



JAMES MELITA
Chairman

BRYAN BEST
Secretary

COUNTY OF ALBANY
COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION
112 STATE STREET, ROOM 710
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207
PHONE: (518) 447-7168 FAX: (518) 447-5683
www.albanycounty.com

BERNARD J. MALONE
Member

EUGENE P. DEVINE
Member

BENEDICT CONBOY
Member

Ethics Commission Annual Report for 2024

Members of the Ethics Commission

The Commission in 2024 was comprised of five members. In June 2024, James Melita was elected to serve as Chairman and Bryan Best was elected to serve as Secretary. Mr. Eugene P. Devine was appointed to the Ethics Commission pursuant to Resolution Number 372 on June 10, 2024. Mr. Benedict Conboy was appointed pursuant to Resolution Number 484 on August 12, 2024. The other member of the Ethics Commission includes Bernard J. Malone.

Meetings

The Commission met three times in 2024. The meeting minutes are attached to this Report. In April 2024, the Commission approved the list of Required Filers and discussed the development of Ethics Training by the Department of Human Resources. In June 2024, the Commission reviewed the Complaint submitted on March 13, 2024. In September 2024, the Commission reviewed the Complaint submitted on July 19, 2024. The Commission continued to receive and review Financial Disclosure forms throughout 2024.

Responses to Complaints and Advisory Opinions

The Commission received two complaints the first submitted on March 13, 2024 and the second submitted on July 19, 2024. In both instances, after reading the facts in a light most favorable to the Complainants, the Commission found that the Complaints failed to allege facts sufficient to constitute a violation of the Albany County Ethics Law and dismissed them. Pursuant to the Albany County Ethics Commission Regulations Governing Complaints and Investigations, the Clerk of the Legislature was directed to provide a copy of their determination to the Respondents and Complainants and the details of these matters were stricken from the public record.

The Commission did not issue any Advisory Opinions in 2024.

Dated: April 8, 2025

Albany County Ethics Commission Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2024 3:00pm

Room 940

Albany County Office Building

112 State Street, Albany, NY 12207

Meeting conducted in person

In attendance: Bryan Best- Member, Bernard Malone- Member, James Melita- Member, Gerard Maney- Chairman, Sia Googas- Ethics Counsel, Patrick Collins- Legislative Assistant (via telephone), Jennifer Clement- Commissioner of Human Resources

4 of 4 members present- quorum present

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Maney at 3:16 p.m.

1. Reviewed the meeting minutes from the November 15, 2023 meeting, a motion was made by Mr. Malone to adopt the minutes without modification. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melita, and the meeting minutes were adopted unanimously.
2. The Ethics Commission discussed the list of Required Filers for the Financial Disclosure Form for 2024
 - a. Mr. Collins presented the list of required filers for Board members appointed by the County Executive or the County Legislature. A motion was made by Mr. Malone to accept the list of required filers for Board members as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Best.
 - b. Human Resources Commissioner Jennifer Clement presented the list of required filers that are employees of the County of Albany. Ms. Clement explained that three new titles were added to the list. These additions are a result of three newly created positions. Those positions were Director of Intergovernmental and Legislative Affairs for the County Legislature; Director of Operations for the County Legislature and Director of Programs and Operations for the Department for the Aging. Commissioner Clement explained that these positions would be considered policy making or high ranking county positions under the Ethics Law which requires them to complete a Financial Disclosure Form. A motion was made by Mr. Best to accept the list of required filers for County of Albany employees as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melita.
3. Commissioner Clement informed the Ethics Commission of her department's work towards creating an Ethics Training module for Albany County employees. The Ethics Commission directed Commissioner Clement to provide the training module to the Ethics Commission for final review.

4. Motion to move into Executive Session to discuss the Ethics Complaint submitted on March 13, 2024 and to discuss the employment history of a particular person (OML §105(1)(f)) was made by Mr. Best, Mr. Malone seconded. The motion was unanimous.
5. Motion to move out of Executive Session was made by Mr. Malone, Mr. Best seconded. The motion was unanimous.
6. Pursuant to the Albany County Ethics Commission Regulations Governing Complaints and Investigations Paragraph 2, a motion to dismiss the Ethics Complaint on the basis that it fails to allege facts sufficient to constitute a violation of the Albany County Ethics Law was made by Mr. Malone, Mr. Best seconded. The motion was unanimous.
7. The Ethics Commission directed its attorney to draft a letter outlining its decision regarding the Ethics Complaint submitted on March 13, 2024 and to send the letter to the Complainant and Respondent per the Regulations Governing Complaints and Investigations.
8. The Ethics Commission reviewed the 2023 Annual Report. A motion was made by Mr. Melita to adopt the 2023 Annual Report with a modification to include the correct year of the Annual Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Malone and the 2023 Annual Report was adopted unanimously.
9. The Ethics Commission discussed its next meeting and a tentative date was set for June 26th at 3pm.
10. Motion to adjourn – Mr. Melita moved to adjourn, Mr. Malone seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Meeting ended at 4:20 pm.

Albany County Ethics Commission Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2024 3:00pm
Room 940
Albany County Office Building
112 State Street, Albany, NY 12207

Meeting conducted in person

In attendance: Bryan Best- Member, Bernard Malone- Member, James Melita- Member, Eugenie Devine, Sia Googas- Ethics Counsel, Patrick Collins- Legislative Assistant

4 of 4 members present- quorum present

Meeting was called to order by Secretary Melita at 3:13 p.m.

1. Reviewed the meeting minutes from the April 10, 2024 meeting, a motion was made by Mr. Melita to adopt the minutes without modification. The motion was seconded by Mr. Malone, and the meeting minutes were adopted unanimously.
2. Election of Officers
 - a. Mr. Malone moved to elect Mr. Melita as Chairman, Mr. Best seconded the motion, the vote passed with one abstention.
 - b. Mr. Melita moved to elect Mr. Best as Chairman, Mr. Malone seconded the motion, the vote passed with one abstention.
3. An update on the return of the 2023 Financial Disclosure Forms was provided by Mr. Collins.
 - a. A motion was made by Mr. Malone to direct the Clerk of the Legislature to reach out individually to any required filers who have not completed the Financial Disclosure Forms, Mr. Best seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.
 - b. The Ethics Commission members were provided a packet of Financial Disclosure Forms and instructed to return them to the Clerk of the Legislature once they were reviewed.
4. The Ethics Commission reviewed the draft Dismissal Determination to the Ethics Complaint submitted on March 13, 2024. A motion to adopt the Dismissal Determination subject to further review by Chairman Melita was made by Mr. Best. The motion was seconded by Mr. Malone. The motion passed unanimously.
5. The Ethics Commission discussed its next meeting and a tentative date was set for September 25th at 3pm.
6. Motion to adjourn – Mr. Best moved to adjourn, Mr. Devine seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Meeting ended at 3:33 pm.

Albany County Ethics Commission Meeting Minutes

September 25, 2024 3:00pm

Room 940

Albany County Office Building

112 State Street, Albany, NY 12207

Meeting conducted in person

In attendance: Bryan Best- Secretary, Bernard Malone- Member, James Melita- Chairman, Benedict Conboy- Member, Eugene Devine- Member, Sia Googas- Ethics Counsel,

5 of 5 members present- quorum present

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Melita at 3:13 p.m.

1. Reviewed the meeting minutes from the April 10, 2024 meeting, a motion was made by Mr. Malone to adopt the minutes without modification. The motion was seconded by Mr. Best, and the meeting minutes were adopted unanimously.
2. An update on the return of the 2024 Financial Disclosure Forms was provided by Ms. Googas. The Ethics Commission members were provided a packet of Financial Disclosure Forms for review.
3. Motion to move into Executive Session to discuss the Ethics Complaint submitted on July 19, 2024 and to discuss the employment history of a particular person (OML §105(1)(f)) was made by Mr. Conboy, Mr. Malone seconded. The motion was unanimous.
4. Motion to move out of Executive Session was made by Mr. Conboy, Mr. Malone seconded. The motion was unanimous.
5. Pursuant to the Albany County Ethics Commission Regulations Governing Complaints and Investigations Paragraph 2, a motion to dismiss the Ethics Complaint on the basis that it fails to allege facts sufficient to constitute a violation of the Albany County Ethics Law was made by Mr. Conboy, Mr. Best seconded. The motion was unanimous.
6. The Ethics Commission directed its attorney to draft a dismissal determination outlining its decision regarding the Ethics Complaint submitted on July 19, 2024 and after final approval from the Chairman to send the dismissal determination to the Complainant and Respondent per the Regulations Governing Complaints and Investigations.
7. The Ethics Commission discussed its next meeting and a tentative date was set for February 12th at 3pm.
8. Motion to adjourn – Mr. Best moved to adjourn, Mr. Devine seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Meeting ended at 3:57 pm.