



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
RHODE ISLAND ETHICS COMMISSION

40 Fountain Street
Providence, RI 02903
(401) 222-3790 (Voice/TT)
Email: ethics.email@ethics.ri.gov
Website: <https://ethics.ri.gov>

NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING

DATE:	Tuesday, May 5, 2026
TIME:	9:00 a.m.
PLACE:	Rhode Island Ethics Commission Hearing Room – 8 th Floor 40 Fountain Street Providence, RI 02903
LIVESTREAM:	<p>The Open Session portions of this meeting will be livestreamed at: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89935037756</p> <p>This is an in-person meeting held at the physical location listed above. Livestream access is being provided only as a convenience, but it is not an official meeting place and we do not guarantee virtual access to view or participate in the meeting. If the livestream virtual broadcast of the meeting is interrupted or cut off for any reason, the meeting will continue in person.</p>



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AGENDA

7th Meeting

1. Call to Order.
2. Motion to approve minutes of Open Session held on April 14, 2026.
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; and
 - e.) General office administration;
4. Advisory Opinions:
 - a.) Anthony M. Pompei, P.E., PMP, an assistant director for administrative services at the Rhode Island Department of Transportation, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether he is prohibited by the Code of Ethics from participating in the selection of a construction company to provide construction phase services on a bridge project and, potentially, from all other matters concerning the selected company for the duration of the project, given that his spouse's first cousin is employed by one of the companies that submitted a bid on the project. [Staff Attorney Radiches]
 - b.) Shannah Kurland, Esq., a new board member of the Providence External Review Authority (PERA), who in her private capacity is a licensed attorney who regularly represents clients in civil cases alleging misconduct against the Providence Police Department and its officers, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether she is prohibited by the Code of Ethics from serving on PERA, given her private employment. [Staff Attorney Radiches]

- c.) Doug McLean, AICP, the director of planning and development for the Town of Coventry, who in his private capacity works as a planning consultant, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether he is prohibited by the Code of Ethics from continuing to: (1) perform his official duties relating to the appeal of a recent planning board decision approving an application for the Village at Tiogue; and/or (2) work in his private capacity as a planning consultant. [Staff Attorney Radiches]
 - d.) Richard Berlinsky, an alternate member of the Newport Zoning Board of Review, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether he qualifies for a hardship exception to the Code of Ethics' prohibition against representing himself before his own municipal agency in order to seek a dimensional variance which will allow him to construct a second-floor deck at his personal residence. [Staff Attorney Papa]
 - e.) Charles R. Roberts, a member of the Middletown Town Council, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether he is prohibited by the Code of Ethics from participating in town council discussions and decision-making, as described herein, regarding the potential regionalization of the Middletown School District with the Newport School District, given that his brother-in-law is the chairperson of the Newport School Committee. [Staff Attorney Papa]
 - f.) Stephen B. Huttler, a member of the Middletown Planning Board, who in his private capacity is a member of the Aquidneck Island Land Trust Board of Trustees, a private non-profit organization, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether he is prohibited by the Code of Ethics from participating in planning board discussions and decision-making relating to the application for a master plan approval for a major land development project involving property that is a subject to a conservation easement in favor of the land trust and given that the applicant and the Petitioner are acquaintances. [Staff Attorney Papa]
5. Motion to go into Executive Session, to wit:
- a.) Motion to approve minutes of Executive Session held on April 14, 2026, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2) & (4).
 - b.) Motion to return to Open Session.
6. Motion to seal minutes of Executive Session held on May 5, 2026.
7. Report on actions taken in Executive Session.

8. New Business proposed for future Commission agendas and general comments from the Commission.
9. 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 April 30, 2026