

State of South Carolina

State Ethics Commission

F. XAVIER STARKES, CHAIRMAN
NEAL D. TRUSLOW, VICE
CHAIRMAN
BRYANT S. CALDWELL
HELEN MUNNERLYN



SARA PARRISH
MARY HUNTER B. TOMLINSON
MATTHEW N. TYLER

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150
COLUMBIA, S.C. 29210

MEGHAN WALKER DAYSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MINUTES

COMMISSION MEETING

OPEN SESSION

July 17, 2025

The July 17, 2025 meeting was called to order at 9:36 a.m. by Chairman F. Xavier Starkes at the State Ethics Commission's Hearing Room located at 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina. Chairman F. Xavier Starkes, Vice Chairman Neal D. Truslow, and Commissioner Helen Munnerlyn were in attendance. Commissioner Matthew N. Tyler, Commissioner Bryant Caldwell, Commissioner Mary Hunter B. Tomlinson, and Commissioner Sara Parrish appeared via Zoom call.

Staff present: Meghan Walker Dayson, Ami Franklin, Courtney Laster, Kevin Hinson, RYanne Caldwell, Reggie Gaymon, W.B. White, Jr., Timothy J. Plunkett, Rachael O'Bryan, and Erin Caughman were in attendance.

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

APPEAL

C2021-078/C2023-129 Shirley Etheredge Mitchell and Stephen D. Cain vs. Lancer Shull

The Commission was represented by Courtney Laster and Respondent was represented by James Randall Davis. The original Hearing Panel consisted of Commissioners Scott E. Frick, Brandolyn Thomas Pinkston, and AJ Holloway, whose terms all expired on March 30, 2025, which left the Commission's current seven Commissioners as the appellate panel. Chairman Starkes presided as the Appellate Chair. Both sides were given an opportunity to present their case. Chairman Starkes stated that the matter would be taken under advisement, and an order would be issued at a later date. Commissioner Tyler asked if he recalled correctly Attorney Laster requesting competing orders be submitted. Davis and Laster agreed to submit competing orders to the panel within 30 days.

A break was taken from 10:15 a.m. to 10:26 a.m.

MINUTES

Chairman Starkes called for the approval of the May 15, 2025 minutes. Chairman Starkes asked for any discussion. A motion was made by Commissioner Tomlinson, seconded by Commissioner Munnerlyn, to accept the minutes from the May 15, 2025 Commission meeting. The motion carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

OFFICE OPERATIONS

Director Dayson presented the Budget, Compliance reports, and Pending and Paid Orders report for information. Director Dayson noted that a new fiscal year began in July, so the reports would start over to reflect the 2025 – 2026 fiscal year.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Dayson presented a request from Kimberly M. Morgan to withdraw complaint C2024-031, Kimberly M. Morgan vs. Eric Larson. Director Dayson provided that since probable cause had already been found by the Commission, a hearing would need to be held before the Commission to determine if they would grant Ms. Bank's request. Director Dayson suggested that the hearing be held at the Commission's next full meeting in September. A motion was made by Commissioner Truslow, seconded by Commissioner Munnerlyn, to schedule this matter for a September hearing. The motion carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Starkes asked for further discussion or a motion to go into Executive Session to hear probable cause matters and investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct. A motion was made by Commissioner Tyler, seconded by Commissioner Munnerlyn, to go into executive session to hear probable cause matters and investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct. The motion carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commissioners returned from Executive Session at 11:49 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Starkes asked for further discussion or a motion to adjourn. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Truslow, seconded by Commissioner Munnerlyn, to adjourn at 11:50 a.m. The motion carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachael O'Bryan

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