



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

RHODE ISLAND ETHICS COMMISSION

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NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING

AGENDA

12th Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, October 27, 2020

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

TO ATTEND: Pursuant to Governor Gina Raimondo's Executive Order No. 20-46, as extended by No. 20-84, this meeting will not be conducted in-person at the Rhode Island Ethics Commission. Rather, it will be conducted remotely in Zoom webinar format in order to minimize any possible transmission of COVID-19. Any member of the public who wishes to attend and view this video meeting may do so by:

- Clicking this link to join the webinar:
<https://zoom.us/j/97836105463>
and using Webinar ID: 978 3610 5463
- Or using iPhone one-tap US:
 - +16465588656,,97836105463# or
 - +13017158592,,97836105463#
- Or by Telephone, Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location) US:
 - +1 312 626 6799 or
 - +1 646 558 8656 or
 - +1 301 715 8592 or
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 - +1 669 900 9128 or
 - +1 253 215 8782 or
 - 888 788 0099 (Toll Free) or
 - 833 548 0276 (Toll Free) or
 - 833 548 0282 (Toll Free) or
 - 877 853 5247 (Toll Free)
- International numbers available:
<https://zoom.us/u/adqVYMFqhq>
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1. Call to Order.
2. Discussion of Remote Meeting Format; Identifying and Troubleshooting any Remote Meeting Issues.
3. Motion to approve minutes of Open Session held on September 22, 2020.
4. Director's Report: Status report and updates regarding:
 - a.) Discussion of impact of COVID-19 crisis on Ethics Commission operations and staffing;
 - b.) Complaints and investigations pending, and limitations on pre-election complaints;
 - c.) Advisory opinions pending;
 - d.) Access to Public Records Act requests since last meeting;
 - e.) Financial Disclosure, update on 2019 filings.
5. Advisory Opinions (petitioners may participate remotely):
 - a.) John Yoakum, a member of the Smithfield Planning Board, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether he qualifies for a hardship exception to the Code of Ethics' prohibition on representing oneself before one's own board, for purposes of seeking a variance that would allow him to subdivide his residential property in order to create an additional lot on which his son can build a house in which to live.
 - b.) Erik Brine, a member of the Jamestown Zoning Board of Review, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether he qualifies for a hardship exception to the Code of Ethics' prohibition on appearing before one's own board, for purposes of seeking a special use permit to raise chickens at his personal residence.
 - c.) Sven Risom, a member of the Town of New Shoreham Town Council, requests an advisory opinion regarding what restrictions, if any, the Code of Ethics places upon him in carrying out his Town Council duties, given that his brother is employed by the Town as its residential building inspector.
 - d.) Brett P. Smiley, the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Administration, who is interested in exploring the possibility of running for Mayor of the City of Providence, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether the Code of Ethics prohibits him from soliciting and receiving campaign contributions from persons who are not state employees or vendors.
 - e.) Michael Junge, a member of the Jamestown Harbor Commission, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether the Code of Ethics prohibits him from interviewing for and accepting, if offered, the position of Jamestown Harbormaster, provided that he resigns from the Jamestown Harbor Commission upon accepting the position of Harbormaster.

6. New Business proposed for future Commission agendas and general comments from the Commission.
7. Motion to go into Executive Session, to wit:
 - a.) Motion to approve minutes of Executive Session held on September 22, 2020, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2) & (4).
 - b.) Motion to return to Open Session.

NOTE ON REPORTING OUT OF ACTIONS TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION: *After the Commission votes to go into Executive Session, the Open Session Zoom meeting will temporarily close and viewers will not be able to join the Executive Session which is being held in a separate Zoom meeting. At the conclusion of the Executive Session, which has no set duration, the Commission will reconvene in the Open Session meeting solely for the purpose of reporting out any actions taken in Executive Session and sealing the executive session minutes. You may rejoin the Open Session by following the same instructions on Page 1 of this agenda that you followed to join the original Open Session meeting. If you attempt to rejoin the Open Session Zoom meeting while the Executive Session portion is occurring, you will see a message that the meeting host is in another meeting. Eventually, once the Executive Session meeting concludes, the host will reconvene the Open Session meeting and you will be able to view the Commission Chair report out any actions taken in Executive Session. Alternatively, it may be more convenient for you to view a written report of any actions taken in Executive Session by visiting our website (<https://ethics.ri.gov/>) later in the day.*

8. Report on actions taken in Executive Session.
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 October 21, 2020