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, 2026 MEETING

Commission members had no changes to the February 3, 2026 Minutes, which were approved unanimously on motion of Commissioner Parikh, seconded by Commissioner Stokes. Commissioner Suarez abstained.

III. MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 11, 2026 MEETING

Commission members had no changes to the February 11, 2026 Minutes, which were approved unanimously on motion of Vice Chair Morgan, seconded by Commissioner Stokes. Commissioner Parikh and Commissioner Suarez abstained.

IV. RECESS OF THE OPEN MEETING

Commissioner Parikh 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 Suarez seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried 4 to 0 (Morgan, Parikh, Stokes and Suarez).

V. RECONVENING THE OPEN MEETING

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

VI. CASES

32-21 Report of Preliminary Investigation
Motor Vehicle Commission
Commission Case No. 32-21

Commissioner Suarez moved that the Commission find indications of violations of the Conflicts Law or Commission Regulations, which merit further action; that a Complaint shall be prepared for filing with the Office of Administrative Law, pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 19:61-3.1(h); and that the Commission may direct staff to undertake efforts to settle the matter by way of Consent Order prior to the filing of a Complaint. Staff further recommended that the remaining allegations be dismissed. Commissioner Parikh seconded the motion, which was passed 4 to 0 (Morgan, Parikh, Stokes and Suarez).

30-22 Report of Preliminary Investigation
Department of Children and Families
Commission Case No. 30-22

Commissioner Suarez moved that the Commission find indications of violations of the Conflicts Law or Commission Regulations, which merit further action; that a Complaint shall be prepared for filing with the Office of Administrative Law, pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 19:61-3.1(h); and that the Commission may direct staff to undertake efforts to settle the matter by way of Consent Order prior to the filing of a Complaint. Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion, which was passed 4 to 0 (Morgan, Parikh, Stokes and Suarez).

15-23 Report of Preliminary Investigation
Department of Corrections
Commission Case No. 15-23

Commissioner Parikh moved that the Commission find indications of violations of the Conflicts Law or Commission Regulations, which merit further action; that a Complaint shall be prepared for filing with the Office of Administrative Law, pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 19:61-3.1(h); and that the Commission may direct staff to undertake efforts to settle the matter by way of Consent Order prior to the filing of a Complaint. Commissioner Suarez seconded the motion, which was passed 4 to 0 (Morgan, Parikh, Stokes and Suarez).

35-24 Ronald Slaughter, Vice Chair
State Parole Board
Commission Case No. 35-24

Vice Chair Morgan moved that the Commission dismiss the allegations that Ronald Slaughter violated Sections 23(e)(3) and (e)(7) of the Conflicts Law and Section II, paragraphs 4 and 5 of the UEC. Commissioner Suarez seconded the motion, which was passed 3 to 0 (Morgan, Parikh and Suarez). Commissioner Stokes recused.

01-25 Susan Sweeney
Department of Corrections
Commission Case No. 01-25

Commissioner Parikh moved that the Commission dismiss the allegations that Susan Sweeney violated Sections 23(e)(3) and (e)(7) of the Conflicts Law and/or Section II, paragraphs 4 and 5 of the UEC as well as *N.J.A.C.*19:61-7.1 et seq. and/or; Section IX of the UEC. Commissioner Suarez seconded the motion, which was passed 4 to 0 (Morgan, Parikh, Stokes and Suarez).

07-26 Report of Preliminary Investigation
Department of Corrections
Commission Case No. 07-26

Commissioner Stokes moved that the Commission authorize the Department to proceed with disciplinary action against the individual for violating Section II, paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of the UEC as alleged in the materials submitted. Commissioner Parikh seconded the motion, which was passed 4 to 0 (Morgan, Parikh, Stokes and Suarez).

10-26 Michael Kanef, Assistant State Treasurer
Department of the Treasury
Commission Case No. 10-26

Commissioner Suarez moved that the Commission approve the Blind Trust submitted by Michael Kanef as comporting with the provisions of EO 3 and the Commission's guidelines governing blind trusts. Commissioner Parikh seconded the motion, which was passed 4 to 0 (Morgan, Parikh, Stokes and Suarez).

11-26 John Doucette
Spouse of Kellie Doucette, Chief Operating Officer
Office of the Governor
Commission Case No. 11-26

Commissioner Suarez moved that the Commission approve the Blind Trust submitted by John Doucette as comporting with the provisions of EO 3 and the Commission's guidelines governing blind trusts. Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion, which was passed 3 to 0 (Morgan, Stokes and Suarez). Commissioner Parikh recused.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE

Casino Waiver Consent

Commissioner Parikh moved that the Commission approve casino employment waivers for Malinowski (DLPS), Librizzi-Laing (Stockton), Castro-Lucas (Stockton), Huynh (Treasury), Heyward (DCF), Kinsel (DEP) and Ellsworth (DHS). Vice Chair Morgan seconded the motion, which was passed 4 to 0 (Morgan, Parikh, Stokes and Suarez).

Commissioner Parikh moved that the Commission approve a casino employment waiver for McLaughlin (Rutgers). Commissioner Suarez seconded the motion, which was passed 3 to 0 (Morgan, Parikh and Suarez). Commissioner Stokes recused.

Cannabis Waiver Consent

Commissioner Stokes moved that the Commission approve cannabis employment waiver for Trongone-Castro (DLPS), Worthy (SPB), Johnson (Treasury) and Branin (SPB). Commissioner Parikh seconded the motion, which was passed 4 to 0 (Morgan, Parikh, Stokes and Suarez).

Commissioner Parikh moved that the Commission approve a cannabis employment waiver for Hartranfit (Rutgers). Vice Chair Morgan seconded the motion, which was passed 3 to 0 (Morgan, Parikh and Suarez). Commissioner Stokes recused.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Shanna Cook, Executive Assistant
State Ethics Commission
Date: June 2, 2026