

**STATE OF FLORIDA  
COMMISSION ON ETHICS**

**Friday, March 7, 2025**

*Third Floor Courtroom, First District Court of Appeal  
2000 Drayton Drive  
Tallahassee, Florida*

**PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES**

At 8:38 a.m. Chair Luis Fusté called the meeting to order with the following members present:

JAMES BUSH, III  
FREDDIE FIGGERS  
LUIS M. FUSTÉ  
ASHLEY LUKIS  
LINDA STEWART

Tina Descovich and Laird A. Lile were absent from the meeting. Paul Bain arrived at 9:40 a.m.

The presence of a quorum was noted.

**Commissioner Figgers, seconded by Commissioner Stewart, moved to approve the minutes of the November 26, 2024, Public Video Conference meeting and the December 6, 2024, Public Session meeting. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

**CONSIDERATION OF FINAL ACTION – JOINT STIPULATION**

**Complaint Nos. 22-041, 22-115 (cons.), In re GREGORY TONY**

Present were Stephen G. Webster, Attorney for the Respondent; and Melody A. Hadley, Commission Advocate.

General Counsel Steven Zuilkowski was heard by the Commission regarding new statutory requirements for adoption and rejection of stipulations.

Ms. Hadley summarized the proposed joint stipulation calling for a finding of violation of Section 112.313(6), Florida Statutes, and a recommended penalty of public censure and reprimand.

Mr. Webster was heard by the Commission.

**Commissioner Lukis, seconded by Commissioner Stewart, moved to approve the proposed joint stipulation. The motion carried, with Commissioner Figgers and Commissioner Fusté voting no.**

## **CONSIDERATION OF ADVISORY OPINION**

**File 2816. CONFLICT OF INTEREST: CITY COMMISSIONER SERVING AS PRESIDENT OF THE EAST SUNRISE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Staff Attorney Stephanie Novenario explained the basis of the draft advisory opinion and the rationale behind its conclusion.

**Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Lukis, moved to approve the draft opinion, with modification. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

## **CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE APPEALS**

### **HEARING**

No one was present for this appeal.

### **FD22-020, In re HUGO MARTIN-RODRIGUEZ**

Staff Attorney Stephanie Novenario explained the basis of the draft final order and the rationale behind its conclusion.

**Commissioner Lukis, seconded by Commissioner Bush, moved to approve the staff's recommendation. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

### **NO HEARING**

No one was present for any of the appeals.

**FD21-027, In re DONNA S. LEE**

**FD21-039, In re LINDA BELL**

**FD21-042, In re JOHN CONROY**

**FD21-043, In re HOWELL HERRING**

**FD21-045, In re ANGELA THOMAS**

**FD21-046, In re JOHN TIPTON**

**FD21-047, In re MARIAH BAKKE**

**FD21-049, In re DAVID CHANON**

**Commissioner Lukis, seconded by Commissioner Bush, moved to approve the staff's recommendations. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

## **CONSIDERATION OF 2024 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Commissioner Bush, seconded by Commissioner Stewart, moved to approve the adoption of the Annual Report. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

## **CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURE FOR E-FILING CALL CENTER**

Executive Director Kerrie Stillman explained her spending authority is limited to \$10,000 and requested the approval of the expenditure for the e-filing call center contract.

**Commissioner Bush, seconded by Commissioner Figgers, moved to approve the expenditure of \$262,416 for the e-filing call center. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

## **REPORTS**

The Chair had no report.

Executive Director Kerrie Stillman elaborated on her written Executive Director's report previously provided to the Commissioners. General Counsel Steven Zuilkowski updated the Commission on litigation status.

Executive Director Kerrie Stillman elaborated on her written legislative report previously provided to the Commissioners.

Executive Director Kerrie Stillman updated the Commission on the e-filing system and Fines Testing.

Commissioner Bain arrived.

## **CONSIDERATION OF FINAL ACTION – JOINT STIPULATION**

### **Complaint No. 22-103, In re MICHAEL ANDREW WHITE**

Present was Melody A. Hadley, Commission Advocate.

Ms. Hadley summarized the proposed joint stipulation calling for a finding of violation of Section 112.313(7)(a), Florida Statutes, and a recommended civil penalty of \$500.

**Commissioner Bain, seconded by Commissioner Lukis, moved to approve the proposed joint stipulation. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

### **Complaint No. 24-156, In re BOWEN KOU**

Present was Melody A. Hadley, Commission Advocate.

Ms. Hadley summarized the proposed joint stipulation calling for a finding of violation of Article II, Section 8, Florida Constitution, and Section 112.3144, Florida Statutes, and a recommended civil penalty of \$1,500.

**Commissioner Bain, seconded by Commissioner Lukis, moved to approve the proposed joint stipulation. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

**Complaint Nos. 24-172, 24-255(cons.), In re LAURO DIAZ**

Present was Melody A. Hadley, Commission Advocate.

Ms. Hadley summarized the proposed joint stipulation calling for a finding of violation of Article II, Section 8, Florida Constitution, and Section 112.3144, Florida Statutes, and a recommended civil penalty of \$500.

**Commissioner Bain, seconded by Commissioner Lukis, moved to approve the proposed joint stipulation. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

**CONSIDERATION OF ADVOCATE'S MOTION TO DISMISS**

**Complaint No. 19-131, In re JAMES M. COUEY**

Present was Joseph C. Burns, Commission Advocate.

Mr. Burns presented his Motion to Dismiss.

**Commissioner Bain, seconded by Commissioner Figgers, moved to grant the Motion to Dismiss Complaint. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

**DISCUSSION OF REMOTE ATTENDANCE TO IN-PERSON COMMISSION MEETINGS BY MEMBERS**

Executive Director Kerrie Stillman and General Counsel Steven Zuilkowski explained the legal and logistical requirements of allowing members' remote attendance at commission meetings.

Members discussed in-person, fully remote and hybrid meetings.

The Chair asked whether there was any member of the public present who wished to be heard on the proposed expenditure. Mark Herron was heard by the Commission.

The item will appear on the April agenda for additional discussion.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items on the agenda, the Public Session adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

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Diana Westberry, *Secretary*

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Luis M. Fusté, *Chair*

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Date

State of Florida Commission on Ethics  
Public Session Meeting - Friday, March 7, 2025, 8:30 a.m.  
First District Court of Appeal, 2000 Drayton Drive, Tallahassee, Florida

Pursuant to Section 286.0114, Florida Statutes, members of the public have the opportunity to have input on proposals before the Commission other than determinations on complaints and opinions. If you wish to be heard on anything on today's agenda other than an opinion or a complaint, please complete this form and return it to a member of the Commission's staff.

NAME: Mark Hered

ORGANIZATION (if applicable): N/A

ADDRESS: 3618 Centennial Place

PERSON SPEAKING  
ON YOUR BEHALF (if applicable): N/A

AGENDA ITEM: Remote Meetings

☐ SUPPORT

☒ OPPOSE

☐ NEUTRAL

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ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PERSON SPEAKING  
ON YOUR BEHALF (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

AGENDA ITEM: \_\_\_\_\_

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