

# *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**

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

**MEGHAN WALKER DAYSON**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

### **MINUTES**

### **COMMISSION MEETING**

### **OPEN SESSION**

### **March 19, 2026**

The March 19, 2026 meeting was called to order at 9:32 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, Commissioner Matthew N. Tyler, Commissioner Sara Parrish, and Commissioner Helen Munnerlyn were in attendance. Commissioner Mary Hunter B. Tomlinson and Commissioner Bryant Caldwell appeared via Zoom.

Staff present: Meghan Walker Dayson, Ami Franklin, Courtney Laster, Jordan Davis, Kevin Hinson, Rynne Caldwell, Reggie Gaymon, W.B. White, Jr., Timothy J. Plunkett, Kristin Nabors, 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.

### **APPEALS**

C2024-023 State Ethics Commission vs. Norman A. Jackson

The Commission was represented by Courtney Laster and Respondent was represented by Nathaniel Robertson. Commissioner Neal D. Truslow presided as the Appellate Chair. Both sides were given an opportunity to present their case. Commissioner Truslow stated that the matter would be taken under advisement, and an order would be issued at a later date. Commissioners Xavier Starkes, Bryant Caldwell, and Helen Munnerlyn recused from the appellate hearing since they comprised the Hearing Panel.

### **MOTIONS**

C2022-147 State Ethics Commission vs. Nikki Fontana – Motion for Publication

Commission Staff presented a motion to authorize the service of a Notice of Hearing via publication. The Commission heard testimony from Commission Investigators William White, RYANNE CALDWELL, and REGINALD GAYMON as to their attempts to contact the Respondent. The Commission accepted affidavits from each witness. Following presentation of the testimony and affidavits, a motion was made by Commission TYLER, seconded by Commissioner MUNNERYN, to authorize Commission staff to publish the Notice of Hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in Horry County, Respondent's last-known county of residence.

### **MINUTES**

Chairman STARKES called for the approval of the January 15, 2026 minutes. Chairman STARKES asked for any discussion. A motion was made by Commissioner MUNNERYN, seconded by Commissioner TRUSLOW, to accept the minutes from the January 15, 2026 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.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

### **RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Commissioners returned from Executive Session at 11:22 a.m. Chairman STARKES noted for the record that no votes, other than those allowed by statute, were taken in executive session.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner TRUSLOW, seconded by Commissioner MUNNERYN, to adjourn at 11:23 a.m. The motion carried with a 7– 0 vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erin Caughman