



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

RHODE ISLAND ETHICS COMMISSION

40 Fountain Street

Providence, RI 02903

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NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING

AGENDA

5th Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, March 25, 2025

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: Rhode Island Ethics Commission
Hearing Room - 8th Floor
40 Fountain Street
Providence, RI 02903

LIVESTREAM: The Open Session portions of this meeting will be livestreamed at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85336793559>

1. Call to Order.
2. Motion to approve minutes of Open Session held on March 4, 2025.
3. Director's Report: Status report and updates regarding:
 - a.) Complaints and investigations pending;
 - b.) Advisory opinions pending;
 - c.) Access to Public Records Act requests since last meeting;
 - d.) Financial disclosure;
 - e.) General office administration.

4. Advisory Opinions:

- a.) Louise Dinsmore, a member of the Chariho School Committee, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether she is prohibited by the Code of Ethics from participating in school committee discussions and decision-making relating to whether the school committee should support a resolution requesting the Rhode Island General Assembly to amend a state statute to require private schools to share in the cost of transporting children from the local school district to the private schools they attend, given that the Petitioner's child attends a private school. [Staff Attorney Radiches]
- b.) William C. Perry, the fire chief for the East Greenwich Fire Department, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether the established alternate chain of command policy is sufficient to insulate him from conflicts of interest arising out of his position, given that his brother is a firefighter for the same fire department. [Staff Attorney Radiches]
- c.) Anthony Tamba, an eligibility technician with the Rhode Island Department of Human Services, who in his private capacity owns and operates A & H Tax and Accounting Services LLC, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether he is prohibited by the Code of Ethics from accepting, on behalf of his business, a grant award from Rhode Island Commerce, for which the Petitioner applied prior to his hiring as a state employee. [Staff Attorney Radiches]
- d.) The Honorable Arthur J. Corvese, a legislator serving as a member of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether he is prohibited by the Code of Ethics from participating in General Assembly discussions and voting relating to the state's operating budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2026, including an article contained therein that seeks to impose a digital advertising gross revenue tax rate of ten percent on companies with annual gross revenues exceeding one billion dollars, given that the Petitioner's son-in-law is employed by a social technology company that would be subject to such a tax.
- e.) Jonathan Pascua, a member of the Coventry Town Council, who is also a firefighter with the Coventry Fire District, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether the Code of Ethics prohibits him from seeking and/or accepting employment as a firefighter with the anticipated new town fire department, given the town's expected transition from independent fire districts to a town-run fire department. [Staff Attorney Papa]

- f.) The Honorable Paul Santucci, a legislator serving as a member of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether he may, in his official capacity, participate in General Assembly discussions and voting relative to potential legislation pertaining to the construction of a large industrial park in his district, and publicly express his support for the potential construction of the industrial park, given that the industrial park's developer is his landlord. [Staff Attorney Papa]
 - g.) Charles R. Roberts, a member of the Middletown Town Council, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether he is prohibited by the Code of Ethics, upon recusal as a town council member, from attending and speaking at public hearings before the town council relative to a proposed housing development to be located across the street from his personal residence. [Staff Attorney Papa]
- 5. Continuing discussion of potential rulemaking: Amending the Code of Ethics' Gift Rule at 520-RICR-00-00-1.4.2 to apply to gifts from all registered lobbyists. [Director Gramitt]
 - 6. Motion to go into Executive Session, to wit:
 - a.) Motion to approve minutes of Executive Session held on March 4, 2025, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2) & (4).
 - b.) In re: Jason E. Licciardi, Sr., Complaint No. 2025-1, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2) & (4).
 - c.) Motion to return to Open Session.
 - 7. Motion to seal minutes of Executive Session held on March 25, 2025.
 - 8. Report on actions taken in Executive Session.
 - 9. New Business proposed for future Commission agendas and general comments from the Commission.
 - 10. Motion to adjourn.

ANYONE WISHING TO ATTEND THIS MEETING WHO MAY HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS FOR ACCESS OR SERVICES SUCH AS A SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER, PLEASE CONTACT THE COMMISSION BY TELEPHONE AT 222-

3790, 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE SCHEDULED MEETING. THE COMMISSION ALSO MAY BE CONTACTED THROUGH RHODE ISLAND RELAY, A TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELAY SERVICE, AT 1-800-RI5-5555.

Posted on March 20, 2025