PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

July 20, 2021

Chairman Eric Jaso, Commissioner Stephen Holden, Commissioner Marguerite Simon, Legal Counsel Edwin Matthews, Executive Director Jeffrey Brindle, Deputy Director Joseph Donohue, Legal Director Demery Roberts, Deputy Legal Director Amanda Haines, Compliance Director Stephanie Olivo, and IT Specialist Lou Solimeo were present. Director of Review and Investigation Shreve Marshall, IT Specialist Elias Amaya, and IT Specialist Ken Colandrea participated via GoToWebinar.

A court reporter was available to record the proceedings.

The Public Session Minutes will be available online on the Commission’s website at: http://www.elec.state.nj.us.

The meeting convened at 11:00 a.m. in Trenton.

1. Open Public Meetings Statement

Chairman Jaso called the meeting to order. Executive Director Brindle announced that pursuant to the “Open Public Meetings Act,” N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., adequate notice of the meeting of the Commission had been filed with the Secretary of State’s Office and distributed to the entire State House Press Corps.

It was also posted on the Commission’s website.

2. Approval of Public Session Minutes for June 15, 2021

On a motion by Commissioner Simon, seconded by Commissioner Holden, and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Commission approved the Public Session Minutes of June 15, 2021.

3. Executive Director’s Report

The Executive Director presented the Executive Director’s Report.
Future Meetings Schedule

- August 17 at 11:00 am in Trenton, if needed;
- September 21 at 11:00 am in Trenton; and
- October 19, at 11:00 a.m. in Trenton.

4. **Gubernatorial Public Financing Program**

Compliance Director Stephanie Olivo provided an update concerning the Gubernatorial Public Financing Program.

5. **Selection of 2021 General Election Gubernatorial Debate Sponsors**

The Commission welcomed five applications to sponsor the 2021 general election debates for governor and lieutenant governor:

- New Jersey Globe/News 12 New Jersey/The Rebovich Institute of New Jersey Politics at Rider University/Project Ready;
- New Jersey Performing Arts Center/WABC-TV New York/WPVI, 6-ABC, Philadelphia/Univision/Twitter/WBGO-FM, Newark/NJ Advance Media (nj.com)/Rutgers Eagleton Institute of Politics/Rutgers School of Public Affairs and Administration;
- Public Media NJ, Inc. (NJ PBS)/NJ Spotlight News/Rowan University, Rowan Institute for Public Policy & Citizenship/New York Public Radio, WNYC & The Gothamist; and,

On a motion by Commissioner Holden, seconded by Commissioner Simon, and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Commission selected New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark to conduct the first gubernatorial debate and Public Media New Jersey, Inc. (NJ PBS) to conduct the second gubernatorial debate. The lieutenant governor’s debate will be conducted by New Jersey Globe, and in the event that they do not accept it, then the Commission selects Stockton College University and its group as an alternative.
6. **Public Comments**

Ms. Mary Melfi, Hunterdon County Clerk’s Office  
Mr. David Longbean

7. **Resolution Authorizing an Executive Session**

Whereas, there exists a need to hold an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the following matter/matters, which fall within the exceptions to the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 *et seq.* to wit.

**Matter/Matters (OPMA Exception)**

- Discussion of Executive Session Minutes for June 15, 2021;
- Final Decision Recommendations for Non-Filer Complaints; and,
- Final Decision Recommendation.

Whereas, it is unknown at this time when such discussion to take place in Executive Session may be disclosed to the public.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved by the Election Law Enforcement Commission as follows:

1. This Executive Session Meeting of the Election Law Enforcement Commission shall be closed to the public for discussion of the aforesaid referenced matters.

2. The matters discussed during this Executive Session Meeting shall be disclosed to the public at such time when reason for discussing and acting on same in Executive Session shall no longer exist.

On a motion by Commissioner Simon, seconded by Commissioner Holden, and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Commission resolved to enter Executive Session to discuss anticipated litigation and current litigation, which will become public as follows:

A. Final Decision Recommendations in complaint proceedings, which will not become public. However, the Final Decisions resulting from those recommendations will become public not later than seven business days after mailing to the named respondents.

B. Matters under current litigation, the substance of discussions of which will not become public in order to protect the attorney-client privilege and the deliberative process. However, any litigation in which the Commission is currently a party is a public matter and will become public subject to the above limitations and privileges.
8. **Approval of Executive Session Minutes for June 15, 2021**

    On a motion by Commissioner Simon, seconded by Commissioner Holden, and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Commission approved the Executive Session Minutes of June 15, 2021.

9. **Final Decision Recommendations for Non-Filer Complaints**

    On a motion by Commissioner Holden, seconded by Commissioner Simon, and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Commission adopted the Final Decision Recommendations for Non-Filer Complaints, items 1 through 19.

10. **Final Decision Recommendation**

    On a motion by Commissioner Holden, seconded by Commissioner Simon, and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Commission adopted the Final Decision Recommendation, item 1.

11. **Adjournment**

    On a motion by Commissioner Simon, seconded by Commissioner Holden and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Commission resolved to adjourn at 2:45 pm.

    Respectfully submitted as true and correct,

    Jeffrey M. Brindle
    Executive Director

JMB/elz