



TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Executive Session Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2025, 9:10 a.m.
Capitol Extension, Room E1.014
Austin, Texas 78701



COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chris Flood, Chair; Patrick W. Mizell, Vice Chair, Randall H. Erben, Geanie W. Morrison, Richard S. Schmidt, Joseph O. Slovacek, and Mark Strama, Commissioners.

COMMISSIONERS NOT PRESENT: Sean Gorman.

STAFF PRESENT: Neha Abhyankar, Amanda Arriaga, Brandon Barrett, Margie Castellanos, Carmen Dalpiaz, Desirae Gonzalez, David Guilianelli, Jessie Haug, Cristina Hernandez, Jordan Hunn, Natalie McDermon, Amy Padilla, Lindsay Powers, Marie Primm, Meredith Rasmussen, Margaret Sanchez, Patti Shannon, James Tinley and Bill Wilson.

MINUTES

These minutes are a summary record of the Commission's actions at the meeting. For a detailed record of discussions and statements made by persons speaking at the meeting, please consult the video recording located on the Texas House of Representatives' audio/video website here: <https://house.texas.gov/video-audio/capitol-events/>.

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order; Roll Call.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Flood. James Tinley, Executive Director, called the roll. All Commissioners were present except for Commissioner Gorman.

Chair Flood presented former Commissioners Chad Craycraft, Mary K. "Katie" Kennedy and Steven Wolens with certificates of appreciation for their time with the Commission.

Executive session pursuant to Section 551.071, Government Code, Consultation with Attorneys, and Section 551.074, Government Code, Personnel Matters; Closed Meeting.

DISCUSSION OF PENDING LITIGATION TO SEEK LEGAL ADVICE

Agenda Item 2: Cause No. D-1-GN-17-001878: *Texas Ethics Commission v. Michael Quinn Sullivan*, in the 250th Judicial District Court, Travis County, Texas; Cause No. 03-17-00392-CV: *Michael Quinn Sullivan v. Texas Ethics Commission*, in the Third Court of Appeals at Austin,

Texas; Cause No. 03-21-00033, *Michael Quinn Sullivan v. Texas Ethics Commission*, in the Third Court of Appeals at Austin, Texas; and Cause No. 18-0580: *Michael Quinn Sullivan v. Texas Ethics Commission*, in the Supreme Court of Texas. Cause No. D-1-GN-21-003269: *Michael Quinn Sullivan v. Texas Ethics Commission*, in the 459th Judicial District Court, Travis County, Texas; and related case, Cause No. 03-22-00133-CV: *Michael Quinn Sullivan v. Texas Ethics Commission*, in the Third Court of Appeals, Austin, Texas.

Agenda Item 3: Case No. 4:23-cv-00808-P, *Institute for Free Speech, a nonprofit corporation and public interest law firm, vs. J.R. Johnson in his official and individual capacities as Executive Director of the Texas Ethics Commission; Mary Kennedy, Chris Flood, and Richard Schmidt in their official capacities as commissioners of the Texas Ethics Commission; and Randall Erben, Chad Craycraft, Patrick Mizell, Joseph Slovacek, and Steven Wolens, in their individual and official capacities as commissioners of the Texas Ethics Commission*, in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Fort Worth Division.

Agenda Item 4: Cause No. PD-0310-23, *Ex Parte John Morgan Stafford*, in the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

Agenda Item 5: Cause No. 2023-DCL-01478, *Valleywide Pharmacy and DMI, Inc., vs. Texas Ethics Commission, by and through its Executive Director, J.R. Johnson, in his official capacity*, in the 445th Judicial District Court, Cameron County, Texas.

Agenda Item 6: Civil Action 1:24-CV-500, *LIA Network v. J.R. Johnson, in his official capacity as Executive Director of the Texas Ethics Commission, et al.*, in the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, Austin Division.

Agenda Item 7: Cause No. 2024-DCL-03953, *Ruben Cortez, Jr. v. Texas Ethics Commission*, in the 404th Judicial District Court, Cameron County, Texas.

Agenda Item 8: Cause No. 25-0679, *Christopher D. Paddie, Sr. v. Texas Ethics Commission, et al.*, in the 71st Judicial District Court, Harrison County, Texas.

Agenda Item 9: Discussion of contemplated litigation and to seek legal advice regarding the collection of imposed penalties.

OTHER MATTERS

Agenda Item 10: Discussion to seek legal advice regarding entering into outside counsel contracts on behalf of the Texas Ethics Commission and its officers

Agenda Item 11: Discussion and possible action related to personnel matters.

Agenda Item 12: Confidential sworn complaint matters under Section 571.139 of the Government Code.

Agenda Item 13: Reconvene in open session.

Reconvened in open session at 10:19 a.m.

Agenda Item 14: Recess or continue to “Agenda 2” noticed for the same time and place as this agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 10:19 a.m. by unanimous consent.