

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SESSION OF THE
JUNE 25, 2019
COMMISSION MEETING
OF THE JOINT COMMISSION ON PUBLIC ETHICS
HELD AT
540 BROADWAY
ALBANY, NEW YORK**

Chair: Michael K. Rozen (NYC)

Members: Colleen C. DiPirro (BUF)
William P. Fisher (ALB)
Julie A. Garcia (ALB)
Daniel J. Horwitz (NYC)
Marvin E. Jacob (NYC)
Gary J. Lavine (ALB)
James W. McCarthy (WebEx)
George H. Weissman (ALB)
James A. Yates (NYC)

Members

Absent: Robert Cohen
James E. Dering
David J. McNamara

Staff: Seth H. Agata, Executive Director
Monica J. Stamm, General Counsel
Martin L. Levine, Deputy General Counsel
Keith C. St. John, Director of Ethics
Walter J. McClure, Director of Communications and Public Information Officer
Pei Pei Cheng-de Castro, Director of Investigations and Enforcement
Emily Logue, Deputy Director of Investigations and Enforcement
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
Carolina Rivera, Investigator
Lori Donadio, Principal Investigative Analyst
Carol Mirabelli, Internal Control Officer
Katherine Santandrea, Secretary to the Commission
Adrianna Mathew, Intern

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rozen called the June 25, 2019 meeting to order. Chair Rozen stated that it was Executive Director Seth Agata's last meeting and thanked him, on behalf of the Commission, for all of his work and wished him all the best in the future.

Executive Director Agata thanked the Chair and the commissioners for the hard work that they put into the work of the Commission. Executive Director Agata thanked the Commission staff for all of its work.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – PUBLIC SESSION

May 21, 2019

A motion was made by Commissioner Weissman, seconded by Commissioner Horwitz, to approve the minutes from the Public Session of the May 21, 2019 Commission Meeting. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Jacob stated that he wanted to echo Commissioner Yates' statement made in previous meetings that the Commission still has a vacancy. Commissioner Jacob believes it interferes with the work of the Commission to have a composition that does not match the statutory requirements.

III. REPORT FROM STAFF

Annual Financial Disclosure Statements

Executive Director Agata stated that the filing deadline was May 15. The Legislative Ethics Commission has advised that staff will have the legislative filings by the end of the week. The filings will be made public in accordance with the statute, likely by the second week in July.

Update on Lobbying Application

Deputy General Counsel Martin Levine stated that the client semi-annual reports and source of funding disclosures will be available in the new Lobbying Application the week

of July 8. Because of the close proximity to the statutory filing deadline, the Commission is pre-emptively granting extensions to all clients to July 31.

Deputy General Counsel Levine stated that there are a couple of new features for clients who file bi-monthly reports: the information will roll over and pre-populate the client report. As laid out in the regulations, clients who do not have retained lobbyists but lobby on their own behalf do not have to file a client semi-annual report. The previously duplicative requirement was addressed in the Commission's regulations. Staff will have additional updates in July regarding the new search queries that will be available to the public.

IV. NEW AND OTHER BUSINESS

N/A

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Yates, seconded by Commissioner Horwitz, 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 and Commissioner DiPirro left the meeting during Executive Session]

Commissioner Horwitz stated that during Executive Session, the Commission discussed matters relating to litigation, approved an application for an exemption from the post-employment restrictions under Public Officers Law § 73(8-b), approved three settlement agreements, authorized steps in several investigative matters, and discussed several other investigative matters.

VII. MOTION TO ADJOURN THE PUBLIC MEETING

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