



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, December 16, 2025
TIME:	9:00 a.m.
PLACE:	Rhode Island Ethics Commission Hearing Room – 8 th Floor 40 Fountain Street Providence, RI 02903
LIVESTREAM:	The Open Session portions of this meeting will be livestreamed at: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88192990034 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.



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AGENDA

17th Meeting

1. Call to Order.
2. Motion to approve minutes of Open Session held on November 18, 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; and
 - e.) General office administration;
4. Advisory Opinions:
 - a.) Gloribel Marte, a business officer with the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, Business Affairs Unit, who in her private capacity owns and operates a business that provides tax preparation, bookkeeping, and related financial services to several individuals and small businesses in Rhode Island, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether she is prohibited by the Code of Ethics from continuing to operate her private business, given her current state employment. [Staff Attorney Radiches]
 - b.) George Kuzmowycz, a member of the board of directors of the Pawtuxet River Authority and Watershed Council, who is also an appointed member of the Scituate Budget Committee, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether the Code of Ethics prohibits him from continuing to simultaneously serve in both positions and, if not, what restrictions, if any, the Code of Ethics imposes upon him when performing his duties as a budget committee member relative to annual funding requests submitted by the Pawtuxet River Authority. [Staff Attorney Papa]

5. Discussion and potential vote regarding initiating rulemaking to correct citation errors in Commission regulations. [Staff Attorney Papa]
6. Motion to go into Executive Session, to wit:
 - a.) Motion to approve minutes of Executive Session held on November 18, 2025, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2) & (4).
 - b.) In re: Heidi Weston Rogers, Complaint No. 2024-12, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2) & (4).
 - c.) In re: Jeffrey McCormick, Complaint No. 2025-6, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2) & (4).
 - d.) Motion to return to Open Session.
7. Motion to seal minutes of Executive Session held on December 16, 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 December 11, 2025

RHODE ISLAND ETHICS COMMISSION

Draft Advisory Opinion

Hearing Date: December 16, 2025

Re: Glorisbel Marte

QUESTION PRESENTED:

The Petitioner, a business officer with the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, Business Affairs Unit, a state employee position, who in her private capacity owns and operates a business that provides tax preparation, bookkeeping, and related financial services to several individuals and small businesses in Rhode Island, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether she is prohibited by the Code of Ethics from continuing to operate her private business, given her current state employment.

RESPONSE:

It is the opinion of the Rhode Island Ethics Commission that the Petitioner, a business officer with the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, Business Affairs Unit, a state employee position, who in her private capacity owns and operates a business that provides tax preparation, bookkeeping, and related financial services to several individuals and small businesses in Rhode Island, is not prohibited by the Code of Ethics from continuing to operate her private business, notwithstanding her current state employment.

The Petitioner is employed full-time by the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training (RIDLT) as a business officer in the Business Affairs Unit. She has held this position since August 2025. The Petitioner describes the RIDLT as a statewide executive agency that is responsible for workforce development, unemployment insurance, temporary disability programs, and the regulation of certain employment and business compliance matters within the State of Rhode Island. The Petitioner identifies among her responsibilities the following: receiving licensing documentation for which she issues receipts, makes deposits, and records journal entries; preparing daily reports identifying unemployment and temporary benefit amounts to be issued to people and circulating those reports among RIDLT managers; and generally supporting internal financial operations through correspondence with managers from the RIDLT's Cash Management Unit. The Petitioner states that her work hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. She further states that the performance of her public duties does not involve interaction with members of the public.

The Petitioner represents that in 2021, in her private capacity as an accountant, she began performing tax preparation, bookkeeping, and related financial services such as preparation of balance sheets and profit and loss statements for several individuals and small businesses in Rhode Island. She further represents that she performs this work out of her home and has no employees. The Petitioner explains that she has a total of nine clients for whom she performs work between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. three evenings per week and for two hours each Saturday without the use of public resources. She adds that, if allowed to keep conducting her private business, she would continue to do so outside of her regular work hours and without the use of public resources. She further explains that she has a website which is dormant and that she does not advertise her business. The Petitioner states that after she accepted her position with the RIDLT, she informed her private clients that she would no longer be able to service them after September and offered to refer them to another accountant. The Petitioner further states that, in response to requests from her clients, she later informed them that she would continue to work for them through the remainder of the year, if possible.

The Petitioner represents that, after she was hired, she inquired of her RIDLT supervisor as to whether she must cease operation of her private business in light of her new state employment. The Petitioner informs that her supervisor noted no conflict under the circumstances. The Petitioner states that she would like to consider continuing to provide accounting services to her private clients after this year if doing so would not violate the Code of Ethics. The Petitioner is not aware of any matters before the RIDLT involving her private clients and, though she believes such a situation is unlikely to occur, would be prepared to recuse from participation in any RIDLT matters that would involve or directly financially impact one of her private clients. The Petitioner states that she would not be required to, nor would she, appear before or submit her work to the RIDLT as part of her private employment and that her private accounting work would not be something over which she would have decision-making jurisdiction as a state employee. Finally, the Petitioner states that she would not use her public position to solicit business or customers for her accounting business. It is under this set of facts that the Petitioner seeks the advice of the Ethics Commission regarding the continuation of her secondary private employment.

The Code of Ethics provides that no state employee shall accept other employment which will either impair her independence of judgment as to her official duties or require or induce her to disclose confidential information acquired by her in the course of, and by reason of, her official employment. R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-5(b). Additionally, the Code of Ethics provides that a public employee shall not have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect, or engage in any business, employment, transaction, or professional activity which is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of her duties in the public interest. § 36-14-5(a). A public employee has an interest which is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of her duties in the public interest if she has reason to believe or expect that she, any person within her family, her business associate, or any business by which she is employed or which she represents will derive a direct monetary gain or suffer a direct

monetary loss by reason of her official activity. R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-7(a). Additionally, the Code of Ethics provides that a public employee shall not use her public office or confidential information received through her holding public office to obtain financial gain for herself, any person within her family, her business associate, or any business by which she is employed or which she represents. § 36-14-5(d). A “business associate” is defined as a “person joined together with another person to achieve a common financial objective.” R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-2(3). A “person” is defined as an “individual or a business entity.” § 36-14-2(7).

The Ethics Commission has consistently opined that public employees are not inherently prohibited from holding other employment that is secondary to their primary public positions, provided that the other employment would neither impair their independence of judgment nor create an interest in substantial conflict with their public duties, and subject to certain other restrictions. The Ethics Commission examines several factors when considering potential conflicts regarding other employment. These factors include, but are not limited to, the nexus between the public official’s public duties and other employment; whether the employee completes such other work outside of their regular working hours and without the use of public resources; whether the employee is required to appear before their own agency as part of their other employment; whether such other work is to be conducted outside of the areas over which the person has decision-making jurisdiction; and whether the employee uses their public position to solicit business or customers for their secondary position. See General Commission Advisory No. 2009-4.

The Ethics Commission has previously advised public employees who wished to engage in private secondary employment of their obligations under the Code of Ethics. For example, in Advisory Opinion 2025-48, the Ethics Commission opined that a staff interpreter for the Rhode Island Supreme Court, who in her private capacity owned and operated an interpreting and translation business, was not prohibited by the Code of Ethics from registering her private business as a vendor for the State of Rhode Island in order to provide language services to various non-state and state agencies, excluding the Rhode Island Judiciary. See also A.O. 2019-67 (opining that a Rhode Island Family Court investigator was not prohibited by the Code of Ethics from owning and operating a private investigation firm, provided that all of the work was performed on his own time and without the use of public resources or confidential information obtained as part of his state employment, that the petitioner did not use his public position to promote or advertise his private employment or list his public employment as part of the advertisement of his private work, and that the petitioner recused from any matter that came before him as a Family Court investigator that involved any of the attorneys or entities for which he either provided private investigative services or with which he contracted on a regular basis); A.O. 2019-53 (opining that a vocational rehabilitation counselor for the Rhode Island Department of Human Services, Office of Rehabilitation Services, was not prohibited by the Code of Ethics from working as a certified yoga instructor for young children and/or adults with disabilities, provided that all of the work was performed on her own time and without the

use of public resources or confidential information obtained as part of her state employment and, further provided that the petitioner did not use her public position to promote or advertise her private employment, or list her public employment as part of the advertisement of her private work).

Here, based upon the Petitioner's representations, there appears to be no evidence that her continued provision of accounting services to her private clients would either impair her independence of judgment as to her state employment or create an interest that is in substantial conflict with her public duties. Additionally, there appears to be no relationship between the Petitioner's public duties as a business officer at the RIDLT and her intended continued accounting work for her private clients. Importantly, the Petitioner states that, if allowed to keep conducting her private business, she would continue to complete her private work outside of her regular work hours for the state and without the use of public resources. She further states that she would not be required to, nor would she, appear before or submit her work to the RIDLT as part of her private employment and that her private work would not be something over which she would have decision-making jurisdiction as a state employee. Additionally, the Petitioner represents that she would not use her public position to solicit customers for her private business.

Accordingly, based upon the Petitioner's representations, a review of the applicable provisions of the Code of Ethics, and consistent with prior advisory opinions issued, it is the opinion of the Ethics Commission that the Petitioner is not prohibited by the Code of Ethics from continuing to operate her private business, notwithstanding her current state employment. Finally, this advisory opinion cannot anticipate every possible situation in which a conflict of interest might arise and, thus, provides only general guidance as to the application of the Code of Ethics based upon the facts represented above. The Petitioner is advised to remain vigilant about identifying potential conflicts of interest and to seek further guidance from the Ethics Commission in the future as warranted.

This Draft Opinion is strictly limited to the facts stated herein and relates only to the application of the Rhode Island Code of Ethics. An advisory opinion rendered by the Commission, until amended or revoked by a majority vote of the Commission, is binding on the Commission in any subsequent proceedings concerning the person who requested the opinion and who acted in reliance on it in good faith, unless material facts were omitted or misstated by the person in the request for the opinion. Under the Code of Ethics, advisory opinions are based on the representations made by, or on behalf of, a public official or employee and are not adversarial or investigative proceedings. Finally, this Commission offers no opinion on the effect that any other statute, regulation, agency policy, ordinance, constitutional provision, charter provision, or canon of judicial or professional ethics may have on this situation.

Code Citations:

§ 36-14-2(3)
§ 36-14-2(7)
§ 36-14-5(a)
§ 36-14-5(b)
§ 36-14-5(d)
§ 36-14-7(a)

Related Advisory Opinions:

A.O. 2025-48
A.O. 2019-67
A.O. 2019-53
G.C.A. 2009-04

Keywords:

Secondary Employment

DRAFT

RHODE ISLAND ETHICS COMMISSION

Draft Advisory Opinion

Hearing Date: December 16, 2025

Re: George Kuzmowycz

QUESTION PRESENTED:

The Petitioner, a member of the board of directors of the Pawtuxet River Authority and Watershed Council, a regional quasi-public appointed position, who is also an appointed member of the Scituate Budget Committee, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether the Code of Ethics prohibits him from continuing to simultaneously serve in both positions and, if not, what restrictions, if any, the Code of Ethics imposes upon him when performing his duties as a budget committee member relative to annual funding requests submitted by the Pawtuxet River Authority.

RESPONSE:

It is the opinion of the Rhode Island Ethics Commission that the Petitioner, a member of the board of directors of the Pawtuxet River Authority and Watershed Council, a regional quasi-public appointed position, who is also an appointed member of the Scituate Budget Committee, is not prohibited by the Code of Ethics from continuing to simultaneously serve in both positions and from participating in budget committee discussions and vote on annual funding requests submitted by the Pawtuxet River Authority.

The Petitioner is a member of the board of directors of the Pawtuxet River Authority and Watershed Council (Pawtuxet River Authority). He was appointed to this position by the Scituate Town Council in August 2023 for a term expiring on June 1, 2026. According to its website, the Pawtuxet River Authority is a regional quasi-public entity created by the Rhode Island General Assembly in 1972 that is authorized to improve, preserve, and protect the Pawtuxet River, and which provides recreational facilities along the river.¹ The Pawtuxet River Authority is governed by a board of directors comprised of “three appointed representatives from each of the following communities through which the Pawtuxet River and its two main branches pass: Coventry, Cranston, Scituate, Warwick, and West Warwick.”² The Petitioner states that the board members currently do not receive

¹ See <https://www.pawtuxet.org/about.html> (last visited Dec. 10, 2025).

² Id.

any remuneration for their service on the board.³ The Petitioner represents that the Pawtuxet River Authority is funded, in part, by the five municipalities through which the Pawtuxet River runs. The Petitioner explains that each year the Pawtuxet River Authority prepares an operating budget and submits a request for a portion of its budget to be included in the annual budgets of each of the five member municipalities.⁴

The Petitioner states that he is also a member of the Scituate Town Budget Committee, on which he has continuously served since his initial appointment by the Scituate Town Council approximately five years ago.⁵ The Petitioner represents that the budget committee is comprised of the seven town council members, three members of the public, and the town treasurer. The Petitioner explains that he serves on the budget committee as one of the three members of the public. The Petitioner states that the various Scituate departments annually present their proposed budgets to the budget committee for consideration. The budget committee reviews and votes on each town department's budget request and develops the entire operating budget for the town. The Petitioner explains that the budget committee then forwards the proposed town budget to the town council for its review and approval, after which the town budget is subject to approval by the town's registered voters at an annual Scituate Financial Town Meeting. The Petitioner represents that the Pawtuxet River Authority's budget request is reviewed each year by the budget committee and is included as a line item in the town's overall budget. Given this set of facts, the Petitioner seeks guidance from the Ethics Commission regarding whether he is prohibited by the Code of Ethics from continuing to simultaneously serve in both positions and, if not, what restrictions, if any, the Code of Ethics imposes upon him when performing his duties as a budget committee member relative to the funding request submitted by the Pawtuxet River Authority.

Under the Code of Ethics, a public official may not participate in any matter in which he has an interest, financial or otherwise, that is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his duties in the public interest. R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-5(a). A substantial conflict of interest exists if a public official has reason to believe or expect that he, any person within his family, his business associate, or any business by which he is employed or which he represents will derive a direct monetary gain or suffer a direct monetary loss

³ The Petitioner explains that, while the board members are permitted to receive an annual stipend pursuant to the Pawtuxet River Authority's enabling legislation and its by-laws, no remuneration has been provided for the past two years as a matter of practice, nor is any expected in the future.

⁴ The Petitioner clarifies that the Pawtuxet River Authority requests the same lump sum amount from each of the five municipalities.

⁵ The Petitioner notes that members of the budget committee are ordinarily reappointed either in December or January of each year and that he anticipates being reappointed for the upcoming budget review period.

by reason of his official activity. R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-7(a). Additionally, the Code of Ethics prohibits a public official from using his public office, or confidential information received through his holding public office, to obtain financial gain for himself, any person within his family, his business associate, or any business by which he is employed or which he represents. § 36-14-5(d). Finally, a public official may not accept other employment that would impair his independence of judgment as to his official duties or require or induce him to disclose confidential information acquired by him in the course of and by reason of his official duties. § 36-14-5(b).

A business associate is defined as “a person joined together with another person to achieve a common financial objective.” R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-2(3). A person is defined as “an individual or a business entity.” § 36-14-2(7). A business is defined as “a sole proprietorship, partnership, firm, corporation, holding company, joint stock company, receivership, trust or any other entity recognized in law through which business for profit or not for profit is conducted.” § 36-14-2(2). The Ethics Commission has indicated that the Code of Ethics does not consider a public body to be a “business” or the relationship between a public official and a public body to be that of “business associates.” See, e.g., A.O. 2014-23 (opining that neither the Rhode Island Board of Education Council on Elementary and Secondary Education (CESE) nor Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts (TAPA) was considered a “business” under the Code of Ethics and, therefore, the petitioner’s memberships on CESE and TAPA did not constitute business associations with those bodies). Given that the Pawtuxet River Authority is a quasi-public entity, the Petitioner and the Pawtuxet River Authority are not business associates under the Code of Ethics.

In prior advisory opinions, the Ethics Commission has consistently concluded that the Code of Ethics does not create an absolute bar against a person’s simultaneous service in two different public agencies. Rather, a determination must be made on a case-by-case basis as to whether a substantial conflict of interest exists, in either public role, with respect to a public official carrying out his duties in the public interest. In Advisory Opinion 2000-54, for example, the Ethics Commission opined that a petitioner could simultaneously serve as the tax assessor for the Town of Charlestown and as the tax collector/assessor for the Dunn’s Corners Fire District, which serviced part of the Town of Charlestown. There, the only overlap recognized in the duties for those positions was that the taxes collected by the tax assessor/collector for the fire district were based on property evaluations set by the town tax assessor. The Ethics Commission noted that, while there might be overlap in the petitioner’s public roles, a substantial conflict of interest was not apparent by the petitioner holding the two positions. See also A.O. 2017-15 (opining that the interim town manager for the Town of New Shoreham, who was also the chairperson of the New Shoreham Library Board of Trustees, was not prohibited by the Code of Ethics from simultaneously serving in both positions).

Here, the Petitioner’s public duties as a member of the Pawtuxet River Authority and the Scituate Budget Committee appear to be separate and distinct. There is no indication that

-serving in both capacities would impair the Petitioner’s independence of judgment as to his public responsibilities in either role. Accordingly, based on the Petitioner’s representations, the applicable provisions of the Code of Ethics, and prior advisory opinions issued, it is the opinion of the Ethics Commission that the Petitioner is not prohibited by the Code of Ethics from continuing to simultaneously serve in both positions. Further, since the Petitioner and the Pawtuxet River Authority are not business associates, the above-cited provisions of the Code of Ethics do not prohibit the Petitioner from participating in the budget committee’s review and vote on the Pawtuxet River Authority’s proposed annual funding request. The Petitioner is advised to seek further guidance as needed if any of the represented facts change in a way that could create a conflict of interest not anticipated within this advisory opinion.

This Draft Opinion is strictly limited to the facts stated herein and relates only to the application of the Rhode Island Code of Ethics. An advisory opinion rendered by the Commission, until amended or revoked by a majority vote of the Commission, is binding on the Commission in any subsequent proceedings concerning the person who requested the opinion and who acted in reliance on it in good faith, unless material facts were omitted or misstated by the person in the request for the opinion. Under the Code of Ethics, advisory opinions are based on the representations made by, or on behalf of, a public official or employee and are not adversarial or investigative proceedings. Finally, this Commission offers no opinion on the effect that any other statute, regulation, agency policy, ordinance, constitutional provision, charter provision, or canon of judicial or professional ethics may have on this situation.

Code Citations:

- § 36-14-2(2)
- § 36-14-2(3)
- § 36-14-2(7)
- § 36-14-5(a)
- § 36-14-5(b)
- § 36-14-5(d)
- § 36-14-7(a)

Related Advisory Opinions:

- A.O. 2017-15
- A.O. 2014-23
- A.O. 2000-54

Keywords:

- Budgets
- Business Associate
- Dual Public Roles

Discussion and potential vote
regarding initiating rulemaking to
correct citation errors in
Commission regulations.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Rhode Island Ethics Commission

FROM: Teodora Popova Papa, Staff Attorney

RE: **Proposed Direct Final Rulemaking**

DATE: December 4, 2025

Dear Commissioners,

The staff has extensively reviewed the Code of Ethics and has determined that several commission regulations contain citations to state statutes that the General Assembly has amended over the years so that the citations to those statutes are no longer accurate. To update the citations, the staff is proposing to initiate “Direct Final Rulemaking,” which is a streamlined version of rulemaking that is permitted under the Administrative Procedures Act under circumstances such as these, where an amendment makes no substantive changes and is not expected to be controversial. See R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.11. Under Direct Final Rulemaking, there will be no public hearing, and the proposed rules automatically take effect thirty (30) days after publication if no objection is received.

The following are the redlined sections of the Code of Ethics proposed to be amended:

1. 520-RICR-00-00-2.5 Annual Report Requests (36-14-9001)

“On or before the last Friday in December of each year, the Commission shall cause to be mailed, by first class mail, postage prepaid, an inquiry and roster from the then current records of the Commission to the clerk of each city and town and the state. Said inquiry shall include the definitions of those persons subject to the Code of Ethics ~~(R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-2(1), (2), and (3))~~, and shall direct the clerk to furnish the title, names and address of those persons subject to the Code of Ethics for each town who do not appear on said roster, and to furnish said information for replacement of any additional persons subject to the code during the next succeeding twelve (12) month period.”

The subsections of R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-2 were renumbered by the General Assembly several times through the years. The above-referenced definitions are now contained in § 36-14-2(10), (9), and (4), respectively, and additionally in Commission Regulation 520-RICR-00-00-1.1.3.

2. 520-RICR-00-00-2.9(B) Petition for Adoption of Regulations (1026)

“B. Within thirty (30) days of receipt of the petition, the Commission shall either deny the petition in writing (stating its reasons for the denial) or initiate rule-making procedures in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § chapter 42-35-3.”

R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-3 is now entitled “Electronic filing of annual reports,” and does not address rulemaking. The rulemaking procedures are addressed in various sections of chapter 42-35.

3. 520-RICR-00-00-2.10 Adoption of Commission Policy and General Commission Advisory Opinions (1027)

“Final adoption of any policy or general Commission advisory opinion shall require an affirmative vote at two separate meetings of the Commission. The initial vote may occur at any public meeting of the Commission. The second or final vote shall only be taken after the proposed policy or general advisory opinion has been incorporated by specific reference on a public meeting notice relating to an open and public meeting of the Commission, thereby providing an opportunity for public comment on any proposed policy or general advisory opinion. Specifically excluded from these policies are any proposed regulations which are subject to promulgation pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § chapter 42-35-3.”

R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-3 is now entitled “Electronic filing of annual reports,” and does not address rulemaking. The rulemaking procedures are addressed in various sections of chapter 42-35.

4. 520-RICR-00-00-3.22(A) Hearing to Determine Violation of the Code of Ethics (1015)

“A. Adjudicative hearings shall be conducted consistent with these Regulations. The Chair of the Commission, or the Chair's designee, shall act as the presiding officer. All hearings conducted by the Commission subsequent to the issuance of a Finding of Probable Cause shall be open to the public, except for any hearing conducted by the Commission to review an informal disposition prior to its approval and issuance, pursuant to § 3.16 of this Part. Any such hearing shall be treated as a proceeding in Executive Session, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-~~35~~46-5(a)(4).”

R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-5(a)(4) does not exist. The regulation should refer to the Open Meetings Act contained in R.I. Gen. Laws chapter 42-46, and its subsection 42-46-5(a)(4), which notes that “[a]ny investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct, either civil or criminal” may be closed to the public.