

**Report on actions taken by the Rhode Island Ethics Commission
in Executive Session held on January 9, 2024:**

1. Unanimously voted (7-0) to approve the minutes of the Executive Session held on December 12, 2023.

2. Unanimously voted (5-0) in the matter of **In re: K. Joseph Shekarchi**, Complaint No. 2023-3, to find that there does not exist probable cause to believe that the Respondent, a member of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, violated Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-5(a) and 5(d) by supporting and voting on legislation 2017-H6172A in June 2017, that, if enacted, would have prevented municipalities from prohibiting farms of 15 acres or more from hosting weddings as a form of enterprise.

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

AYES: Marisa A. Quinn; Frank J. Cenerini; Emma L. Peterson; Matthew D. Strauss; and Holly J. Susi.

RECUSALS: Lauren E. Jones and Hugo L. Ricci, Jr.]

Copies of the Investigative Report will be available at the conclusion of the meeting. The Commission will prepare and issue a written Decision & Order explaining the basis of its vote.

3. Unanimously voted (7-0) to approve a proposed Informal Resolution and Settlement in the matter of **In re: Frank Brown, Jr.**, Complaint No. 2023-4, by which the Ethics Commission imposed a civil penalty of \$2,500 for violations of the Code of Ethics.

Copies of the Informal Resolution and Settlement and Investigative Report will be available at the conclusion of the meeting.

4. Unanimously voted (7-0) in the matter of **In re: Denise Brown**, Complaint No. 2023-5, to find that there does not exist probable cause to believe that the Respondent, a member of the Board of Directors of the Hopkins Hill Fire District, violated the Code of Ethics and the Financial Disclosure mandate.

Copies of the Investigative Report will be available at the conclusion of the meeting. The Commission will prepare and issue a written Decision & Order explaining the basis of its vote.

5. Unanimously voted (7-0) to return to Open Session.