

Merom Brachman, *Chairman*
Mark A. Vander Laan, *Vice Chairman*
Bruce E. Bailey
Megan C. Kelley
Mary M. Ross-Dolen
Elizabeth E. Tracy



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Paul M. Nick
Executive Director

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OHIO ETHICS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
OCTOBER 27, 2023

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

Merom Brachman	Megan C. Kelley	Bruce E. Bailey
Elizabeth E. Tracy	Mary M. Ross-Dolen	Mark A. Vander Laan

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Ohio Ethics Commission was called to order at 12:06 p.m. in Room G on Level 3 of the William Green Building, at 30 West Spring Street, in Columbus, Ohio.

ROLL CALL

The following Commission Members were present: Mr. Brachman, Mr. Bailey, Ms. Kelley, Ms. Ross-Dolen, Ms. Tracy, and Mr. Vander Laan. Staff present: Executive Director Paul M. Nick; Deputy Director/General Counsel Jed Hood; IT & Financial Disclosure Administrator Brian Ring; HR & Fiscal Manager Alan Carlson; Chief Advisory Attorney Christopher Woeste; Advisory Attorneys Kristin Cly and Katie Saks; Investigative Attorneys Molly Bruns and Nicole Candelora-Norman; Case Management Coordinator Shana Rolfe; and Assistant Attorney General Brittany Collins.

Prior to entering Executive Session, Mr. Brachman stated that he wanted to share a simple reference to the larger human occurrences beyond our own State and add his best of hope for seeing all elements of civility return around the country and abroad.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Vander Laan, seconded by Ms. Ross-Dolen, to go into Executive Session to discuss matters that are statutorily confidential, including pending litigation, updates on investigations and complaints, and the confidential financial disclosure report. Mr. Bailey, Ms. Kelley, Ms. Ross-Dolen, Ms. Tracy, Mr. Vander Laan, and Mr. Brachman voted "yes." The motion was approved, and the Commission, pursuant to Section 102.06 and 121.22 of the Revised Code, went into Executive Session at 12:08 p.m.

Mr. Bailey left the Executive Session from 12:20 p.m. until 12:28 p.m.

The Commission returned to open session at 12:30 p.m.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The Commission reviewed the draft minutes from the September 29, 2023, Commission meeting.

MOTION Ms. Tracy, seconded Ms. Kelley, that the Commission approve the minutes of the September 29, 2023, Commission meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

ADVISORY OPINIONS AND STATISTICS

Mr. Nick presented the advisory statistics and activity report, noting the new manner that staff is using to present comparative opinion statistics by using relative percentages rather than raw numbers. Mr. Woeste noted the Advisory Committee will be addressing the City of Columbus's opinion request during its meeting later this afternoon. Mr. Brachman asked a question about an opinion to which Ms. Saks answered. Mr. Woeste also provided historical context for an advisory opinion subject noted in the activity report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Nick updated the Commission on a proposed administrative rule amendment and Department of Administrative Services vehicle policy updates that require all state fleet vehicles to install telematics equipment to monitor vehicle location and performance data.

LEGISLATION UPDATE

Mr. Hood reviewed the information shown in the packet. Mr. Hood mentioned HB 257 and a hearing held on October 3, 2023. Mr. Hood stated this bill would give agencies the ability to meet virtually and, if passed, it appears that it would apply to Ethics Commission meetings and Committee meetings. Mr. Bailey requested a copy of the summary of that bill. Mr. Brachman asked for more information about SB 133 related to vendor debarment and if any action had been taken yet.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

In Ms. Willeke's absence, Mr. Nick reviewed the information in the packet. Mr. Nick mentioned the Commission will be issuing a fourth quarter newsletter at the end of the year and noted that the 50th anniversary of the Ethics Commission will be in 2024.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATISTICS REPORT/COMPLAINT REPORT

Mr. Ring reviewed the report as shown in packet. Mr. Ring noted that the number of filers who filed their 2022 financial disclosure statements late was currently only at 3.6% but that he expects the number to increase to around 4.5%, as the remaining non-compliant filers file their statements.

MOTIONS

Complaints

MOTION by Ms. Kelley, seconded by Ms. Tracy, to dismiss Complaint No. 23-C-1018-003 for failing to comply with statutory and administrative rule requirements. The motion passed unanimously.

Late Fee Waivers:

MOTION by Ms. Tracy, seconded by Ms. Ross-Dolen, to waive the financial disclosure statement late fees for the individuals listed in the packet report. The motion passed unanimously.

Collections:

MOTION by Mr. Bailey, seconded by Ms. Kelley, to refer to the Attorney General's Office for collections the individuals listed in the packet report. The motion passed unanimously.

DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Commission set the next meeting for Thursday, December 7, 2023, at noon.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by:

/s/ Paul M. Nick

Paul M. Nick
Executive Director