

# *State of South Carolina*

## *State Ethics Commission*

CHILDS C. THRASHER, CHAIR  
DONALD GIST, VICE CHAIR  
BRIAN M. BARNWELL  
SCOTT E. FRICK



AJ HOLLOWAY  
DON JACKSON  
BRANDOLYN THOMAS PINKSTON

201 EXECUTIVE CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 150  
COLUMBIA, S.C. 29210

MEGHAN L. WALKER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### **MINUTES**

### **COMMISSION MEETING**

### **OPEN SESSION**

### **November 18, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 9:42 a.m. by Chairman Childs C. Thrasher at the State Ethics Commission's Hearing Room located at 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina. Other members present were Vice Chairman Donald Gist, and Commissioner Scott Frick. Commissioner Donald H. Jackson, Commissioner Brandolyn T. Pinkston and Commissioner AJ Holloway appeared via zoom. Commissioner Brian M. Barnwell had an excused an absence.

Staff present: Director Meghan Walker, Ami Franklin, RYANNE CALDWELL, COURTNEY LASTER, KEVIN HINSON, REGGIE GAYMON, RACHAEL O'BRYAN and DEAVEN LINEN were in attendance and Karen A. Wiggins joined via Zoom call.

Others present: Avery Wilks and Gavin McIntyre attended in person. Thomas Sims and Samuetta V. Marshall both attended via Zoom call.

Chairman Thrasher declared a quorum present. Director Walker noted for the record that the news media was duly notified.

### **APPEALS**

#### **C2019-101 State Ethics Commission vs. Samuetta V. Marshall**

Chairman Thrasher and Commissioner Jackson were excused from the Appellate Panel. Vice Chairman Gist, Commissioner Pinkston, Commissioner Holloway, and Commissioner Frick sat on the Appellate Panel. Vice Chairman Gist presented this matter. Respondent's Attorney, Thomas Sims, gave an opening statement. General Counsel Laster gave a history of events. Samuetta V. Marshall was questioned. Rebuttal statements ensued. Vice Chairman Gist thanked everyone for coming and stated the Commission would take this matter under advisement and contact Respondent with their decision.

Chairman Thrasher and Commissioner Jackson rejoined the meeting.

### **MINUTES**

Chairman Thrasher called for an approval of the minutes. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Gist, seconded by Commissioner Frick, to accept the minutes. Chairman Thrasher asked for any discussion or opposition. There being none, the motion carried with no opposition to approve the executive session minutes from the July 15, 2021 the minutes from the September 16, 2021 Commission meeting. The motion carried unanimously with a 6 - 0 vote.

### **OFFICE OPERATIONS**

Director Walker presented the Budget, Compliance Report, and Pending and Paid Orders for information and requested any opposition or discussion. There was none.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Director Walker updated the Commissioners on the changes that were made to the Candidate's Newsletters that are sent to statewide county offices. Commissioners were also updated on the efforts the Ethics Commission staff is taking to educate filers.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

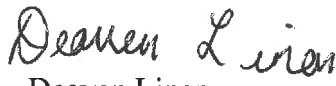
Chairman Thrasher asked for further discussion or a motion to go into Executive Session. A motion was made by Commissioner Frick, seconded by Commissioner Gist, to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing legal matters and probable cause matters. The motion carried with a 6 – 0 vote.

### **RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Returned from Executive Session at 12:32 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Thrasher asked for further discussion or a motion to adjourn. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Frick, to adjourn at 12:33 p.m. The motion carried with a 6 – 0 vote.

Respectfully Submitted,  
  
Deaven Linen