

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SESSION OF THE
JUNE 26, 2012
COMMISSION MEETING
OF THE JOINT COMMISSION ON PUBLIC ETHICS
HELD AT THE COMMISSION'S OFFICE LOCATED AT
540 BROADWAY
ALBANY, NEW YORK**

Present:

Chair: Hon. Janet DiFiore

Members: Ravi Batra
Patrick J. Bulgaro
Hon. Joseph Covello
Hon. Vincent A. DeIorio
Daniel J. Horwitz
Seymour Knox, IV
Gary J. Lavine
Mary Lou Rath
George H. Weissman

Members

Absent: Mitra Hormozi (Skype did not work during public session)
Marvin E. Jacob (Skype did not work during public session)
David A. Renzi
Ellen Yaroshefsky (Unable to participate due to technical difficulties)

Staff:

Ellen N. Biben, Executive Director
Monica J. Stamm, Chief of Staff & Deputy Counsel
John T. Milgrim, Director for External Affairs
Theresa A. Schillaci, Deputy Counsel
Robert Cohen, Special Counsel and Director of Ethics and Lobbying Compliance
Shari Calnero, Associate Counsel
Patrick Coultry, Chief Investigator
Jack Patterson, Confidential Investigator
Jeannine Clemente, Director of Administration
Deborah Novak, Executive Assistant
Ken Szesnat, MIS Specialist

I. OPENING STATEMENT

Chair DiFiore opened the Public Session.

II. MINUTES - PUBLIC SESSION – MAY 31, 2012

Upon motion made by Commissioner Covello, seconded by Commissioner Batra, the Minutes from the Public Session of the May 31, 2012 Commission Meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Executive Director Biben announced the hiring of Chief Investigator, Patrick Coultry, and Director of Ethics and Lobbying Compliance and Special Counsel, Robert Cohen, who have now joined the staff.

Chair DiFiore provided an update on the Public Hearing that was conducted in Albany at the Commission's office on June 7, 2012 on the new reportable business relationships and the source of funding disclosure requirements. She noted that the hearing was very productive and thanked those who participated.

Staff has begun drafting the guidelines and regulations. She is considering forming a committee of Commissioners to assist in reviewing the proposed regulations and guidelines. Those Commissioners who would like to participate on the committee should e-mail the Chair by the end of business on June 27th. The target date for the draft regulations and guidelines to be presented for the Commissioners' review and deliberation is the next meeting date, July 31, 2012.

The Chair acknowledged that it is in everyone's best interest to act quickly and expeditiously, but this must be balanced with the need to work carefully and deliberately. To be clear, lobbyists and clients are still required to file their bi-monthly and semi-annual reports in mid July. The

reportable business relationship forms are on the Commission's website and all impacted entities, clients and lobbyists, should make their best efforts to report this information based on a plain reading of the law. As guidance is published, forms can be amended accordingly.

The forms and instructions for the source of funding requirements will necessarily track the regulations and they will be available as soon as the regulations are ultimately adopted. It should be very clear that no one will be relieved of their obligation to file under the law.

Executive Director Biben provided an update concerning the Commission's adjudicatory regulations, which were approved by the Commission in March, 2012. The New York State Administrative Procedure Act process has now been completed, and the regulations will become effective as soon as they are published.

Commissioner Batra asked that in adopting the lobbying guidelines and regulations, the Commission should make every effort to have maximum disclosure.

IV. NEW AND OTHER BUSINESS

There was no new or other business.

V. MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE LAW §94(19)(b)

A motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Executive Law §94(19)(b) was made by Commissioner Horwitz, seconded by Commissioner Batra, and was approved by unanimous vote.

VI. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACTIONS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair DiFiore announced that there was no reportable action taken in the Executive Session.

VII. MOTION TO ADJOURN THE PUBLIC MEETING

Upon motion made by Commissioner Batra, seconded by Commissioner Rath, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote.