



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, September 1, 2026
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/88453136744 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

12th Meeting

1. Call to Order.
2. Motion to approve minutes of Open Session held on August 4, 2026.
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.) Katherine Lennon, a principal resource specialist employed by the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families, Licensing Division, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether she is prohibited by the Code of Ethics from simultaneously working in her private capacity as a residential supervisor in a group home for teenage girls that is owned and operated by Family Service of Rhode Island, an entity that provides services to the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families pursuant to a contract between the two entities. [Staff Attorney Papa]
 - b.) Jeffrey McCormick, the Department of Public Works Director for the Town of Burrillville, who is currently one of two final candidates for the position of Burrillville Town Manager, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether the proposed alternate supervisory chain of command would sufficiently insulate him from conflicts of interest if he is the successful

candidate for the town manager position, and what other restrictions, if any, the Code of Ethics would place upon him in carrying out his official duties, given that his sister is employed by the town as an administrative assistant to the town clerk. [Staff Attorney Radiches]

- c.) Bernard Lane, Jr., the chief financial officer for the Rhode Island Department of Public Safety, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether his daughter's potential employment with the Rhode Island State Police would present a conflict of interest for him under the Code of Ethics. [Staff Attorney Radiches]

5. Motion to go into Executive Session, to wit:

- a.) Motion to approve minutes of Executive Session held on August 4, 2026, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a), (2), & (4).
- b.) In re: Gordon E. Rogers, Complaint No. 2026-4, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2) & (4).
- c.) In re: Valarie J. Lawson, Complaint No. 2026-3, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2) & (4).
- d.) K. Joseph Shekarchi vs. Rhode Island Ethics Commission, Superior Court C.A. No. PC-2026-03423, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2).
- e.) Motion to return to Open Session.

6. Motion to seal minutes of Executive Session held on September 1, 2026.

7. Report on actions taken in Executive Session.

8. New Business proposed for future Commission agendas and general comments from the Commission.

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-RIS-5555.

Posted on August 27, 2026