

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SESSION OF THE
JUNE 24, 2014
COMMISSION MEETING
OF THE JOINT COMMISSION ON PUBLIC ETHICS
HELD AT THE COMMISSION'S OFFICE LOCATED AT
540 BROADWAY
ALBANY, NEW YORK**

Chair: Daniel J. Horwitz

Members: Paul Casteleiro
Hon. Joseph Covello
Marvin Jacob (NYC)
Seymour Knox, IV
Gary J. Lavine
Hon. Mary Lou Rath (BUF)
David A. Renzi (*via Webex*)
Michael A. Romeo, Sr.
Renee R. Roth (*via Webex*)
George Weissman

Members

Absent: David Arroyo
Mitra Hormozi

Staff: Letizia Tagliafierro, Executive Director
Monica J. Stamm, Chief of Staff and Deputy Counsel
Robert Cohen, Special Counsel and Director of Ethics and Lobbying Compliance
John T. Milgrim, Director for External Affairs
Jeannine Clemente – Director of Administration
Pei Pei Cheng-deCastro, Senior Investigative Counsel
Shari Calnero, Senior Counsel and Manager of Training
Louis Manuta, Associate Counsel
Joanna Weiss, Associate Counsel
Deborah Novak, Executive Assistant
Patrick E. Coultry, Chief Investigator
Terence Mulderrig, Senior Investigator
Peter Smith, Confidential Investigator
Lori Donadio, Confidential Legal Assistant

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – PUBLIC SESSION – MAY 28, 2014

A motion was made by Commissioner Weissman, which was seconded by Commissioner Knox, to approve the minutes from the Public Session of the May 28, 2014 Commission Meeting. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

II. Report from Executive Director

Executive Director Letizia Tagliaferro discussed some of its new outreach initiatives designed to provide public officials and the lobbying community with clear guidance and easy access to information to help comply with the laws and rules under the Commission’s jurisdiction. The Commission recently circulated its first Ethics Reminder, a reminder that it is improper for public officials to accept cash gifts or rewards for performing their official job functions. Ethics Reminders will be issued from time to time to address topics raised in requests for guidance and investigations. The Commission will also periodically host an information table at the Empire State Plaza, as it did during the final days of the Legislative Session, to distribute guidance on the new gift regulations. The Commission intends to continue to have a presence on the Plaza to make it easier for State officials to keep current on ethics rules, and at other venues across the State as well. In addition, the Commission launched its new tip line 1-800-87-ETHICS and website, reportmisconduct.ny.gov, which provides easy and secure ways for ethics complaints to be submitted to the Commission. The Commission is distributing posters to various State locations to increase awareness and encourage reporting of potential ethics violations.

III. Regulations and Guidelines

• **Meeting Guidelines**

Chief of Staff and Deputy Counsel Monica Stamm presented and discussed a proposed amendment to the meeting guidelines that the Commission previously adopted. The proposal is timely because staff is preparing for public hearings on the lobbying matters covered in the Substantial Basis Investigation Reports recently issued by the Commission. A motion was made by Commissioner Covello, which

was seconded by Commissioner Romeo, to approve the proposed amendment to the meeting guidelines. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

- **Public Service Announcement Regulation Update**

Executive Director Letizia Tagliafierro presented an update on the proposed Public Service Announcement Regulations. The public comment period will expire shortly, and the regulations likely will be before the Commission at the July meeting.

IV. NEW AND OTHER BUSINESS

There was no new or other business.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Casteleiro, which was seconded by Commissioner Covello, 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 Horwitz announced that, during the Executive Session, the Commission discussed several investigative matters, approved two settlement agreements, issued two Substantial Basis Investigation Reports on lobbying matters, and granted an exemption under Public Officers Law §73(8-b).

VII. MOTION TO ADJOURN THE PUBLIC MEETING

A motion was made by Commissioner Roth, which was seconded by Commissioner Romeo, to adjourn the Public Meeting. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.