



Minutes of the Government Records Council January 30, 2024 – Closed Session

The Council convened in closed session at 1:42 p.m. telephonically. In attendance were Robin Berg Tabakin, Esq. (Chairwoman), Michael Hahn, Esq. (designee of Department of Education Acting Commissioner, Kevin Dehmer), John Alexy (designee of Department of Community Affairs Acting Commissioner, Jacquely A. Suarez). Steven Ritardi, Esq. did not attend as he was recused from the matter discussed therein.

Also, in attendance were GRC Staff: Frank F. Caruso (Executive Director), Rosemond Bordzoe (Secretary), John Stewart (Mediator), Samuel Rosado (Staff Attorney), and Deputy Attorney General Paulina DeAraujo.

Ms. Berg Tabakin called for a motion to go into closed session. Mr. Alexy made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Hahn. The Council adopted the motion by a unanimous vote.

The Council met in closed session pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(7) and N.J.A.C. 5:105-2.8(g) to review records *in camera* and receive legal advice in the following matters:

- Joseph Semaan v. City of Hackensack (Bergen) (2019-118) *In Camera* Review (N.J.A.C. 5:105-2.8(g)). (**SR Recusal**)

Mr. Stewart introduced GRC Complaint No. 2019-118 and explained the reasoning behind his findings. The Council reviewed the records *in camera* and sought advice from DAG DeAraujo. Mr. Hahn asked about the clarity of the proposed findings and whether there should be an amendment to ensure the Custodian redacts the record. Mr. Stewart agreed to make an amendment for clarity and announced said amendment in the Open session. The Council agreed to the conclusions as amended, Mr. Ritardi recused.

Ms. Berg Tabakin called for a motion to end the closed session. Mr. Alexy made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Ritardi. The Council adopted the motion by a unanimous vote. The closed session meeting concluded at 2:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Robin Berg Tabakin, Esq., Chair

Date Approved: February 27, 2024