

**Local Finance Board  
Local Government Ethics Law  
October 12, 2022  
VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 am by Jacquelyn A. Suárez, Chairperson. Nicholas Bennett, Executive Secretary, stated that in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, C.10:4-6 et seq., proper notice was given to the Secretary of State, the *Star-Ledger* and the *Times of Trenton*. A roll call was taken: 6 members were present: Chairperson Suárez, Alan Avery, William Close, Dominic DiRocco, Adrian Mapp, and Idida Rodriguez were present. There are two vacancies. A quorum was present. Also present were DAG Eric Reid and staff members Dana C. Jones and Margaret Roberts.

At 9:05 am, a motion was made by Mr. Close, second by Mr. Mapp to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing complaints, requests for advisory opinions, and to receive related legal advice. A roll call vote was taken: 6 affirmative. Motion passed.

At 10:54 am, a motion was made by Mr. Mapp, second by Ms. Rodriguez to go into open session. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmative. Motion passed.

The Local Finance Board then determined to take a brief recess and reconvened at 11:05 am to consider financing applications and take action on the following Ethics items:

**September 7, 2022 Meeting Minutes III.B.1.** A motion was made by Mr. Close, second by Mr. Avery to approve the minutes. A roll call was taken: 5 affirmative. Motion passed.

**Concerning the matter of III.B.2.** A motion was made by Mr. Avery, second by Mr. Mapp to issue a Notice of Investigation to one local government officer for alleged violations of subsections (c), (d), and (g). A roll call was taken: 5 affirmative. Chairperson Suárez recused. Motion passed.

**Concerning the matter of III.B.3.** A motion was made by Mr. DiRocco, second by Mr. Avery to issue a Notice of Determination to one local government officer, dismissing two identical combined complaints against him for lack of a reasonable factual basis. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmative. Motion passed.

**Concerning the matter of III.B.4.** A motion was made by Mr. Avery, second by Mr. Mapp to issue a Notice of Dismissal to one local government officer, dismissing the complaint after an investigation found that the particular circumstances surrounding the officer's holding of two positions simultaneously did not implicate a violation of the LGEL. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmative. Motion passed.

**Concerning the matter of III.B.5.** A motion was made by Mr. Avery, second by Mr. Close to issue a Notice of Violation to one local government officer for violations of subsections (c) and (d). A fine of \$250 per violation was imposed, for a total fine of \$500. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmative. Motion passed.

**Concerning the matter of III.B.6.** A motion was made by Mr. Mapp, second by Mr. Close to issue a Notice of Violation to one local government officer for violations of subsections (c) and (d). A fine of \$100 per violation was imposed, for a total fine of \$200. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmative. Motion passed.

**Concerning the matter of III.B.7.** A motion was made by Mr. Avery, second by Mr. Mapp to waive the fines for failure to file a 2022 FDS by a total of 61 local government officers who either had general excuses or who held multiple positions, and to rescind the violations for a total of 39 local government officers who were deceased or who were found in violation due to clerk error, to acknowledge the payment of the fine by 134 local government officers, and to communicate to the local government entity representative the status of local government officers who did not respond to the Notice of Violation for failure to file the 2022 FDS. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmative. Motion passed.

**Concerning the matter of III.B.8.** A motion was made by Mr. Avery, second by Ms. Rodriguez to transmit the matter to the Office of Administrative Law as a contested case. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmative. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "N. Bennett", is written over a horizontal line.

Nicholas Bennett  
Executive Secretary  
Local Finance Board

NB/mr