

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SESSION OF THE  
MARCH 26, 2019  
COMMISSION MEETING  
OF THE JOINT COMMISSION ON PUBLIC ETHICS  
HELD AT  
540 BROADWAY  
ALBANY, NEW YORK**

**Chair:** Michael K. Rozen (NYC)

**Members:** Robert Cohen (NYC)  
James E. Dering (ALB)  
Colleen C. DiPirro (BUF)  
William P. Fisher (ALB)  
Julie A. Garcia (ALB)  
Marvin E. Jacob (WebEx)  
Gary J. Lavine (WebEx)  
James W. McCarthy (ALB)  
David J. McNamara (NYC)  
George H. Weissman (WebEx)  
James A. Yates (NYC)

**Members**

**Absent:** Daniel J. Horwitz

**Staff:**

Seth. H. Agata, Executive Director  
Monica J. Stamm, General Counsel  
Martin L. Levine, Deputy General Counsel  
Stephen J. Boland, Director of Administration  
Keith C. St. John, Director of Ethics  
Pei Pei Cheng-de-Castro, Director of Investigations and Enforcement  
Walter J. McClure, Director of Communications and Public Information Officer  
Carol Quinn, Deputy Director of Lobbying Guidance  
Emily A. Logue, Deputy Director of Investigations and Enforcement  
Michael Sande, Deputy Director of Ethics Guidance  
Meghann Hennigan-Cohen, Deputy Director of Education  
Melinda Funk, Deputy Director of FDS  
Erin Lynch, Special Counsel for Lobbying  
Kavita Bhatt, Associate Counsel  
Kristin DiFrancesco, Associate Counsel  
Patrick E. Coultry, Chief Investigator  
Peter J. Smith, Investigator  
Richard Coraggio, Investigator  
Lori Donadio, Principal Investigative Analyst  
Katherine Santandrea, Secretary to the Commission  
Erica Davis, Intern

[Commissioner Cohen was not present until the end of the meeting]

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Rozen called the March 26, 2019 meeting to order. Chair Rozen welcomed Commissioner McCarthy to the Commission.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – PUBLIC SESSION**

**February 26, 2019**

A motion was made by Commissioner Dering, seconded by Commissioner Garcia, to approve the minutes from the Public Session of the February 26, 2019 Commission Meeting. The motion was approved by a vote of 10-0-1. Commissioner McCarthy abstained from the vote.

**III. REPORT FROM STAFF**

**Update on Annual Report**

Executive Director Agata stated that staff is finishing the Annual Report and a draft Report will be sent to the Commissioners for review in the first or second week of April and will be published shortly thereafter. Staff is in the process of compiling and reviewing lobbying data.

**Update on Lobbying Application**

Deputy Director of Lobbying Guidance Carol Quinn stated that the bimonthly filings portion of the new lobbying application opened on March 5. Staff has been receiving filings and assisting filers with questions, and the overall implementation of the new system has been going smoothly. Executive Director Agata noted that the Commission has received praise for staff's efforts in assisting filers navigate the new lobbying application.

**Proposed Meeting Schedule - July through December 2019**

Executive Director Agata stated that the meeting schedule for the remainder of the year is presented in the meeting book for planning purposes and will be posted on JCOPE's website.

**IV. NEW AND OTHER BUSINESS**

Executive Director Agata stated that the Commission is awaiting the outcome of budget negotiations.

**V. MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE LAW § 94(19)(B)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Yates, seconded by Commissioner McNamara, to enter into Executive Session Pursuant to Executive Law § 94(19)(b). The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**VI. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACTIONS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chair Rozen stated that in Executive Session, the Commission discussed Financial Disclosure Statement compliance and reviews, approved two applications for exemptions from post-employment restrictions pursuant to Public Officers Law § 73(8-b), approved one settlement agreement, commenced one substantial basis investigation, authorized steps in several investigative matters, discussed several other investigative matters, and discussed other confidential matters.

**VII. MOTION TO ADJOURN THE PUBLIC MEETING**

Upon motion made by Commissioner Yates, seconded by Commissioner Dering, the Public Session was adjourned by unanimous vote.