



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

RHODE ISLAND ETHICS COMMISSION

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NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING

AGENDA

12th Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, August 17, 2021

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: Rhode Island Ethics Commission
Hearing Room - 8th Floor
40 Fountain Street
Providence, RI 02903

1. Call to Order.
2. Motion to approve minutes of Open Session held on June 29, 2021.
3. 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;
 - c.) Advisory opinions pending;
 - d.) Access to Public Records Act requests since last meeting;
 - e.) Financial Disclosure: Update on 2020 filing period.
4. Motion to go into Executive Session, to wit:
 - a.) Motion to approve minutes of Executive Session held on June 29, 2021, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2) & (4).
 - b.) In re: Steven Merolla, Complaint No. 2020-6, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2) & (4).
 - c.) In re: Anthony Piloizzi, Complaint No. 2021-2, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2) & (4).

- d.) Motion to return to Open Session.
- 5. Motion to seal minutes of Executive Session held on August 17, 2021.
- 6. Report on actions taken in Executive Session.
- 7. Advisory Opinions.
 - a.) The Honorable Steven A. Moretti, an Associate Judge of the Cranston Municipal Court, who in his private capacity is a practicing attorney, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether the Code of Ethics prohibits him from representing clients before the Cranston Probate Court, the Cranston Zoning Board of Review, and the Cranston City Council, and from representing clients charged with criminal offenses by the Cranston Police Department. [Staff Attorney Radiches]
 - b.) Robert R. Moreau, Executive Director for the Woonsocket Housing Authority, requests an advisory opinion regarding what restrictions, if any, the Code of Ethics places upon him in carrying out his official duties, given that his sister is employed by the Woonsocket Housing Authority as a Data Entry Clerk. [Staff Attorney Radiches]
 - c.) Thomas R. Doyle, a member of the New Shoreham Sewer Commission, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether he qualifies for a hardship exception to the Code of Ethics' prohibition on appearing before an agency of which he is a member in order to appeal a sewer assessment against his personal residence. [Staff Attorney Papa]
 - d.) Robert Almeida, the Supervising Forensic Scientist for the Rhode Island Department of Health, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether the Code of Ethics prohibits him from working, on his own time, as a private consultant on matters outside of and with no relation to the State of Rhode Island. [Staff Attorney Papa]
 - e.) William J. Fazioli, the Chairperson of the East Providence Waterfront District Commission, who also serves as the Director of the Department of Planning and Economic Development for the City of East Providence, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether the Code of Ethics prohibits his simultaneous service in both positions. [Staff Attorney Papa]
 - f.) Stephen R. Ucci, a former legislator who served as a member of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether he may, prior to the expiration of one year after leaving legislative office, accept an appointment by the Speaker of the Rhode Island House of Representatives to the Special Commission on Reapportionment. [Staff Attorney Papa]

8. Education update.
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 August 12, 2021