STATE OF FLORIDA COMMISSION ON ETHICS

Friday, October 25, 2024

Third Floor Courtroom, First District Court of Appeal 2000 Drayton Drive Tallahassee, Florida

PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

At 8:41 a.m. Chair Luis Fusté called the meeting to order with the following members present:

MICHELLE ANCHORS
PAUL D. BAIN
TINA DESCOVICH
FREDDIE FIGGERS
LUIS M. FUSTÉ
LAIRD A. LILE
WENGAY M. NEWTON, SR.

Ashley Lukis was absent from the meeting.

The presence of a quorum was noted.

Commissioner Newton, seconded by Commissioner Descovich, moved to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2024, Public Session meeting. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Complaint No. 22-079, In re RANDALL FINE

Commissioner Descovich recused herself from the consideration of this matter. Commissioner Newton disclosed that he is acquainted with the Respondent.

Present were Richard E. Coates, Attorney for the Respondent; Randall Fine, Respondent; and Melody A. Hadley, Commission Advocate.

General Counsel Steven Zuilkowski summarized the proposed Motion to reconsider its previous finding of whether probable cause exists.

Mr. Coates and Mr. Fine were heard by the Commission.

Commissioner Fusté, seconded by Commissioner Bain, moved to deny the proposed Motion to Reconsider. The motion carried, with Commissioner Newton voting no, and Commissioner Descovich abstaining.

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File 2813. POST-EMPLOYMENT RESTRICTIONS: FORMER LEGISLATIVE ANALYST REPRESENTING CLIENTS BEFORE THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE

Present was Tomas Bowling, Requestor.

Assistant General Counsel Gray Schafer explained the basis of the draft advisory opinion and the rationale behind its conclusion.

Commissioner Bain, seconded by Commissioner Figgers, moved to approve the draft opinion. The motion carried, with Commissioner Anchors and Commissioner Lile voting no.

File 2814. LOBBYING RESTRICTIONS: FORMER MEMBER OF THE COLLIER COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

General Counsel Steven Zuilkowski explained the basis of the draft advisory opinion and the rationale behind its conclusion.

Commissioner Lile, seconded by Commissioner Anchors, moved to approve the draft opinion. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF RULEMAKING

Rule Hearing on amendment to Chapter 34-7, F.A.C.

Assistant General Counsel Gray Schafer explained the changes in the Form 50 incorporated by reference in the rule being amended.

The Chair asked whether there was anyone present who wished to be heard on the proposed rule changes. There was no one.

Commissioner Lile, seconded by Commissioner Descovich, moved to approve the consideration of the proposed rule amendment, with the inclusion of the state seal and tagline. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Rule Hearing on amendments to Chapter 34-8, F.A.C.

Assistant General Counsel Gray Schafer explained the changes in the financial disclosure forms incorporated by reference in the rule being amended.

The Chair asked whether there was anyone present who wished to be heard on the proposed rule changes. There was no one.

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Commissioner Lile, seconded by Commissioner Anchors, moved to approve the consideration of the proposed rule/form changes, with the staff not to add ad valorem tax next year. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

REPORTS

The Chair had no report.

Executive Director Kerrie Stillman elaborated on her written Executive Director's report previously provided to the Commissioners. She also introduced new staff attorney Michael Terry, and acknowledged Amelia Naomi's promotion to staff attorney as she passed the Florida Bar Exam.

The Commission requested the status and strategy of the current litigation. Commissioner Lile, seconded by Commissioner Anchors, moved that the Commission schedule a special zoom meeting to discuss the litigation further. The motion carried, with Commissioner Newton voting no.

Executive Director Kerrie Stillman elaborated on her written legislative report previously provided to the Commissioners. Commissioner Lile, seconded by commissioner Bain, moved to add to the Commission's legislative recommendations that "foster family" be added to the definition of "relative" for purposes of the gift law. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Executive Director Kerrie Stillman updated the Commission on the successful relaunch of e-filing, and updated the Commission with the financial disclosure compliance numbers for the current filing year. She also reviewed the stats in regards to the Call Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,	Approved:
Diana Westberry, Secretary	Luis M. Fusté, <i>Chair</i>

Date

With no further items on the agenda, the Public Session adjourned at 10:42 a.m.