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# FREEDOM OF INFORMATION



Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission • 18-20 Trinity Street, Suite 100 • Hartford, CT 06106  
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David Godbout,  
Complainant(s)  
against

Notice of Meeting

Docket #FIC 2013-159

State of Connecticut, Bipartisan Task Force on  
Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety,  
Connecticut General Assembly,  
Respondent(s)

February 11, 2014

### 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, February 26, 2014**. 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 February 19, 2014**. 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, an **original and fourteen (14) copies** must be filed **ON OR BEFORE February 19, 2014**. **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 February 19, 2014**, 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: David Godbout  
Philip Miller, AAG

2/11/14/FIC# 2013-159/Trans/wrbp/LFS//CAL

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by

Report of Hearing Officer

David Godbout,

Complainant

against

Docket #FIC 2013-159

State of Connecticut, Bipartisan Task  
Force on Gun Violence Prevention and  
Children's Safety, Connecticut General  
Assembly,

Respondent

February 11, 2014

The above-captioned matter was heard as a contested case on February 4, 2014, at which time the complainant and the respondent appeared, stipulated to certain facts and presented testimony, exhibits and argument on the complaint. For purposes of hearing, the above-captioned matter was consolidated with Docket #FIC 2013-160; David Godbout v. State of Connecticut, Bipartisan Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety, Connecticut General Assembly.

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

1. The respondent is a public agency within the meaning of §1-200(1), G.S.
2. By letter filed March 18, 2013, the complainant appealed to this Commission, alleging that the respondent violated the Freedom of Information ("FOI") Act by conducting a meeting on February 25, 2013 that was not properly noticed pursuant to the Act's requirements.
3. Section 1-225, G.S., provides in relevant part:
  - (b) ... Any other provision of the Freedom of Information Act notwithstanding, the General Assembly at the commencement of each regular session in the odd-numbered years, shall adopt, as part of its joint rules, rules to provide notice to the public of its regular, special, emergency or interim committee meetings...
  - (c) The agenda of the regular meetings of every public agency, except for the General Assembly, shall be available to the public...

(d) Notice of each special meeting of every public agency, except for the General Assembly, either house thereof or any committee thereof, shall be posted not less than twenty-four hours before the meeting to which such notice refers on the public agency's Internet web site, if available [...]

4. It is concluded that §1-225, G.S., expressly excepts the General Assembly from the statute's notice of meetings requirements.

5. It is found that the respondent is a task force of the General Assembly.

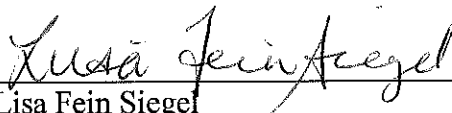
6. It is concluded that §1-225, G.S., does not require the respondent to comply with the statute's notice of meetings requirements.

7. It is concluded that the respondent did not violate the FOI Act as alleged.

8. The complainant's Motion to Amend the Complaint, dated January 23, 2014, to add allegations of lack of notice for other meetings in January, February, and March of 2013, is hereby denied for the reasons stated above.

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

1. The complaint is dismissed.

  
Lisa Fein Siegel  
as Hearing Officer