

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 12, 2024 MEETING
OF THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
225 E. STATE STREET, 5TH FLOOR EAST
10 a.m.
(*Meeting conducted via teleconference)

Present: Chair Stephanie A. Brown, Commissioner Sarah Adelman, Commissioner Brian Bridges, Commissioner Victor J. Herlinsky, Jr., Commissioner Christine Norbut Beyer, Commissioner Babatunde P. Odubekun, Deputy Director Christina C. Fullam and members of the Commission staff. Commissioner Adelman left the call at 11:00 a.m. and did not return.

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 March 6, 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 JANUARY 23, 2024 MEETING

Commission members had no changes to the January 23, 2024 Minutes, which were approved unanimously on motion of Commissioner Odubekun, seconded by Commissioner Herlinsky, following the Executive Session of the meeting.

III. RECESS OF THE OPEN MEETING

Commissioner Odubekun 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 Norbut Beyer seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried 6 to 0 (Adelman, Beyer, Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky, and Odubekun). Commissioner Bridges was not present for the vote.

IV. RECONVENING OF THE OPEN MEETING

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

V. CASES

52-18 Report of Preliminary Investigation Schools Development Authority Commission Case No. 52-18

Commissioner Odubekun moved that pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 19:61-3.1(h), the Commission find indications that the individual violated the Recusal Rule, *N.J.A.C.* 19:61-7.1 et seq., and section 23(e)(7) of the Conflicts Law through their involvement in the hiring matters concerning the mother of their grandchild, their nephew, the daughter-in-law of their friend, and their daughter's close friend; that the individual also violated section 23(e)(3) of the Conflicts Law by giving unwarranted benefits to the daughter-in-law of their friend by giving them a job for which they were not qualified at a higher salary than others in similarly situated positions; that the remaining allegations be dismissed pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 19:61-3.1(g); 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 Bridges seconded the motion, which was passed 4 to 0 (Beyer, Bridges, Herlinsky and Odubekun). Chair Brown recused. Commissioner Adelman left the call prior to the vote.

VI. RECESS OF THE OPEN MEETING

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

VII. RECONVENING OF THE OPEN MEETING

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

16-20 Report of Preliminary Investigation Department of Health Commission Case No. 16-20

Commissioners discussed the status of this matter in executive session and no action was taken.

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE

Casino Waiver Consent

Commissioner Beyer moved that the Commission approve casino employment waivers for Rivard (OPD) and Sistrunk (DOC). Commissioner Herlinsky seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Beyer, Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky and Odubekun).

Cannabis Waiver Consent

Commissioner Odubekun moved that the Commission approve a cannabis employment waiver for Mickler (DOC) and Williams (Transit). Commissioner Bridges seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Beyer, Bridges, Brown, Herlinsky and Odubekun).

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Shanna Cook

Shanna Cook, Executive Assistant

State Ethics Commission

Date: April 2, 2024