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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION



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Hardie Burgin,
Complainant(s)
against

Notice of Meeting

Docket #FIC 2011-704

Chief, Police Department, Town of East
Hampton; and Police Department, Town of East
Hampton,

Respondent(s)

June 22, 2012

Transmittal of Proposed Final Decision

In accordance with Section 4-179 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Freedom of Information Commission hereby transmits to you the proposed finding and decision prepared by the hearing officer in the above-captioned matter.

This will notify you that the Commission will consider this matter for disposition at its meeting which will be held in the Freedom of Information Commission Hearing Room, 18-20 Trinity Street, 1st floor, Hartford, Connecticut, at **2 p.m. on Wednesday, July 11, 2012**. At that time and place you will be allowed to offer oral argument concerning this proposed finding and order. Oral argument shall be limited to ten (10) minutes. For good cause shown, however, the Commission may increase the period of time for argument. A request for additional time must be made in writing and should be filed with the Commission **ON OR BEFORE June 29, 2012**. Such request **MUST BE (1) copied to all parties, or if the parties are represented, to such representatives, and (2) include a notation indicating such notice to all parties or their representatives.**

Although a brief or memorandum of law is not required, if you decide to submit such a document, the Commission requests that an **original and fourteen (14) copies** be filed **ON OR BEFORE June 29, 2012**. PLEASE NOTE: **Any correspondence, brief or memorandum directed to the Commissioners by any party or representative of any party MUST BE (1) copied to all parties, or if the parties are represented, to such representatives, (2) include a notation indicating such notice to all parties or their representatives and (3) be limited to argument. NO NEW EVIDENCE MAY BE SUBMITTED.**

If you have already filed a brief or memorandum with the hearing officer and wish to have that document distributed to each member of the Commission, it is requested that **fourteen (14) copies** be filed **ON OR BEFORE June 29, 2012**, and that **notice be given to all parties or if the parties are represented, to their representatives, that such previously filed document is being submitted to the Commissioners for review.**

By Order of the Freedom of
Information Commission

W. Paradis
Acting Clerk of the Commission

Notice to: Hardie Burgin
Jean M. D'Aquilla, Esq.

6/22/12/FIC# 2011-704/Trans/wrbp/NER/VDH/TAH

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In The Matter of a Complaint by

Report of Hearing Officer

Hardie Burgin,

Complainant

against

Docket #FIC 2011-704

Chief, Police Department, Town of
East Hampton; and Police Department
Town of East Hampton,

Respondents

June 8, 2012

The above-captioned matter was heard as a contested case on April 18, 2012, at which time the complainant and the respondents appeared, stipulated to certain facts and presented testimony, exhibits and argument on the complaint.

After consideration of the entire record, the following facts are found and conclusions of law are reached:

1. The respondents are public agencies within the meaning of §1-200(1), G.S.
2. It is found that, by letter dated November 28, 2011, the complainant made a request to the respondents for the following: "A COMPLETE copy of the internal affairs investigation conducted by you and/or someone directed by you on Sgt. Garritt Kelly in which he was disciplined by suspension for several days for 'Misuse of the E Mail System.' This would include any and all e-mails (correspondence and Sgt. Kelly's communication with married female), correspondence (handwritten or typed) taped or written statements."
3. It is found that, by letter dated November 29, 2011, the respondents acknowledged the complainant's request. It is further found that, in their acknowledgement, the respondents informed the complainant that they would provide him with all existing non-exempt public records.
4. By letter dated and filed December 28, 2011, the complainant appealed to this Commission, alleging that the respondents violated the Freedom of Information ("FOI") Act by denying his request for a copy of the records described in paragraph 2, above. In his complaint, the complainant stated that, since receiving the November 29, 2011 acknowledgment letter, he had not received any records from the respondents.

5. Section 1-200(5), G.S., provides:

“Public records or files” means any recorded data or information relating to the conduct of the public’s business prepared, owned, used, received or retained by a public agency, or to which a public agency is entitled to receive a copy by law or contract under section 1-218, whether such data or information be handwritten, typed, tape-recorded, printed, photostated, photographed or recorded by any other method.

6. Section 1-210(a), G.S., provides in relevant part that:

Except as otherwise provided by any federal law or state statute, all records maintained or kept on file by any public agency, whether or not such records are required by any law or by any rule or regulation, shall be public records and every person shall have the right to (1) inspect such records promptly during regular office or business hours, (2) copy such records in accordance with subsection (g) of section 1-212, or (3) receive a copy of such records in accordance with section 1-212. (Emphasis supplied).

7. Section 1-212(a), G.S., provides in relevant part that “[a]ny person applying in writing shall receive, promptly upon request, a plain, facsimile, electronic or certified copy of any public record.”

8. At the hearing on this matter, the respondents contended that because the e-mail records do not pertain to the public’s business they are not public records as such phrase is defined by §1-200(5), G.S.

9. It is found that the respondents maintain the records described in paragraph 2, above. It is further found that the conduct revealed in the records occurred during the time when the officer was working as a law enforcement officer. It is found that the officer used town equipment to send and receive these communications. Finally, it is found that the records reveal an inappropriate mixing of the officer’s professional and private life. Therefore, it is found that these records relate to the officer’s public position. For all of these reasons, it is therefore concluded that that subject records are “public records” within the meaning of §§ 1-200(5) and 1-210(a), G.S.

10. It is found that, under cover of letter dated January 9, 2012, the respondents provided the complainant with a copy of a Settlement Agreement between the Town of East Hampton, the International Brotherhood of Police Officers Local 524 and Garritt Kelly (the “officer”). It is found that the respondents informed the complainant that no internal affairs investigation report existed. It is further found that the respondents

informed the complainant that there were approximately 84 e-mail communications and that such communications were sent from and received on Town computers and equipment.

11. It is found that, by letter dated January 11, 2012, the respondents supplemented their disclosure by providing the complainant with two sworn witness statements. It is found that one such statement provides, in part, as follows: "myself and several members of my staff were involved with some e-mail conversations with Sgt. Kelly of the East Hampton Police Department. These e-mails were meant as a joke and nothing more." It is found that the respondents redacted the name of this affiant from the record prior to disclosing it.

12. It is found that, by letter dated January 13, 2012, the respondents again supplemented their disclosure, this time providing the complainant with an anonymous complaint concerning the e-mail activity between the officer and the private citizen, a newspaper article about a different incident involving this officer, and an interoffice memorandum between the chief of police and the town manager, detailing, in part, the officer's work schedule during March 2010.

13. Because the subject of the records did not appear at the contested case hearing, and because there was no indication in the record of whether he wanted to be heard on the issue of disclosure, on May 16, 2012, the Commission issued an order directing counsel for the respondents to notify the officer of the following: the hearing officer had presided over the April 18, 2012 contested case hearing and would now issue a recommendation to the Commission on whether the requested records should be disclosed. The respondents were further instructed to inform the officer that if he wanted to be heard prior to the issuance of the recommendation, he had to inform the Commission, in writing, by May 25, 2012 of such desire.

14. By letter dated May 21, 2012 and filed May 23, 2012, the officer informed the Commission that he objected to the disclosure of the requested records, but did not wish to be heard on the matter.

15. The respondents contend that the requested records are exempt from disclosure pursuant to §1-210(b)(2), G.S. In support of this argument the respondents raised Rocque v. FOIC, 255 Conn. 651 (2001) (holding, in part, that the identity of a sexual harassment complainant and sexually explicit information are exempt from disclosure pursuant to §1-210(b)(2), G.S.).

16. Section 1-210(b)(2), G.S., provides in relevant part that nothing in the FOI Act shall require disclosure of ". . . personnel or medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute an invasion of personal privacy"

17. The Supreme Court set forth the test for the exemption contained in §1-210(b)(2), G.S., in Perkins v. Freedom of Information Commission, 228 Conn. 158, 175 (1993). The claimant must first establish that the files in question are personnel, medical

or similar files. Second, the claimant must show that disclosure of the records would constitute an invasion of personal privacy. In determining whether disclosure would constitute an invasion of personal privacy, the claimant must establish both of two elements: first, that the information sought does not pertain to legitimate matters of public concern, and second, that such information is highly offensive to a reasonable person. The Commission takes administrative notice of the multitude of court rulings, Commission final decisions (Endnote 1), and instances of advice given by the Commission and staff members (Endnote 2), which have relied upon the Perkins test, since its release in 1993.

18. It is found that the records in question are copies of e-mail communications between the officer and a third party. It is found that the e-mail communications were sent by the officer through his personal e-mail account, which account was accessed through the town's computer system. It is found that an anonymous individual photographed the e-mails and sent the photographs and a complaint to the town manager. It is further found that the anonymous complaint, combined with a review of the e-mails, gave rise to an internal affairs investigation. It is found that the internal affairs investigation resulted in a settlement agreement between the officer and the respondents. Finally, it is found that the terms of the settlement agreement evidence that the officer was administratively disciplined for inappropriately utilizing the town's computer system.

19. It is found that all of the requested records are "personnel" files or "similar files" within the meaning of §1-210(b)(2), G.S. See Connecticut Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission v. FOIC, 233 Conn. 28 (1995).

20. At the contested case hearing, the complainant moved that the respondents be ordered to submit the records at issue to the Commission for an in camera review. The hearing officer granted the complainant's motion. In addition, the respondents were directed to highlight in yellow the sexually explicit information that they believed should be redacted, or to which special consideration should be given, pursuant to Rocque. At this time, the complainant informed the hearing officer that he was not seeking disclosure of any private citizen's name, e-mail address, or other identifying information.

21. On April 27, 2012, the respondents submitted the records at issue to Commission for an in camera review (hereinafter the "in camera records"). The in camera records consist of 25 pages and shall be identified at IC-2011-704-1 through IC-2011-704-25.

22. The Rocque court identified two categories of records. The first category consisted of records revealing the identity of a sexual harassment complainant. Rocque, 255 Conn. 664. The second category consisted of records revealing the manner in which a public agency conducts an investigation into allegations of harassment. Id. With regard to the first category, the court held the identity of the sexual harassment complainant therein was not a legitimate matter of public concern because the disclosure of such information would do nothing to assist in the public's understanding or evaluation of a public agency's investigative process. Id. at 664. With regard to the second category of records, the court found that such records were a matter of legitimate public interest because they facilitated the public's understanding and evaluation of the public agency's investigative process. Id.

at 664-65. Within this second category of records, the court found that sexually explicit detail of the harassment contained within the investigative records in that case was not a legitimate matter of public concern. *Id.* at 664-65.

23. After a careful review of the in camera records, it is found that no portion of in camera records IC-2011-704-01 through IC-2011-704-13, IC-2011-704-15, IC-2011-704-16 through IC-2011-704-19 can be categorized as “sexually explicit or descriptive information,” such as allegations of sexual contact or sexual improprieties, or details of intimate personal relationships, which implicate the concern for salacious detail expressed by the *Rocque* court. *Rocque*, 255 Conn. at 655. However, these records do contain the e-mail address and the name of the third party with whom the officer was communicating. Because the complainant does not seek this information, the respondents may redact the third party’s name and e-mail address from these records.¹

24. It is further found that the following in camera records do contain the kind of sexually explicit information that concerned the *Rocque* court. It is found that the language specifically identified below does not pertain to legitimate matters of public concern. It is further found that the disclosure of this information would be highly offensive to a reasonable person:

- a. IC-2011-704-14: Line 13², words 22 and 23;
- b. IC-2011-704-20: Line 3, words 12 through 14; Line 4, words 4 and 5;
- c. IC-2011-704-21: Line 10, words 13 through 15, and 26; Line 16, words 4 through 6; Line 17, words 3 and 4; Line 22, words 6 through 9, 13, 26 through 29; Line 28, words 12 through 14; Line 29, words 4 and 5;
- d. IC-2011-704-22: Line 11, words 2 and 3³; Line 22, words 26 through 28; Line 23, words 1 through 3, 6 through 9, 20 through 22, 26 through 28; Line 24, words 2 and 3; Line 29, words 5 through 7;
- e. IC-2011-704-23: Line 1, word 1;
- f. IC-2011-704-24: Line 14, word 1;
- g. IC-2011-704-25: Line 3, words 22 and 23.

25. With regard to the in camera records referred to in paragraph 24, in addition to the redactions specifically identified in said paragraph, these records also contain the e-

¹ The Commission notes that, in addition to the name and the e-mail address of the third-party communicating with the officer, IC-2011-704-16 also contains the name of an additional individual who, by all indications, is not involved in these communications. Accordingly, this name may also be redacted from this record.

² For the convenience of the parties who will be referring to the page/line/word reference in this Order, the Commission notes that the line numbers were inserted into the in camera records by counsel to the Commission. Line one is the very first line of information listed on the record, which in most instances is an e-mail address.

³ The first reference to IC-2011-704-22 is the name of another individual who, by all indications, is not involved in these communications. Accordingly, this name may be redacted from this record.

mail address and the name of the third party with whom the officer is communicating, and the respondents may redact this information from the records.


26. It is found that, other than the information specifically identified in paragraph 24a-g, above, the remainder of the records contains the information which triggered the internal affairs investigation. It is found that these records will facilitate the public's understanding of what occurred, and thereby permit a more thorough evaluation of the respondent town's investigative process, decision-making and overall handling of an important matter involving a public employee. Accordingly, it is found that such records pertain to legitimate matters of public concern. It is further found that the disclosure of such information would not be highly offensive to a reasonable person.

27. It is found that the disclosure of the in camera records, other than those portions specifically identified in paragraph 24a-g, above, would not constitute an invasion of personal privacy, within the meaning of §1-210(b)(2), G.S. It is therefore concluded that such records are not exempt from disclosure by virtue of said provision.

28. Based on the foregoing, with the exception of those portions of the in camera records identified in paragraph 24a-g, above, and information that the complainant is not seeking, which is referred to in paragraphs 23 and 25, above, it is concluded that the respondents violated the disclosure provisions of §§1-210(a) and 1-212(a), G.S., by denying the complainant's request for a copy of the records.

The following order by the Commission is hereby recommended on the basis of the record concerning the above-captioned complaint.

1. The respondents shall forthwith provide the complainant with a copy of the records at issue, free of charge. In complying with this order, the respondents may redact from the in camera records the information specifically identified in paragraphs 23, 24 and 25 of the findings, above.



Commissioner Norma E. Riess
as Hearing Officer

1. ENDNOTES

Court Cases

Payne v. City of Danbury, 267 Conn. 669 (2004); Director, Retirement & Benefits Services Div. v. FOIC, 256 Conn. 764 (2001); Rocque v. FOIC, 255 Conn. 651 (2001); Dept. of Public Safety v FOIC, 242 Conn. 79 (1997); Conn. Alcohol & Drug Abuse Commission v. FOIC, 233 Conn. 28 (1995); Kurecza v. FOIC, 228 Conn. 271 (1994); First Selectman v. FOIC, 60 Conn. App. 64 (2000); Dept. of Children & Families v. FOIC, 48 Conn. App. 467 (1998); Almeida v. FOIC, 39 Conn. App. 154 (1995); Town of Enfield v. Freedom of Information Commission, Super Ct JD NB CV 06 4012219 S (Cohn, J. 2007); Chairman, Board of Ethics, Town of Greenwich and Board of Ethics, Town of Greenwich v. Freedom of Information Commission and Michael Aurelia, Super Ct JD NB CV 05 400 7004 S (Owens, J. 2006); Dept. of Transportation v. FOIC, Super Ct JD NB CV 01-0508810 (Schuman, J. 2001); City Treasurer, City of Hartford v. FOIC, Super Ct JD NB CV 99 0496222 (Cohn, J. 2000); Rocque, Commissioner of Environmental Protection v. FOIC, Super Ct JD NB CV 98 0492734 (Hartmere, J. 1999); Director, Retirement & Benefits Services Div. v. FOIC, Super Ct JD NB CV 98 0492692 (Hartmere, J. 1999); First Selectman, Town of Ridgefield v. FOIC, Super Ct JD NB CV 99-0493041 (McWeeny, J. 1999); Chairman, Bd. of Education Town of Darien v. FOIC, Super Ct JD Htfd NB CV 97 0575674 (McWeeny, J. 1998); Waters, Commissioner of State of Conn. Dept. of Administrative Services v. FOIC, Super Ct JD Htfd/NB CV 96 0565853 (McWeeny, J. 1997); Armstrong, Commissioner of State of Conn. Dept. Of Correction v. FOIC, Super Ct JD Htfd/NB CV 96 0563608 (McWeeny, J. 1997); Dept. of Children & Families v. FOIC, Super Ct JD Htfd NB CV 96 0562546 (McWeeny, J. 1997); State of Conn. Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities v. FOIC, Super Ct JD Htfd/NB CV 95 0554467 (McWeeny, J. 1997); Youngquist v. FOIC, Super Ct JD Htfd/NB, CV 95 0554601 (McWeeny, J. 1996 and 1997); Cracco v. FOIC, Super Ct JD Htfd/NB, CV 94 0705371 (Dunnell, J. 1995); Cracco v. FOIC, Super Ct JD Htfd NB, CV 93 0705370, (Dunnell, J. 1995); Cracco v. FOIC, Super Ct JD Htfd NB, CV 94 0705369, (Dunnell, J. 1995); Simonds v. FOIC, Super Ct JD Htfd/NB, CV 93 070 41 39 (Maloney, J. 1994); Gallagher v. FOIC, Super Ct JD Htfd/NB, CV 93 0531514 (Maloney, J. 1994).

FOIC Decisions

Docket #FIC 2007-580; Town of Putnam and Putnam Board of Education v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Public Safety; and State of Connecticut, Department of Public Safety (May 28, 2008); Docket #FIC 2007-447; Daniel Mathena v. Chief, Police Department, Town of Simsbury (April 23, 2008); Docket #FIC 2007-560; Kenneth D. Goldberg v. Executive Director, Greater Hartford Transit District; and Greater Hartford Transit District (April 9, 2008); Docket #FIC 2007-513; Elizabeth Benton and the New Haven Register v. Chairman, Board of Commissioners, Housing Authority, Town of Derby (April 9, 2008); Docket #FIC 2007-317; James Baker v. Warden, State of Connecticut, Department of Correction, Osborn Correctional Institution (April 9, 2008); Docket #FIC 2007-221; Jon Lender and The

Hartford Courant v. Executive Director, State of Connecticut, Office of State Ethics; General Counsel, State of Connecticut Office of State Ethics; Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board, State of Connecticut, Office of State Ethics; and State of Connecticut, Office of State Ethics (March 26, 2008); Docket #FIC 2007-469; Lawrence C. Sherman v. Board of Education, West Hartford Public Schools (March 12, 2008); Docket #FIC 2007-315; Dawne Westbrook v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Correction (January 23, 2008); Docket #FIC 2007-298; Josh Kovner and the Hartford Courant v. Chief, Police Department, City of Middletown (November 14, 2007); Docket #FIC 2007-416; Junta for Progressive Action, Inc.; Unidad Latina en Accion; and The Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization v. John A. Danaher III, Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Public Safety (November 8, 2007); Docket #FIC 2006-502; David P. Taylor v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Correction (September 12, 2007); Docket #FIC 2007-123; Jessica Crowley and Isabella O'Malley v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health (August 8, 2007); Docket #FIC 2006-467; Charlie Santiago Zapata v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Correction (August 8, 2007); Docket #FIC 2006-374; Burton Weinstein v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Public Safety (July 11, 2007); Docket # 2006-343; Stephanie Reitz and the Associated Press v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Correction (June 27, 2007); Docket #FIC 2006-098; Louis J. Russo v. Director, State of Connecticut, University of Connecticut Health Center, Office of Health Affairs Policy Planning; and Dr. Jacob Zamstein (February 28, 2007); Docket #FIC 2006-258; John Orr v. First Selectman, Town of Essex (January 24, 2007); Docket #FIC 2006-242; Ismael Hernandez III v. Director of Labor Relations, Labor Relations Office, City of Bridgeport (January 24, 2007); Docket #FIC 2006-292; Mary Ellen Fillo and The Hartford Courant v. Chief, Volunteer Fire Department, Town of Newington (January 10, 2007); Docket #FIC 2006-121; John Bolton v. Personnel Director, Civil Service Commission, City of Bridgeport; and Civil Service Commission, City of Bridgeport (December 13, 2006); Docket #FIC 2005-571; Alexander Wood and the Manchester Journal Inquirer v. Director, Human Resources Department, Town of Windsor (October 25, 2006); Docket #FIC 2005-535; Alexander Wood and The Manchester Journal-Inquirer v. Director of Human Resources, Town of Windsor (October 25, 2006); Docket #FIC 2005-511; Don Stacom and the Hartford Courant v. John Divenere, Chief, Police Department, City of Bristol (October 11, 2006); Docket #FIC 2005-508; Connecticut State Conference of NAACP Branches v. Chief, Police Department, City of Bristol (October 11, 2006); Docket #FIC 2005-478; Doreen Guarino and the Manchester Journal-Inquirer v. Chief, Police Department, Town of Enfield (September 13, 2006); Docket #FIC 2005-473; Alexander Wood, Heather Nann Collins, and the Manchester; Journal-Inquirer v. Executive Director, State of Connecticut, Board of Education; and Services for the Blind (September 13, 2006); Docket #FIC 2005-448; Susan Raff and WFSB TV v. Mayor, City of Middletown (September 13, 2006); Docket #FIC 2005-615; James E. Simpson v. Chief, Police Department, Town of Seymour (August 23, 2006); Docket #FIC 2005-436; Suzanne Risley and the Waterbury Republican-American v. Chief, Police Department, City of Torrington (August 23, 2006); Docket #FIC 2005-242; Michelle Tuccitto and The New Haven Register v. Chief, Police Department, City of New Haven (May 10, 2006); Docket #FIC 2005-096; Richard Fontana, Jr. v. Board of Fire Commissioners, West Shore Fire District (February 8, 2006); Docket #FIC 2005-058; Glenn C. Morron and William Hertler,

Jr. v. J. Edward Brymer, Chief, Police Department, City of Middletown; Phillip Pessina, Deputy Chief, Police Department, City of Middletown; and Lyn Baldoni, Deputy Chief, Police Department, City of Middletown (January 25, 2006); Docket #FIC 2005-081; Megan Bard and the New London Day v. Superintendent of Schools, Canterbury Public Schools; and Board of Education, Canterbury Public Schools (October 26, 2005); Docket #FIC 2004-289; Lisa A. Coleman v. Chief, Police Department, Town of New Milford (June 22, 2005); Docket #FIC 2004-408; Michael Aurelia v. Chairman, Board of Ethics, Town of Greenwich; and Board of Ethics, Town of Greenwich (May 11, 2005); Docket #FIC 2004-197; Maria McKeon v. Town Manager, Town of Hebron (March 23, 2005); Docket #FIC 2004-159; Jason L. McCoy v. Town Manager, Town of Rocky Hill (March 23, 2005); Docket #FIC 2004-119; Dawne Westbrook v. Chief, Police Department, Town of Rocky Hill; and Robert Catania (February 9, 2005); Docket #FIC 2004-092; Dan Levine v. Public Information Officer, Police Department, City of Hartford (February 9, 2005); Docket #FIC 2004-005; Ralph W. Williams Jr. and The Manchester Journal Inquirer v. State Connecticut, Office of the Governor (Oct. 13, 2004); Docket #FIC 2003-456; Thomas O'Brien v. Chief, Police Department, Town of Waterford (Oct. 13, 2004); Docket #FIC 2003-454; Michael C. Bingham and Business New Haven v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Banking (Sept. 22, 2004); Docket #FIC 2003-382; Michael J. McMullen v. Town Administrator, Town of Vernon (Sep. 22, 2004); Docket #FIC 2004-100; Jerry Romaniello and the Greenwich Firefighters Association v. First Selectman, Town of Greenwich (Sept. 8, 2004); Docket #FIC 2003-348; Alexander Wood and the Journal Inquirer, v. Town Manager, Town of South Windsor (Sep. 8, 2004); Docket #FIC 2003-386; Mathew L. Brown and the Willimantic Chronicle, v. President and Chief Executive Officer, Windham Mills Development Corp. (Aug. 11, 2004); Docket #FIC 2003-285; Frank C. Violissi, Jr. v. First Selectman, Town of Chester (May 26, 2004); Docket #FIC 2003-074; Heather M. Henderson v. State of Connecticut, Department of Public Safety, Legal Affairs Department (Dec. 10, 2003); Docket #FIC 2003-020; Hugh Curran v. Mayor, City of Waterbury (Sept. 10, 2003); Docket #FIC 2002-580; Ken Byron and The Hartford Courant v. First Selectman, Town of Westbrook (Sept. 10, 2003); Docket #FIC 2003-038 Chris Dehnel and The Journal Inquirer v. First Selectman, Town of Ellington (Aug. 27, 2003); Docket #FIC 2002-531 Chris Dehnel and Journal Inquirer First Selectman, Town of Ellington (Aug. 27, 2003); Docket #FIC 2003-055; Robert Mack v. Director, State of Connecticut, Department of Correction, Labor Relations (July 23, 2003); Docket #FIC 2002-345; Josh Kovner, Chris Keating, and The Hartford Courant v. Chief, Police Department, City of Middletown (July 23, 2003); Docket #FIC 2002-338; Amy L. Zitka and The Middletown Press v. Chief, Police Department, City of Middletown; and Professional Standards Unit Supervisor, Police Department, City of Middletown (July 23, 2003); Docket #FIC 2002-465; Fred Radford v. Chairman, Police Commission, Town of Trumbull; and Chief, Police Department, Town of Trumbull (July 9, 2003); Docket #FIC 2002-118; Kimberly W. Moy and the Hartford Courant v. Superintendent of Schools, Southington Public Schools (Feb. 26, 2003); Docket #FIC 2002-020; Maurice Timothy Reidy and The Hartford Courant v. Chief, Police Department, Town of Newington and Brendan Fitzgerald (Oct. 23, 2002); Docket #FIC 2001-489 Jonathan Kellogg, Trip Jennings and Waterbury Republican-American Chief, Police Department, Borough of Naugatuck and Rick Smolicz (Sept. 25, 2002); Docket #FIC 2002-173; Carrie J. Campion v. Director, Department of Human Resources, Town of Fairfield (Aug. 28, 2002); Docket

#FIC 2001-425 Joseph Mincewicz, Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Public Safety, Division of State Police; and State of Connecticut, Department of Public Safety, Division of State Police (Aug. 28, 2002); Docket #FIC 2001-421 Jean M. Morningstar and University Health Professionals Local 3837, AFT-CFEPE, AFL-CIO v. Executive Vice President for Health Affairs, State of Connecticut, University of Connecticut Health Center; and State of Connecticut, University of Connecticut Health Center; and Justin Radolf, M.D., Director, Center for Microbial Pathogenesis, School of Medicine, University of Connecticut Health Center (Aug. 28, 2002); Docket #FIC 2002-093 Sean P. Turpin v. Director, Department of Human Resources, Town of Greenwich and Steve Demetri (July 24, 2002); Docket #FIC 2002-034; MariAn Gail Brown, Michael P. Mayko and Connecticut Post Michael Lupkas, Comptroller, City of Bridgeport; Christopher Duby, Chief of Staff, City of Bridgeport; Mark Anastasi, City Attorney, City of Bridgeport; and Gregory Conte, Deputy Chief of Staff, City of Bridgeport (June 26, 2002); Docket #FIC 2001-364; Karen Guzman and The Hartford Courant v. City of New Britain Docket (June 26, 2002); Docket #FIC 2001-180 James H. Smith and The Record Journal Publishing Company v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Public Safety, Division of State Police; and State of Connecticut, Department of Public Safety, Division of State Police (Feb. 13, 2002); Docket #FIC 2001-129; Kimberly W. Moy and The Hartford Courant v. Police Commission, Town of Southington (Feb. 13, 2002); Docket #FIC 2001-251 Fred Radford v. Chief, Police Department, Town of Trumbull (Jan. 23, 2002); Docket #FIC 2000-624; Eric Gustavson v. Board of Education, Brookfield Public Schools (June 13, 2001); Docket #FIC 2000-557; Wendy John v. Richard Blumenthal, Attorney General, State of Connecticut, Office of the Attorney General; Wil Gundling, William McCullough, Phillip Schulz, Margaret Chapple, Assistant Attorneys General, State of Connecticut, Office of the Attorney General; and State of Connecticut, Office of the Attorney General (June 13, 2001); Docket #FIC 2000-268; Michael Costanza and The Day v. Director of Utilities, Utilities Department, City of Groton; and Mayor, City of Groton (April 25, 2001); Docket #FIC 2000-198; William J. Stone v. Personnel Administrator, State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation, Bureau of Finance and Administration; and State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation (April 20, 2001); Docket #FIC 2000-537; James Leonard, Jr. v. Chief, Police Department, City of New Britain (March 28, 2001); Docket #FIC 2000-348; Bradshaw Smith v. Office of the Vice Chancellor for Information Services, State of Connecticut, University of Connecticut; and State of Connecticut, University of Connecticut (February 28, 2001); Docket #FIC 2000-474; Robert H. Boone and Journal Inquirer v. Chief, Police Department, Town of Windsor Locks (Jan. 24, 2001); Docket #FIC 2000-265; Lisa Goldberg and The Hartford Courant v. Superintendent of Schools, Vernon Public Schools (Jan. 24, 2001); Docket #FIC 2000-569; Mary Hyde v. Chief, Police Department, Town of Seymour (Dec. 13, 2000); Docket #FIC 2000-049; Nicholas B. Wynn v. Board of Directors, Ansonia Public Library, Town of Ansonia (Dec. 13, 2000); Docket #FIC 2000-136; Thomas E. Lee v. Board of Education, Trumbull Public Schools; and Superintendent of Schools, Trumbull Public Schools (Nov. 29, 2000); Docket #FIC 2000-135; Thomas E. Lee v. Board of Education, Trumbull Public Schools; and Superintendent of Schools, Trumbull Public Schools (Nov. 29, 2000); Docket #FIC2000-086; Mitchell D. Poudrier v. Superintendent of Schools, Killingly Public Schools (Sept. 13, 2000); Docket #FIC 2000-173; Robert H. Boone and the Journal Inquirer v. Anthony Milano, District Manager, Metropolitan District

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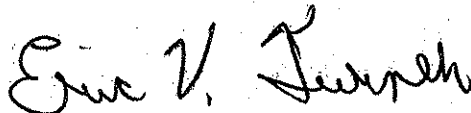
2. ENDNOTES

AFFIDAVIT OF ERIC V. TURNER

Eric V. Turner, having been duly sworn, does hereby depose as follows:

1. I am over the age of eighteen (18) years and understand the obligation of an affirmation.
2. I am a member of the Connecticut Bar and am currently employed as Director of Public Education for the Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission, having first been employed by said commission in 1996.

3. I am providing this affidavit in light of the Supreme Court decision in *Director, Retirement & Benefits Services Division v. Freedom of Information Commission*, 256 Conn. 764 (2001), in which the court apparently invites a reconsideration of *Perkins v. Freedom of Information Commission*, 228 Conn. 158 (1993). See, *Director*, supra at 782, fn 13, 785 (Zarella, J. concurring).
4. As part of my responsibilities as Director of Public Education for said commission, I have developed, organized and scheduled speaking engagements, seminars and programs explaining the duties and rights established under the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act.
5. Since I assumed my current position in 1996, there have been approximately 290 such speaking engagements, seminars and programs in Connecticut and I have personally lectured in approximately 80 such speaking engagements, seminars and programs.
6. As part of the presentation I have prepared for such speaking engagements, seminars and programs, the subject of the Connecticut General Statutes Section 1-210(b)(2) exemption for personnel, medical and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute an invasion of personal privacy is stressed because of the great interest in that exemption and the confusion generated by a series of inconsistent and contradictory court decisions prior to *Perkins*, supra. See, e.g., *Chairman v. Freedom of Information Commission*, 217 Conn. 193 (1991) (establishing “reasonable expectation of privacy” test; query whether subjectively or objectively applied) and *Board of Education v. Freedom of Information Commission*, 210 Conn. 590 (1989) (confirming a “balancing” test), which was overruled by the *Chairman* case.
7. Since the Supreme Court ruling in *Perkins*, supra, all Freedom of Information Commission staff members who conduct such speaking engagements, seminars and programs discuss in detail the rulings in that case and its progeny.
8. As part of my responsibilities as Director of Public Education, I also answer telephone and other inquiries from public officials and the public. Since my employment with said commission, I have answered thousands of such inquiries, including hundreds of inquiries concerning the Connecticut General Statutes Section 1-210(b)(2) exemption. In responding to such inquiries I discuss in detail the *Perkins* case and its progeny.
9. Based on the foregoing experiences, it is my opinion that the *Perkins* decision, and its progeny, have had a beneficial effect on public officials and the public itself because they can rely on a now long-standing and clear test with respect to the Connecticut General Statutes Section 1-210(b)(2) exemption, which helps them determine whether that exemption is applicable to the practical problems they encounter with respect to personnel, medical and similar information. Indeed, the many court and Freedom of Information Commission decisions applying the *Perkins* test have given public officials and the public a now consistent body of law concerning that statutory exemption.



Eric V. Turner

COUNTY OF HARTFORD

ss: Hartford

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Subscribed and attested to before me this 9th day of January, 2002.



Mitchell W. Pearlman
Commissioner of the Superior Court