TO: Freedom of Information Commission

FROM: Thomas A. Hennick

RE: Minutes of the Commission’s regular meeting of June 27, 2018

A regular meeting of the Freedom of Information Commission was held on June 27, 2018, in the Freedom of Information Hearing Room, 18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, Connecticut. The meeting convened at 2:12 p.m. with the following Commissioners present:

Commissioner Owen P. Eagan, presiding
Commissioner Jay Shaw (participated via speakerphone)
Commissioner Jonathan J. Einhorn
Commissioner Matthew Streeter
Commissioner Christopher P. Hankins
Commissioner Michael C. Daly

Also present were staff members, Colleen M. Murphy, Mary E. Schwind, Victor R. Perpetua, Valicia D. Harmon, Cindy Cannata, and Thomas A. Hennick.

The Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the Commission’s regular meeting minutes of June 13, 2018.

Those in attendance were informed that the Commission does not ordinarily record the remarks made at its meetings, but will do so on request.

Docket #FIC 2017-0719  Tyronne Pierce v. Office of the Corporation Counsel, City of Hartford; and City of Hartford

The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer’s Report.

Docket #FIC 2017-0747  Ahmaad Lane v. Chief, Police Department, City of Hartford; Police Department, City of Hartford; and City of Hartford

Ahmaad Lane participated via speakerphone. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer’s Report.

Docket #FIC 2017-0551  David Markatos v. Town Planner, Town of New Canaan; and Town of New Canaan

David Markatos appeared on his own behalf. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer’s Report.
Docket #FIC 2017-0647  
Joyce Bloom v. President, Bogus Hill Tax District Board of Directors; and Bogus Hill Tax District Board of Directors

Joyce Bloom appeared on her own behalf. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer’s Report. The proceedings were recorded digitally.

Docket #FIC 2017-0712  
Douglas Fuchs v. Julia Pemberton, as member, Board of Selectmen, Town of Redding; Margaret O'Donnell, as member, Board of Selectmen, Town of Redding; Michael Thompson, as member, Board of Selectmen, Town of Redding; Board of Selectmen, Town of Redding; and Town of Redding

The Commissioners unanimously voted to amend the Hearing Officer’s Report. The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer’s Report as amended.*

Docket #FIC 2017-0730  

The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer’s Report.

Docket #FIC 2017-0741  
Elizabeth Regan And Rivereast News Bulletin v. Town Manager, Town of East Hampton; and Town of East Hampton

Elizabeth Regan appeared on behalf of the complainants. Attorney Richard Carella appeared on behalf of the respondents. The Commissioners unanimously voted to continue the matter. The Commissioners voted, 5-1, to empower the Executive Director to write to the respondents requesting that the records in question not be destroyed during the pendency of this matter. Commissioner Daly voted no.

Docket #FIC 2018-0038  

The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer’s Report.
The Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt the Hearing Officer’s Report.

The Commissioners voted, 5-0, to deny a motion for reconsideration dated June 5, 2018 and received by the Commission on June 5, 2018, filed by the complainant in J.R. McMullen v. President, Board of Representatives, City of Stamford; Board of Representatives, City of Stamford; and City of Stamford, Docket #FIC 2017-0334. Commissioner Einhorn did not participate in this matter.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

* See Attached for amendments
AMENDMENTS

Docket #FIC 2017-0712

Douglas Fuchs v. Julia Pemberton, as member, Board of Selectmen, Town of Redding; Margaret O'Donnell, as member, Board of Selectmen, Town of Redding; Michael Thompson, as member, Board of Selectmen, Town of Redding; Board of Selectmen, Town of Redding; and Town of Redding

The Hearing Officer’s Report is amended as follows:

2. By letter dated November 28, 2017, the complainant appealed to this Commission alleging that the respondents violated the Freedom of Information Act (“FOI”) by improperly holding a special “emergency” meeting on October [20] 30, 2017. The complainant requested:

   a. that the actions of the respondent board be declared null and void including its decision to place the complainant on administrative leave;
   b. the imposition of civil penalties; and
   c. an order that the respondents comply with the requirements of §1-225(d), G.S.

9. It is found that in [March of] 2017, an action was [filed] COMMENCED in Superior Court against the Redding Police Department stemming from the officers’ conduct at the scene. It is found that as a result, on or about March 30, 2017, the respondent Julia Pemberton, who is First Selectman of the town, watched the footage from the body cameras for the first time.