

**Report on actions taken by the Rhode Island Ethics Commission  
in Executive Session held on August 17, 2021:**

1. Voted (5-0) to approve the minutes of the Executive Session held on June 29, 2021.

[Reporter's Note: The vote was as follows:

AYES:                   Arianne Corrente; Lauren E. Jones; Matthew D. Strauss; Holly J. Susi; and Kyle P. Palumbo.

ABSTENTIONS:   J. Douglas Bennett; and Marisa A. Quinn, Chairperson.]

2. Voted (6-0) in the matter of **In re: Steven Merolla, Complaint No. 2020-6**, that probable cause exists to believe that the Respondent, Steven Merolla, a member of the Warwick City Council, violated Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-5(a) and (d) by participating in the City Council's votes on: April 22, 2019, to approve the first extension of the Council's contract with YKSM and an increase in funding in the amount of \$30,000; and on June 17, 2019, to approve the second extension of the Council's contract with YKSM and an increase in funding in the amount of \$165,000, respectively; and

[Reporter's Note: The vote was as follows:

AYES:               Marisa A. Quinn; Arianne Corrente, J. Douglas Bennett; Kyle P. Palumbo; Matthew D. Strauss; and Holly J. Susi.

RECUSAL: Lauren E. Jones.]

Voted (6-0) in the matter of **In re: Steven Merolla, Complaint No. 2020-6**, that probable cause exists to believe that the Respondent, Steven Merolla, a member of the Warwick City Council, violated Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-5(a) and (d) by taking official actions, including signing five invoices authorizing payments to YKSM; signing an engagement letter with YKSM for services to be performed for the City Council from January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2019; signing a letter on February 1, 2019, to the City's Finance Director and a letter on April 4, 2019, to the City's Purchasing Division requesting and authorizing a contract extension and additional funds; and directing City personnel to make payments to YKSM, all of which actions resulted in a direct financial impact upon the Respondent's business associates, YKSM and Thomas Lisi, and constituted the Respondent's use of public office.

[Reporter's Note: The vote was as follows:

AYES:               Marisa A. Quinn; Arianne Corrente, J. Douglas Bennett; Kyle P. Palumbo; Matthew D. Strauss; and Holly J. Susi.

RECUSAL: Lauren E. Jones.]

3. Unanimously voted (7-0) in the matter of **In re: Anthony Pilozzi**, **Complaint No. 2021-2**, to initially determine that the Complaint states facts that, if true, are sufficient to constitute a violation of the Code of Ethics and authorized an investigation.
4. Unanimously voted (7-0) to return to Open Session.