



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
**RHODE ISLAND ETHICS COMMISSION**  
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## **NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING**

### **AGENDA**

#### **8<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

**DATE:** Tuesday, May 20, 2025

**TIME:** 9:00 a.m.

**PLACE:** Rhode Island Ethics Commission  
Hearing Room - 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
40 Fountain Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**LIVESTREAM:** The Open Session portions of this meeting will be livestreamed at:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81700684449>

1. Call to Order.
2. Motion to approve minutes of Open Session held on April 29, 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. Discussion and vote to initiate formal rulemaking: Amending the Code of Ethics' Gift Rule at 520-RICR-00-00-1.4.2 to expressly include registered lobbyists within

the definition of “interested person,” and to raise the maximum allowable gift values to be more consistent with changes to the consumer price index since 2005. [Director Gramitt]

5. Advisory Opinions:

- a.) The Honorable Frank A. Ciccone, III, a legislator serving as a member of the Rhode Island Senate, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether he is prohibited by the Code of Ethics from participating in Senate discussions and voting on proposed legislation that defines various assault weapons and restricts the manufacture, sale, purchase, and possession of them, given that the Petitioner holds a license to deal firearms and would be subject to the legislation if it passes. [Staff Attorney Radiches]
- b.) Sergeant Jason Brodeur, a sergeant with the Warwick Police Department, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether the established alternate chain of command policy would sufficiently insulate him from conflicts of interest arising out of his position, given the police department’s anticipated hiring of the Petitioner’s nephew to work as a communications specialist/dispatcher. [Staff Attorney Radiches]
- c.) Samantha Doyle, a community program liaison worker at the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals, Office of Quality Assurance, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether she is prohibited by the Code of Ethics from simultaneously working per diem as a Go Team on-call and weekend liaison at Family Service of Rhode Island. [Staff Attorney Papa]
- d.) Kurt Wilcox, a member of the West Greenwich Planning Board, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether he qualifies for a hardship exception to the Code of Ethics’ prohibition against appearing before one’s own board for purposes of seeking review and approval of a proposed development plan for a parcel of real property that his company owns in the town. [Staff Attorney Papa]
- e.) Brian Thalmann, PE, an alternate member of the Smithfield Zoning Board of Review, who in his private capacity is a professional engineer, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether he is prohibited by the Code of Ethics from participating in zoning board discussions and decision-making relative to an application for a dimensional variance allowing the applicant to construct a detached garage on property that is part of a subdivision, given that the Petitioner was the engineer for the subdivision. [Staff Attorney Papa]

6. Motion to go into Executive Session, to wit:
  - a.) Motion to approve minutes of Executive Session held on April 29, 2025, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2) & (4).
  - b.) In re: Jonathan Pascua, Complaint No. 2025-2, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2) & (4).
  - b.) Motion to return to Open Session.
7. Motion to seal minutes of Executive Session held on May 20, 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 May 15, 2025*