

**STATE OF FLORIDA
COMMISSION ON ETHICS**

Friday, September 13, 2024

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

PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

At 8:47 a.m. Chair Ashley Lukis called the meeting to order with the following members present:

MICHELLE ANCHORS
PAUL D. BAIN
TINA DESCOVICH
FREDDIE FIGGERS
LUIS M. FUSTÉ
ASHLEY LUKIS
WENGAY M. NEWTON, SR.

Laird A. Lile was absent from the meeting.

The presence of a quorum was noted.

Commissioner Fusté, seconded by Commissioner Newton, moved to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2024, Public Session meeting. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

REPORTS

The Chair introduced new Commissioner, Paul D. Bain, and recognized former Commissioner William P. Cervone for his time on the Commission.

Executive Director Kerrie Stillman elaborated on her written Executive Director's report previously provided to the Commissioners. She also acknowledged the Ethics Commission's 50th anniversary.

Executive Director Kerrie Stillman updated the Commission on the successful relaunch of e-filing, and updated the Commission with the financial disclosure compliance numbers for the current filing year. She acknowledged the Financial Disclosure staff: Kim Holmes, Emily Prine, and Keyana Green, as well as the Administrative support staff: Lynn Blais, Diana Westberry, Kathy Steverson, Jeremy Pennington, Rachel Campbell, and Emma Wade for their hard work during the Financial Disclosure season.

File 2812. GIFT ACCEPTANCE AND DISCLOSURE: MAYOR ACCEPTING A PREFERENTIAL RATE ON A LOAN AND DONATIONS THROUGH THE GOFUNDME PLATFORM

Present was Heather Lindsay, Requestor.

General Counsel Steven Zuilkowski explained the basis of the draft advisory opinion and the rationale behind its conclusion.

Ms. Lindsay was heard by the Commission.

Commissioner Anchors, seconded by Commissioner Newton, moved to approve the draft opinion, with added language. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE APPEALS

HEARING

No one was present for any of the appeals.

FD21-019, In re JOHNELEE DIZON

General Counsel Steven Zuilkowski explained the basis of the draft final order and the rationale behind its conclusion.

Commissioner Newton, seconded by Commissioner Descovich, moved to approve the staff's recommendation. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

FD21-041, In re SHERI SCHOBERT

General Counsel Steven Zuilkowski explained the basis of the draft final order and the rationale behind its conclusion.

Commissioner Newton, seconded by Commissioner Anchors, moved to approve the staff's recommendation. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

NO HEARING

No one was present for any of the appeals.

**FD21-016, In re ALEXIS CONNELL
FD21-018, In re NITIN AGGARWAL
FD21-021, In re JENNIFER WATERS
FD21-022, In re BRIAN POWERS
FD21-023, In re BRUCE FISCHMAN
FD21-024, In re RENITA LEE
FD21-025, In re RICHARD COFFIN
FD21-030, In re JOAN L. HAYES
FD21-031, In re SHELDON MCCARTNEY
FD21-032, In re GAIL CONIGLIO**

FD21-034, In re JUDITH BURKE
FD21-037, In re MADELYN SIERRA-HERNANDEZ
FD21-038, In re DENNIS FONTAINE
FD22-006, In re YENISBEL VILORIO
FD22-007, In re PETER PAIGE
FD22-008, In re CASSANDRA BROWN
FD22-014, In re ADRIANNETTE WILLIAMS

Commissioner Fusté, seconded by Commissioner Descovich, moved to approve the staff's recommendations. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF RULEMAKING

Rule Hearing on amendments to Chapter 34-5, F.A.C.

Assistant General Counsel Gray Schafer explained the changes to the rule regarding the handling of ethics complaints.

The Chair asked whether there was anyone present who wished to be heard on the proposed rule changes. Mark Herron was heard by the Commission.

Commissioner Newton, seconded by Commissioner Descovich, moved to approve the consideration of the proposed rule amendment. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Rule Hearing on amendments to Chapter 34-17, F.A.C.

Assistant General Counsel Gray Schafer explained the changes to the rule regarding the referral process at the Commission on Ethics.

The Chair asked whether there was anyone present who wished to be heard on the proposed rule changes. There was no one.

Commissioner Fusté, seconded by Commissioner Descovich, moved to approve the consideration of the proposed rule amendment. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF 2025 LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

Executive Director Kerrie Stillman explained that the Commission is statutorily required to make recommendations for legislation, and gave a brief explanation of the memo provided to Members.

The Chair asked whether there was anyone present who wished to be heard. No one requested the opportunity to be heard.

Commissioner Anchors, seconded by Commissioner Newton, moved to include Salary Withholding for Complaint Penalties and Whistle Blower-like Protection for Ethics Complainants recommendations in the Commission's Annual Report, and to grant

Commissioner Lukis authority to serve as liaison, and speak on the Commission's behalf. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

SELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Vice Chair Anchors presented a plaque to Chair Lukis thanking her for her time as Chair of the Commission.

Commissioner Anchors, seconded by Commissioner Lukis, moved to nominate Commissioner Luis Fusté as Commission Chair. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Descovich, seconded by Commissioner Fusté, moved to nominate Commissioner Michelle Anchors to remain as Commission Vice Chair. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items on the agenda, the Public Session adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

Diana Westberry, *Secretary*

Luis M. Fusté, *Chair*

Date