

ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

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JEFFREY M. BRINDLE Executive Director

JOSEPH W. DONOHUE Deputy Director

DEMERY J. ROBERTS Legal Director

STEPHANIE A. OLIVO Compliance Director

EDWIN R. MATTHEWS Legal Counsel

PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

December 17, 2019

Executive Director Jeffrey Brindle, Deputy Director Joseph Donohue, Legal Director Demery Roberts, Deputy Legal Director Amanda Haines, and Director of Review and Investigation Shreve Marshall were present. Chairman Eric Jaso, Commissioner Stephen Holden, Commissioner Marguerite Simon, and Legal Counsel Edwin Matthews participated by telephone.

A court reporter was available to record the proceedings.

The Public Session Minutes will be available online on the Commission's website at: http://www.elec.state.nj.us.

The meeting convened at 11:00 a.m. in Trenton.

1. **Open Public Meetings Statement**

Chairman Jaso called the meeting to order. Executive Director Brindle announced that pursuant to the "Open Public Meetings Act," <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 10:4-6 <u>et seq</u>., adequate notice of the meeting of the Commission had been filed with the Secretary of State's Office and distributed to the entire State House Press Corps.

It was also posted on the Commission's website.

2. Approval of Public Session Minutes for November 21, 2019

On a motion by Commissioner Simon, seconded by Commissioner Holden, and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Commission approved the Public Session Minutes of November 21, 2019.

3. <u>Executive Director's Report</u>

The Executive Director presented the Executive Director's Report.

ERIC H. JASO Chairman

STEPHEN M. HOLDEN Commissioner

MARGUERITE T. SIMON Commissioner

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Future Meetings Schedule

- January 21, 2020 at 11:00 am in Trenton;
- February 18, 2020 at 11:00 am in Trenton; and,
- March 17, 2020 at 11:00 am in Trenton.

4. <u>Public Comments</u>

No public comments.

5. <u>Resolution Authorizing an Executive Session</u>

Whereas, there exists a need to hold an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the following matter/matters, which fall within the exceptions to the Open Public Meetings Act, <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 10:4-12 *et seq.* to wit.

Matter/Matters (OPMA Exception)

- Discussion of Executive Session Minutes for November 21, 2019;
- Final Decision Recommendations;
- Executive Session Memorandum;
- Complaint Recommendations;
- Consent Order and Final Decision Recommendation; and,
- Update on Litigation Matters.

Whereas, it is unknown at this time when such discussion to take place in Executive Session may be disclosed to the public.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved by the Election Law Enforcement Commission as follows:

- 1. This Executive Session Meeting of the Election Law Enforcement Commission shall be closed to the public for discussion of the aforesaid referenced matters.
- 2. The matters discussed during this Executive Session Meeting shall be disclosed to the public at such time when reason for discussing and acting on same in Executive Session shall no longer exist.

On a motion by Commissioner Holden, seconded by Commissioner Simon, and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Commission resolved to enter Executive Session to discuss anticipated litigation and current litigation, which will become public as follows:

- A. Final Decision Recommendations in complaint proceedings, which will not become public. However, the Final Decisions resulting from those recommendations will become public not later than seven business days after mailing to the named respondents.
- B. Complaint recommendations discussing potential violations will not become public. However, any complaints approved by the Commission will become public not later than seven business days after mailing the complaint to the named respondents.

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C. Matters under current litigation, the substance of discussions of which will not become public in order to protect the attorney-client privilege and the deliberative process. However, any litigation in which the Commission is currently a party is a public matter and will become public subject to the above limitations and privileges.

Return to Public Session

6. Approval of Executive Session Minutes for November 21, 2019

On a motion by Commissioner Holden, seconded by Commissioner Simon, and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Commission approved the Executive Session Minutes of November 21, 2019.

7. Final Decision Recommendations

On a motion by Commissioner Simon, seconded by Commissioner Holden, and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Commission adopted the Final Decision Recommendations, items 1 through 8.

8. <u>Complaint Recommendations</u>

On a motion by Commissioner Holden, seconded by Commissioner Simon, and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Commission approved the Complaint Recommendations, items 1 and 2.

9. <u>Executive Session Memorandum</u>

On a motion by Commissioner Simon, seconded by Commissioner Holden, and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Commission approved the Executive Session Memorandum, item 1.

10. Consent Order and Final Decision Recommendation

On a motion by Commissioner Holden, seconded by Commissioner Simon, and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Commission adopted the Consent Order and Final Decision Recommendation, item 1,

11. Office of Attorney General/Office of Public Integrity and Accountability

Director of Review and Investigation Shreve Marshall announced that the Office of the Attorney General issued a nine-count indictment against Mayor Ronald J. Dimura of Middlesex Borough on charges for allegedly stealing \$190,000 from various political campaigns. Director Marshall said that the investigation began with a referral from the Election Law Enforcement Commission to the Attorney General. Chairman Jaso commended staff for its efforts to work together with the Public Integrity Unit of the Department of Law and Public Safety.

12. <u>Public Comments</u>

No public comments.

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13. <u>Adjournment</u>

On a motion by Commissioner Holden, seconded by Commissioner Simon, and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Commission resolved to adjourn at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted as true and correct,

Jeffrey M. Brindle Executive Director

JMB/elz