

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2025 MEETING
OF THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
225 E. STATE STREET, 5TH FLOOR EAST
10 a.m.

Present: Chair Stephanie Brown, Vice Chair Patricia Morgan, Commissioner Sarah Adelman, Commissioner Brian Bridges, Commissioner Christine Norbut Beyer, Commissioner Carrie Parikh, Executive Director Christina C. Fullam, Deputy Director Shamecca Bernardini, Assistant Attorney General Rachel Doobrajh and members of the Commission staff.

I. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIR BROWN

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:01 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 JULY 29, 2025 MEETING

Commission members had no changes to the June 3, 2025 Minutes, which were approved unanimously on motion of Commissioner Bridges, seconded by Commissioner Adelman, following the Executive Session of the meeting.

Commissioner Parikh abstained.

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 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, Morgan and Parikh).

IV. RECONVENING THE OPEN MEETING

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

V. CASES

28-19 Tennille McCoy Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commission Case No. 28-19

Vice Chair Morgan moved that the Commission find that Tennille McCoy violated the Recusal Rule, *N.J.A.C.* 19:61-7.1 et seq. and/or Section IX of the Uniform Ethics Code, but exercise its discretion by declining to take further action and dismissing the allegation. Chair Brown seconded the motion, which was passed 4 to 0 (Bridges, Brown, Morgan and Norbut Beyer). Commissioner Adelman abstained and Commissioner Parikh recused.

33-22 Report of Preliminary Investigation University Hospital Commission Case No. 33-22

Commissioner Norbut Beyer moved that the Commission find indications that the former State official did violate Sections 23(e)(3) and 23(e)(7) of the Conflicts Law and/or Section II, paragraphs 4 and 5 of the UEC by attempting to receive an unwarranted benefit and violated the public trust by asking their subordinates to sign a petition on their behalf and have their contacts sign it, and that the Commission authorize staff to file a Complaint in the Office of Administrative Law, and to attempt to negotiate a settlement prior to filing the complaint; and that the Commission find that the former State official did violate Section 25 of the Conflicts Law and/or Section II, paragraph 6 of the UEC by disclosing confidential information received in the course of their State duties to another individual, but that the Commission exercise its discretion by declining to take further action and dismiss the allegation. Commissioner Bridges seconded the motion, which was passed 4 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges, Brown and Norbut Beyer). Vice Chair Morgan and Commissioner Parikh recused.

VI. RECESS OF THE OPEN MEETING

Commissioner Bridges 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 Brown seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried 6 to 0 (Adelman, Bridges Brown, Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Parikh).

VII. RECONVENING THE OPEN MEETING

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

VIII. CASES

**18-23 Denise Meckel
Department of Human Services
Commission Case No. 18-23**

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission dismiss the allegations that Denise Meckel 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 Norbut Beyer seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Bridges, Brown Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Parikh). Commissioner Adelman recused.

**11-24 Ryan Griffin
Department of Health
Commission Case No. 11-24**

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission dismiss the allegations that Ryan Griffin violated *N.J.S.A.* 52:13D-14, 23(e)(3), 23(e)(6), 23(e)(7), and 24, as well as Section III of the Uniform Ethics Code and *N.J.A.C.* 19:61-6.9. Commissioner Norbut Beyer seconded the motion, which was passed 4 to 0 (Bridges, Brown, Norbut Beyer, and Vice Chair Morgan). Commissioner Parikh recused.

**39-25 Report of Preliminary Investigation
Department of Children and Families
Commission Case No. 39-25**

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission authorize the Department to proceed with disciplinary action against the individual for the alleged violation of paragraph 2 and Section VI of the Uniform Ethics Code (UEC), as well as Section H, paragraphs 1 and 12 of the DCF Supplemental Code of Ethics as alleged in the materials submitted. Vice Chair Morgan seconded the motion, which was passed 4 to 0 (Bridges, Brown, Morgan and Parikh). Commissioner Norbut Beyer recused.

**42-25 Timothy Lowry, Trustee
Stockton University
Request for Exception to Executive Order 14 (Corzine, 2006)
Commission Case No. 42-25**

Vice Chair Morgan moved that the Commission approve the proposed waiver of Executive Order 14. Commissioner Norbut Beyer seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Bridges, Brown, Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Parikh).

**44-25 Report of Preliminary Investigation
Department of the Treasury
Commission Case No. 44-25**

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission authorize the Department to proceed with disciplinary action against the individual for the alleged violation of Section II, paragraph 5 and Section VI of the Uniform Ethics Code (“UEC”) as alleged in the materials submitted. Commissioner Norbut Beyer seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Bridges, Brown, Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Parikh).

**46-25 Report of Preliminary Investigation
State Parole Board
Commission Case No. 46-25**

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission authorize the Agency to proceed with disciplinary action against the individual for the alleged violation of Section II, paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Uniform Ethics Code (UEC) as alleged in the materials submitted. Commissioner Norbut Beyer seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Bridges, Brown, Morgan Norbut Beyer and Parikh).

**47-25 Report of Preliminary Investigation
Department of Law and Public Safety
Commission Case No. 47-25**

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

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE

Casino Waiver Consent

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission approve casino employment waivers for Cooper (Stockton), Berlenbach (Stockton), Soto-Martinez (Stockton), Lowe (Stockton), Keeler (DOC), Vernengo (Rowan), Santiago (OPD) and Sotomayor (DMAVA). Vice Chair Morgan seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Bridges, Brown, Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Parikh).

Commissioner Bridges moved that the Commission approve casino employment waivers for Stevens (DCF). Vice Chair Morgan seconded the motion, which was passed 4 to 0 (Bridges, Brown, Morgan and Parikh). Commissioner Beyer recused.

Cannabis Waiver Consent

Commissioner Norbut Beyer moved that the Commission approve cannabis employment waiver for Jarashow (DHS), Green (DHS), Homan (DOC), Tomkinson (Treasury) and Snyder (Stockton). Commissioner Bridges seconded the motion, which was passed 5 to 0 (Bridges, Brown, Morgan, Norbut Beyer and Parikh).

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Shanna Cook

Shanna Cook, Executive Assistant
State Ethics Commission
Date: November 25, 2025