

Minutes of the Government Records Council March 27, 2012 – Closed Session

The Council convened in closed session at 10:40 a.m. in Conference Room 129 of the Department of Community Affairs, Trenton, New Jersey. In attendance were: Robin Berg Tabakin, Esq. (Chairwoman), Joyce Paul (designee of Department of Community Affairs Acting Commissioner Richard E. Constable, III) and Steven Ritardi, Esq. (public member).

Also in attendance were GRC Staff: Catherine Starghill (Executive Director), Karyn Gordon (In-House Counsel), Dara Lownie (Communications Manager), Brigitte Lillie (Secretary), Frank Caruso (Senior Case Manager) Harlynne Lack (Case Manager), Darryl Rhone (Case Manager), Debra Allen (Deputy Attorney General) and Joni Noble McDonnell (Designated Outside Counsel).

Mr. Ritardi made a motion and Ms. Paul seconded the motion to go into closed session. The Council adopted the motion by a unanimous vote.

The Council met in closed session pursuant to <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 10:4-12.b(7) to receive legal advice and discuss anticipated litigation in which the public body may become a party in the following matters:

Regina Okafor v. Township of Irvington (Essex) (2008-214)

Ms. Starghill introduced the proposed recommendations of the Executive Director. Ms. Paul discussed post-hearing legal representation scenarios. Ms. Tabakin stated that requestors should be entitled to hire an attorney at any point during a complaint process. Ms. Allen informed the Council as to when the Office of Administrative Law officially closes its record. The Council agreed to review this matter again at the next meeting.

Richard Rivera v. City of Camden (Camden) (2010-182) (In-Camera)

Ms. Lack introduced the proposed recommendations of the Executive Director. The Council reviewed the documents submitted for an *in camera* review to determine the validity of the Custodian's assertion that the records are exempt from disclosure under OPRA as attorney-client privilege information pursuant to <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 47:1A-1.1. The Council agreed to put the recommendations to a vote during open session.

Mr. Ritardi made a motion and Ms. Paul seconded the motion to end the closed session. The Council adopted the motion by a unanimous vote.

The closed session meeting concluded at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Robin Berg Tabakin, Chairwoman

Date Approved: April 25, 2012