

**Report on actions taken by the Rhode Island Ethics Commission
in Executive Session held on June 4, 2024:**

1. Voted (5-0) to approve the minutes of the Executive Session held on April 30, 2024.
[Reporter's Note: The vote was as follows:

AYES: Marisa A. Quinn; Frank J. Cenerini; Lauren E. Jones; Emma L. Peterson; and Holly J. Susi.

ABSTENTIONS: Scott P. Rabideau and Matthew D. Strauss.]

2. Unanimously voted (7-0) to approve a proposed Informal Resolution and Settlement in the matter of **In re: Michelle Vacca**, Complaint No. 2024-3, by which the Ethics Commission imposed a civil penalty of \$1,000 for a violation of the Code of Ethics.

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

3. In the matter of **In re: Michael Colasante**, Complaint No. 2023-10, the Commission took the following actions:

Unanimously voted (7-0) to find that probable cause exists to believe that, by receiving the assistance and/or services of Jeffrey Vaillancourt, a licensed electrician serving as the Town of Richmond Electrical Inspector, relative to the performance of an underground electrical installation and related excavation at the Respondent's 71 Buttonwoods Road property in August 2023, the Respondent violated 520-RICR-00-00-1.4.2(B) Gifts (36-14-5009);

Unanimously voted (7-0) to find that probable cause exists to believe that, by receiving the assistance and/or services of Jeffrey Vaillancourt, a licensed electrician serving as the Town of Richmond Electrical Inspector, relative to a 2023 request to RI Energy to provide electrical service at the Respondent's 71 Buttonwoods Road property, the Respondent violated 520-RICR-00-00-1.4.2(B) Gifts (36-14-5009); and

Unanimously voted (7-0) to find that probable cause exists to believe that, by Town of Richmond Electrical Inspector Jeffrey Vaillancourt's payment of Angelo Palazzo for the cost of Electrical Permit #5414 for the Respondent's 71 Buttonwoods Road property, the Respondent received a gift in violation of 520-RICR-00-00-1.4.2(B) Gifts (36-14-5009).

A motion also was made to find that probable cause exists to believe that the Respondent violated R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 36-14-5(a) & 7(a) by participating in the Town Council's decision-making relative to the hiring and discipline of Town of Richmond Electrical Inspector Jeffrey Vaillancourt, but the motion failed on a vote of (3-3) with one abstention.

The matter will be scheduled for an adjudication as to the counts for which the Commission found that probable cause exists.

4. Unanimously voted (7-0) in the matter of **In re: Olivia DeFrancesco**, Complaint No. 2024-7, to initially determine that the Complaint states facts that, if true, are sufficient to constitute a violation of the Code of Ethics and to authorize an investigation.

An Initial Determination is a preliminary vote that should not be construed as an opinion regarding the truth of the facts alleged in the complaint but is merely a vote to conduct an investigation into the allegations raised.

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