

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SESSION  
OF THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2023  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON ETHICS  
AND LOBBYING IN GOVERNMENT**

**25 BEAVER STREET, 5<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10004**

**540 BROADWAY  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207**

**Chair:** Frederick A. Davie (NYC)

**Vice-Chair:** Leonard B. Austin (WEBEX)

**Members:** Ava Ayers (ALB)  
Dolly Caraballo (NYC)  
Michael A. Cardozo (NYC)  
Claudia L. Edwards (NYC)  
Nancy G. Groenwegen (ALB)  
Seymour W. James, Jr. (NYC)  
Kaylin L. Whittingham (NYC)

**Staff:** Sanford N. Berland, Executive Director (NYC)  
Keith C. St. John, General Counsel (ALB)  
Kavita K. Bhatt, Deputy General Counsel (NYC)  
Carol Quinn, Director of Lobbying (ALB)  
Brian Weinberg, Director of Investigations & Enforcement (NYC)  
Michael Sande, Director of Ethics (NYC)  
Emily DeSantis, Director of Communications, Public Information Officer  
and Director of Public Affairs (ALB)  
Lori Donadio, Managing Principal Investigative Analyst (ALB)  
Mariana Cadiz, Acting Director of Administration (ALB)  
Martha Rivera, Executive Assistant (NYC)

[Vice-Chair Austin was not present for this portion of the meeting.]

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Davie called the September 13, 2023 meeting to order. Executive Director Berland announced that a quorum was present at locations open to the public both in New York City and at the Commission's offices in Albany in accordance with the provisions of the state Open Meetings Law, and that, in addition, Vice-Chair Austin will be attending remotely pursuant to Public Offices Law § 103-a and the Commission's rules and procedures for remote participation in extraordinary circumstances.

**MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO PUBLIC OFFICERS LAW § 105 AND EXECUTIVE LAW § 94(11) TO ADDRESS MATTERS CONCERNING EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL, PENDING LITIGATION, AND INVESTIGATIVE AND ENFORCEMENT MATTERS THAT ARE CONFIDENTIAL PURSUANT TO §94 OF THE EXECUTIVE LAW. \***

A motion was made by Commissioner Caraballo and seconded by Commissioner James to adjourn the Public Session and enter Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACTIONS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Executive Director Berland announced that during the Executive Session, the Commission addressed matters concerning pending litigation that is privileged and confidential under Article 45 of the Civil Practice Law and Rules and confidential and exempt under §108 of the Public Officers Law.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN THE PUBLIC MEETING**

A motion was made by Commissioner Edwards, seconded by Commissioner Whittingham, to adjourn the public meeting. The motion was approved by unanimously.