

# *State of South Carolina*

## *State Ethics Commission*

SCOTT E. FRICK, CHAIRMAN  
AJ HOLLOWAY, VICE CHAIRMAN  
BRANDOLYN THOMAS PINKSTON  
BRYANT S. CALDWELL



F. XAVIER STARKES  
MARY HUNTER B. TOMLINSON  
NEAL D. TRUSLOW  
MATTHEW N. TYLER

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

MEGHAN L. WALKER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### MINUTES

#### COMMISSION MEETING

#### OPEN SESSION

#### September 15, 2022

The September 15, 2022, meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. by Chairman Scott Frick at the State Ethics Commission's Hearing Room located at 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina. Commissioner Matthew N. Tyler, Commissioner F. Xavier Starkes, Commissioner Neal D. Truslow, and Commissioner Mary Hunter B. Tomlinson were in attendance. Vice Chairman AJ Holloway and Commissioner Brandolyn T. Pinkston appeared via Zoom call.

Staff present: Meghan Walker, Ami Franklin, Ryanne Caldwell, Kevin Hinson, Reggie Gaymon, Rachael O'Bryan and Deaven Linen were in attendance. Karen A. Wiggins joined via Zoom call.

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

#### NEW BUSINESS

The Commission heard a Motion to Reschedule in the Matter of C2021-016, Kim Benson vs. Kenneth Loveless. The Motion was presented by Respondent's attorney, Desa Ballard, who moved to have the Respondent's hearing date rescheduled from February 16, 2023, to an earlier date of October 20, 2022, before Respondent's re-election date for his current seat as a school board member. Chairman Frick advised that the Commission would take the matter under advisement and would issue an Order.

Also on the Agenda was a Motion to Dismiss in the Matter of C2021-016, Kim Benson vs. Kenneth Loveless. The Commission's attorney, Courtney Laster, was not able to be present for the Commission meeting, so it was agreed upon that the Motion to Dismiss would be continued and that Attorney Laster would be given time to provide a written response on behalf of the Commission regarding the Motion to Dismiss. Respondent's attorney did request that the Motion be heard in person before Respondent's election date in November of 2022.

Commissioner Truslow recused himself, leaving the Commission hearing room, during both the Motion to Reschedule and the Motion to Dismiss in the Kenneth Loveless matter. Once these matters concluded, Commissioner Truslow re-joined the meeting.

### **MINUTES**

Chairman Frick called for an approval of the July 21, 2022 minutes. Chairman Frick asked for any discussion or opposition. A motion was made by Commissioner Tyler, seconded by several Commissioners, to accept the minutes from the July 21, 2022, Commission meeting. The motion carried with a 7 - 0 vote.

### **OFFICE OPERATIONS**

Director Walker presented the Budget and Compliance Report for information and requested any opposition or discussion. There was none. Additionally, Director Walker advised the Pending and Paid Orders report would be updated and provided for during the November Commission meeting. Director Walker also advised that there are more trainings planned for the end of the year.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Frick asked for further discussion or a motion to go into Executive Session to hear probable cause matters. A motion was made by Commissioner Tyler, seconded by Commissioner Truslow. The motion carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

### **RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Commissioners returned from Executive Session at 11:20 a.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Frick asked for further discussion or a motion to adjourn. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Tyler, seconded by Commissioner Truslow, to adjourn at 11:21 p.m. The motion carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rachael O'Bryan