## Indiana Election Commission Minutes August 11, 2023

**Members Present:** Paul Okeson, Chairman of the Indiana Election Commission ("Commission"); Suzannah Wilson Overholt, Vice Chair of the Commission; Karen Celestino-Horseman, member; Connie Lawson, Proxy for Litany A. Pyle, Member; Brandon Clifton, Proxy for Chairman and Member Paul Okeson.

Members Absent: Litany A. Pyle.

**Staff Attending:** J. Bradley King, Co-Director, Indiana Election Division of the Office of the Secretary of State (Election Division); Angela M. Nussmeyer, Co-Director of the Election Division; Matthew Kochevar, Co-General Counsel of the Election Division; Valerie Warycha, Co-General Counsel of the Election Division; Ms. Abbey Taylor, Campaign Finance; Ms. Michelle Thompson, Campaign Finance.

Others Attending: Mr. Jayden Allen; Mr. Ferdinand Alvarez; Mr. John Collett; Ms. Nansi Custer; Ms. Sherry Ellis; The Hon. Sue Errington; Mr. Allen Hill; Mr. John Jacob; Mr. Eric Joseph; Ms. Debbi Kerr-Cook; Ms. Myra Kinser; Ms. Mary Kowalski; Mr. Nicholas Marshall; Mr. Ben Merida; Mr. Terry Michael; Mr. Mike Moran; Ms. Tonda Pauley; Mr. Jeremie Pearson; Mr. Chris Pence; Ms. Debora Porter; Mr. Dave Roberts; Mr. Evan Robbins; Ms. Angela Brito Rodriguez; Ms. Megan Ruddie; Mr. Herbert Sizek; Ms. Susan Smith; Mr. Mark Spelbring; Mr. Robert Stephenson; Ms Karen Valiquett; Mr. Robin Williams.

#### 1. Call to Order:

The Chair called the August 11, 2023 meeting of the Commission to order at 1:00 p.m. EDT in the Indiana Government Center South Conference Room A, 402 West Washington Street, Indianapolis.

#### 2. Transaction of Commission Business:

The Commission proceeded to transact the business set forth in the Transcript of Proceedings for this meeting prepared by Maria W. Collier, RPR, CRR, of Stewart Richardson and Associates, which is incorporated by reference into these minutes.

The Commission adjourned its meeting at 2:28 p.m. EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

of Bulley King

J. Bradley King Co-Director

Co-Direct

APPROVED:

Paul Okeson, Chairman

## In the Matter Of:

## INDIANA ELECTION COMMISSION PUBLIC SESSION

# **Transcript of Proceedings**

August 11, 2023



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2	INDIANA ELECTION COMMISSION
3	PUBLIC SESSION
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7	Conducted on: August 11, 2023
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11	Conducted at: Indiana Government Center South 402 West Washington Street, Conference Room A
12	Indianapolis, Indiana
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16	A Stenographic Record by:
17	Maria W. Collier, RPR, CRR
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24	STEWART RICHARDSON & ASSOCIATES Registered Professional Reporters
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2 INDIANA ELECTION COMMISSION:  3 Paul Okeson - Chairman  4 Brandon Clifton - Proxy for Paul Okeson - Chairman  5 Suzannah Wilson Overholt - Vice Chairman  6 Connie Lawson - Proxy for Litany Pyle - Member  7 Karen Celestino-Horseman - Member  8  9 INDIANA ELECTION DIVISION STAFF:  10 Angela M. Nussmeyer - Co-Director  11 J. Bradley King - Co-Director  12 Matthew Kochevar - Co-Counsel  13 Valerie Warycha - Co-Counsel  14 Michelle Thompson - Campaign Finance Director  15 Abbey Taylor - Campaign Finance Director  16  17  18  19  20  21  22  23  24  25	1	APPEARANCES		
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Abbey Taylor - Campaign Finance Director	13	Valerie Warycha - Co-Counsel		
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	14	Michelle Thompson - Campaign Finance Director		
17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	15	Abbey Taylor - Campaign Finance Director		
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CHAIRMAN OKESON: Call the meeting of the
Indiana Election Commission to order, Friday,
August 11, 2023, approximately 1 p.m., Conference
Center Room A in Government Center South.
The following members of the Commission are
present: Myself, Chairman Paul Okeson; Vice Chair

present: Myself, Chairman Paul Okeson; Vice Chair Suzannah Wilson Overholt; Member Karen Celestino-Horseman; and I'd like to recognize how honored I am to have former Secretary of State Connie Lawson sitting in as a proxy for Member Litany Pyle.

VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: A lot of pressure today.

CHAIRMAN OKESON: Yeah, I know.

2.2

MS. LAWSON: I've been retired for two years.

16 It's okay.

CHAIRMAN OKESON: Feel free to correct me at any time.

I recognize the Election Division staff:

Co-Director Brad King and Co-Director Angie

Nussmeyer, Co-General Counsels Matthew Kochevar and

Valerie Warycha. Also, our friend, court reporter

from Stewart Richardson Deposition Services, Maria

Collier. And before we continue the meeting, I

want to remind everyone on behalf of the court

```
1
     reporter, if you are speaking, please identify
     yourself and spell your name correctly for accuracy
 2.
 3
     of the record.
          Moving on, I'd like to ask that we cite
 4
     compliance with the Open Door Law.
 5
          MR. KING: Mr. Chairman, members of the
 6
     Commission, on behalf of myself and Co-Director
 7
     Nussmeyer, we certify that notice was given of this
 8
 9
     meeting in compliance with the Indiana Open Door
10
     Law.
11
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                            Thank you.
12
          Next item on the agenda is approval of the
13
     February 10, 2023, Commission minutes. I recognize
14
     the co-directors to present the minutes.
          MR. KING: Mr. Chairman, members of the
15
16
     Commission, on behalf of myself and Co-Director
17
     Nussmeyer, we recommend for your approval the
18
     February 10, 2023, Commission minutes.
19
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                            Is there a motion to approve
20
     the minutes as presented?
21
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: So moved.
2.2
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                            Second?
23
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN:
24
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: Any discussion?
25
          Hearing none, all those in favor say "Aye."
```

1 VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Aye. 2 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Aye. 3 MS. LAWSON: Aye. 4 CHAIRMAN OKESON: The "ayes" have it. Moving on, next item is ratification of 5 campaign finance settlement agreements. 6 recognize the Election Division's campaign finance 7 staff, Ms. Taylor and Ms. Thompson, to present 8 9 information concerning several campaign finance 10 settlement agreements that have been entered into 11 on behalf of the Commission. 12 MS. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, members of the 13 Commission, under your Campaign Finance tab, you'll 14 have a list of settlement agreements. These are 15 committees that need to be ratified that have 16 agreed to pay the settlement agreement and waive a 17 hearing. CHAIRMAN OKESON: A good number of them. 18 19 remind me, these are a matter of record; right? 20 MR. KING: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that's correct. 21 They will be a part of the minutes of this meeting. 2.2 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Okay. Any discussion or 23 anything? 24 Is there a motion to ratify the settlement 25 agreements as presented?

1 So moved. MS. LAWSON: 2 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Is there a second? 3 VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Second. 4 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Any questions, comments? 5 Hearing none, all those in favor signify by saying "Aye." 6 7 VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Aye. MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: 8 Aye. 9 MS. LAWSON: Aye. 10 CHAIRMAN OKESON: The "ayes" have it. 11 motion to ratify settlement agreements is adopted. 12 If you are planning on providing any testimony 13 or speaking before the Commission today, would you 14 please stand and allow yourselves to have the oath 15 administered by Matthew Kochevar. 16 All those rise who plan to MR. KOCHEVAR: 17 address the Indiana Election Commission and please say "I do" after recitation of the oath. 18 19 Do you solemnly swear or affirm, under the 20 penalties of perjury, that the testimony you are 21 about to give to the Indiana Election Commission is 2.2 the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the 23 truth? Please say "I do." 24 ALL: I do. 25 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Customarily, we've given any committee present a final opportunity to pay a reduced civil penalty by waiving the right to present evidence or make arguments before the Commission. Any committee is welcome to present evidence or make an argument before the Commission for the proposed penalty to be waived or reduced, but this has been an opportunity for those who want to waive any presentation and accept a reduced penalty without making any argument or presentation.

2.2

With that in mind, I move the adoption of the following arrangements: If this is the committee's first violation, the arrangement is for the committee to agree to pay 25 percent of the proposed fine plus mailing costs. If this is the committee's second violation, the arrangement is for the committee to agree to pay 50 percent of the proposed fine plus mailing costs. And if it's the third violation, the committee will agree to pay 75 percent of the proposed penalty plus mailing costs.

For purposes of this arrangement, a previous settlement agreement entered into by the committee will be counted as one violation. Likewise, if more than one alleged violation occurred on the

same calendar day, that group of violations shall be counted as one violation.

Is there a second to this motion?

VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Second.

2.2

CHAIRMAN OKESON: Any discussion? This is usually your...

MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: All right, y'all.

This is it. This is when you get a deal. If this is your first offense and you take this agreement, then you get a 75 percent discount off the fine.

If it's a second offense, you get 50 percent off.

And even if it's a third offense, you get

25 percent off, because if we go forward and we have to hear your testimony, if it's because you failed to file something on time and you want to come up here and say I forgot, I didn't know the law, the dog ate it, whatever, you still violated it.

And we work -- you know, you can't rely on the fact that you may have Democratic friends sitting up here or Republican friends sitting up here. We work as a team, and we know the importance it is to make sure that everyone maintains compliance with campaign finance. There's a reason why we have all this.

So unless you have some stellar thing that you really think is going to get you out of it and you're willing to run the risk, I suggest that you take the plea agreement.

VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: And just to clarify, if you do not join the throngs of people that will be coming forward to just accept the deal, there is no guarantee of any kind of deal after that. So just so you know, you are taking your fate into --well, I guess you're putting it in our hands, but anyway.

CHAIRMAN OKESON: You're taking it out of your own hands and putting it in ours.

VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Exactly, and I wouldn't necessarily recommend that, especially if you end up last in line.

MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: And typically we do not -- if we have to go through and listen to the entire presentation, typically we do not make the offer of a deal.

VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Right.

CHAIRMAN OKESON: So with that being part of the record of discussion, no further discussion.

All those in favor of the procedures, signify by saying "Aye."

```
1
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT:
                                   Aye.
 2
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN:
                                   Aye.
 3
          MS. LAWSON:
                       Aye.
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: The "ayes" have it.
                                                  That's
 4
     the deal.
 5
          The Commission will begin with committees
 6
     whose representatives are seated in the front of
 7
     the room and ask those who wish to accept these
 8
 9
     arrangements to please step forward and be
10
     recognized to confirm the acceptance of the
11
     arrangement.
12
          Remember, this is not the time for anyone to
13
     make their case to ask for a reduction or waiver of
14
     a proposed penalty.
15
          So if you're going to take it, form a line,
16
     take a seat, say your name for the record. If you
17
     have your cause number, that would be very helpful.
18
          MS. KOWALSKI: Mary Kowalski, Citizens for a
19
     United Long Beach. The case number is
20
     2022-7262-201.
21
                       It's on page 89.
          MS. TAYLOR:
2.2
          THE REPORTER: Your name, ma'am?
23
          MS. KOWALSKI: Mary Kowalski.
24
          THE REPORTER: Thank you. Spell it, please.
25
          MS. KOWALSKI: K-o-w-a-l-s-k-i.
```

```
1
          MS. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, this is Citizens
     for a United Long Beach, Cause No. 2022-7262-201.
 2
 3
     This committee has not been before the Commission
 4
     before and has a proposed civil penalty of $950.60.
 5
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: Are you prepared to accept
 6
     the arrangement?
 7
          MS. KOWALSKI: Yes.
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: So with the reduced penalty,
 8
 9
     what's the fine? IPhone calculator?
10
          MS. TAYLOR: $237.50.
11
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: Plus mailing costs?
12
          MS. TAYLOR: Plus 60 cents so $238.10.
13
          MS. KOWALSKI: Thank you.
14
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                            Thank you.
15
          MS. KOWALSKI: And I'm free to go now?
16
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: Yes, you're free.
17
          MR. ALVAREZ: Good afternoon, ladies and
18
     gentlemen. Ferdinand Alvarez, F-e-r-d-i-n-a-n-d,
     A-l-v-a-r-e-z, Lake and Porter County Young
19
20
     Democrats, Cause No. 2022-6681-72.
          MS. THOMPSON: Page 1. This is the Lake and
21
2.2
     Porter County Young Democrats, Cause
     No. 2022-6681-72. It has been before the Board
23
24
     twice before. Is that right?
          MS. TAYLOR:
25
                       Yes.
```

```
1
          MS. THOMPSON: Has a proposed civil penalty of
 2
     $1,000.60.
 3
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                            So this would be 75 percent?
          MR. KOCHEVAR: If they've been three times,
 4
 5
     this is number four.
 6
          MS. NUSSMEYER: They have one settlement
     agreement.
 7
          MS. THOMPSON: So this is their third time.
 8
 9
     This will be their fourth here today.
10
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                            The documentation --
11
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: So this says, our
12
     records show two times before the IEC and one
13
     settlement agreement.
14
          MS. TAYLOR:
                      Yes.
15
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: So what does that
16
     count as?
          MS. TAYLOR: This is their fourth.
17
18
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Oh, I see.
19
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: I read that as two times and
20
     one of those times they took a settlement
21
     agreement, but you're saying that's not how that
2.2
     reads.
23
          MS. TAYLOR:
                       No.
                            It's two separate, two
24
     hearings and one settlement agreement.
25
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: And you both agree
```

```
1
     that's the way to read it?
 2
          MS. TAYLOR:
                       Yes.
 3
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Just checking.
 4
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: That means they don't
 5
     qualify for --
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: Yeah. Under the rules that
 6
     we've adopted and the procedures we've adopted, you
 7
     would not be eligible for a reduced penalty.
 8
 9
          MR. ALVAREZ: Is it too late, then, to be able
10
     to address the Commission?
11
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: He can come back.
12
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: You're welcome to stay and
13
     make a case.
14
          MR. ALVAREZ:
                        I would prefer to do that, then.
15
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                            Sure.
          MR. ALVAREZ:
16
                        Thank you.
17
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: You might want to take a
18
            It's going to be a minute.
19
          MS. ERRINGTON: Sue Errington,
20
     E-r-r-i-n-q-t-o-n. I have actually two cause
     numbers.
21
2.2
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                            Okay.
23
          MS. ERRINGTON: One is 2023-4008-187.
24
     other is 2023-4008-188.
25
          MS. TAYLOR: They're both on page 104.
                                                  The
```

```
1
    proposed civil penalty is $1,000 for Cause
    No. 2023-4008-187 and $1,000 for 2023-4008-188, and
 2.
 3
     this is the second time before the Board.
         VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: So it would be
 4
 5
     50 percent of both penalties; right?
         MS. TAYLOR: Right, uh-huh.
 6
         CHAIRMAN OKESON: So that would be --
 7
         MS. TAYLOR: 1,000 total.
 8
 9
         VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: So $500 for each and
10
    postage.
11
         MS. TAYLOR: Right.
12
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: $1,000.60. It says
13
    60 cents.
         MS. TAYLOR: Right. So it would be $1,001.20.
14
15
         CHAIRMAN OKESON: There you go.
16
         MS. ERRINGTON: I accept.
17
         CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                            Thank you.
18
                       Hello. Megan, M-e-g-a-n, Ruddie,
         MS. RUDDIE:
19
    R-u-d-d-i-e. I'm the Indiana House Democratic
20
    Caucus director. I'm here today representing State
21
    Representative Rita, R-i-t-a, Fleming,
2.2
    F-l-e-m-i-n-g. I don't know my cause number.
23
          MS. TAYLOR: We got you. There are six.
                                                    Ιt
24
     starts on page 94, bottom of 94, top of 95, Cause
25
    No. 2023-7089-170; the next is 2023-7089-171 on
```

```
1
    page 95; 2023-7089-172; 2023-7089-173; on page 99,
    Cause No. 2023-7089-178. This is her second time
 2.
 3
    before the Commission. The total was $1,100 for
 4
     those six. Oh, wait, there's another one. Sorry.
 5
     2023-7089-179.
 6
         CHAIRMAN OKESON: That's at the top of 100?
 7
         MS. TAYLOR: Yes.
         CHAIRMAN OKESON: So it's $1,200?
 8
 9
         MS. NUSSMEYER: $2,400.
10
         CHAIRMAN OKESON: So page 97 and 98 are not
11
    part of those?
12
         MS. TAYLOR: Correct. It's $1,100 plus
13
    $2.40 -- $3.60 in mailing costs.
14
         CHAIRMAN OKESON: Yeah. You said $1,100
    plus --
15
16
         MS. TAYLOR: Plus $3.60 in mail.
17
         MS. RUDDIE: Graciously accept. Thank you.
         CHAIRMAN OKESON: Okay. Thank you.
18
19
          Sorry. So that ends up being what, then?
20
         MS. TAYLOR:
                      $553.60.
21
         MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: And you said that the
22
    ones on page 97 and 98 are not part of this?
23
         MS. TAYLOR: Correct. They're a different
24
     candidate. The system struggles a bit.
25
         MR. ALLEN: My name is Jayden, J-a-y-d-e-n,
```

```
1
     Allen, A-l-l-e-n. I'm speaking on behalf of my
     mother, Tonda, T-o-n-d-a, Pauley, P-a-u-l-e-y.
 2
 3
     Cause number is 2023-7392-74.
 4
          MS. THOMPSON: This is on page 46. This is
 5
     the Committee to Elect Tonda Pauley, Cause
     No. 2023-7392-74. This committee has not been
 6
     before the Commission before and has a proposed
 7
     civil penalty of $100.60.
 8
 9
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: So 25.60?
10
          MS. THOMPSON: Yes.
11
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: Do you accept?
12
          MR. ALLEN: Yes, we do, sir.
13
          MS. PAULEY: We do, sir.
14
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                            Thank you.
15
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: And also,
     Ms. Pauley -- good to see you, looking great -- if
16
17
     you close your committee --
18
          MS. TAYLOR: It is closed.
19
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Oh, it's closed?
20
     Never mind.
          MS. PAULEY: It's closed.
21
2.2
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                            Thank you.
23
          MR. ROBERTS: Hi there. Dave Roberts,
24
     R-o-b-e-r-t-s. Name of the committee is Parents
25
     for Accountable Schools. Number is 2023-7535-239.
```

```
1
         MS. TAYLOR: This is on page 125 and 126,
    Cause No. 2023-7535-239, proposed civil penalty of
 2.
 3
     $400.63. This is their first time before the
 4
    Board.
 5
         VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: I'm sorry. You said
    this is Dubois County?
 6
         MS. TAYLOR: Parents for Accountable Schools.
 7
         VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Oh, down at the
 8
 9
    bottom.
10
         CHAIRMAN OKESON: So $400.63, 25 percent of
11
    that, $100.
12
         MS. TAYLOR: $100 plus 63 cents.
13
         VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Stamp. I've lost
14
    track, but all of a sudden it's gone up to 63 cents
    as we sit here. Sorry.
15
16
         CHAIRMAN OKESON: The other ones were 60.
17
         VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: I know. That's why I
18
    asked.
19
         MR. ROBERTS: We're willing to negotiate on
20
    the 3 cents.
21
         MS. TAYLOR: When the penalty was accrued,
2.2
    that was the mail cost that day, so that's the
23
    difference.
24
         CHAIRMAN OKESON: Okay.
```

MR. ROBERTS: That's acceptable. Do we pay

25

1 outside? CHAIRMAN OKESON: Brad, will you handle that. 2. 3 MR. KING: Yes, Mr. Chairman. After the 4 Commission concludes its hearings today, we'll meet 5 again to adopt final orders that include the information that the campaign finance staff has 6 provided about the total cost assessed against a 7 8 committee. The committee will then get a letter 9 requesting that the penalty be paid at a date in 10 the future, later this year. 11 MR. ROBERTS: Okay. Thank you. 12 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Thank you. Did we state the 13 amount? 14 MS. TAYLOR: \$100.63. 15 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Thank you. 16 MS. KINSER: My name is Myra Kinser, and --17 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Can you spell that, please. 18 Yes, sure. Myra, M-y-r-a, MS. KINSER: 19 K-i-n-s-e-r, and the administrative cause number is 20 2023-7689-106. 21 MS. THOMPSON: That is on page 61. 2.2 CHAIRMAN OKESON: How do you find it so fast? 23 MS. TAYLOR: Magic. 24 MS. THOMPSON: This is Hoosiers for Myra 25 Kinser, Cause No. 2023-7689-106, has a proposed

```
civil penalty of $600.60, and this committee has
 1
 2.
    not been before the Commission.
 3
         MS. KINSER: I thought it was 300. I
 4
    apologize. That's what Michelle and I talked
 5
    about, but I don't know. Maybe she meant after the
    600 it was 300. I apologize if I'm interrupting
 6
    but just clarification.
 7
         CHAIRMAN OKESON: But this is your first time;
 8
 9
     correct?
         MS. THOMPSON: This is the first time.
10
11
         MS. KINSER: Yes.
12
         CHAIRMAN OKESON: So it would be less than
13
    that.
         VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: It would be $150 plus
14
    60 cents mailing. You get a bargain on the
15
16
    mailing.
17
         CHAIRMAN OKESON: So $150.60 would be the
    deal.
18
19
         MS. KINSER: Oh, sure.
20
         MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Unless you want to
21
    pay the 300.
2.2
         MS. KINSER: I do not, and I do not ever want
23
    to come back here again.
24
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: Have you closed the
    committee?
25
```

```
1
         MS. TAYLOR: It's still open.
         MS. KINSER: I believe so. I'll double-check,
 2.
 3
     though.
 4
          MS. THOMPSON: It's still open.
 5
         MS. KINSER: Is it really? Okay. I'll close
          I'll get it closed.
 6
     it.
 7
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: If that's what you want,
     that would be the way to make sure that you don't
 8
 9
     come back again.
10
         MS. KINSER: Oh, okay. Well, good for
11
     clarification. So what do I do, just to clarify,
12
    to close the committee, just go and --
13
         MS. THOMPSON: Just give one of us a call.
14
         MS. KINSER: Just give you a call next week
    and we'll get it closed out?
15
16
         MS. THOMPSON: Yeah.
17
         MS. KINSER: All right. Perfect. Thank you.
18
         CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                            Thank you.
19
         MR. MARSHALL: Good afternoon, Committee.
20
    name is Nicholas Marshall, N-i-c-h-o-l-a-s,
21
    M-a-r-s-h-a-l-l, and I'm with Hoosiers for Nick
    Marshall. Cause number is 2023-7562-191. There is
2.2
23
    a second one as well. Bear with me. Cause
24
    No. 2023-7562-190. And first time in front of the
    Committee as well.
25
```

```
1
          MS. THOMPSON: This is page 105.
 2
          MS. TAYLOR: And 106.
 3
          MS. LAWSON: What was the second page?
                         105 and 106.
 4
          MS. THOMPSON:
                                       This is Hoosiers
     for Nick Marshall, Cause No. 2023-7562-190 and
 5
     2023-7562-191. Both penalties are $1,000, and this
 6
     committee has not been before the Commission
 7
     before.
 8
 9
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: So the total would be
10
     $500 plus 1.20 so $501.
11
          MR. MARSHALL:
                         501?
12
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: $501.20.
13
          MR. MARSHALL: Yes, ma'am. Thank you very
14
     much.
15
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                            Thank you.
                                Evan Robbins, E-v-a-n,
16
          MR. ROBBINS: Hello.
     R-o-b-i-n-s. I'm here for Committee to Elect
17
18
     Rodney Pol, Jr. I don't have my cause number.
19
          MS. TAYLOR: We got you. Page 91, Committee
20
     to Elect Rodney Pol, Jr., Cause No. 2023-7580-162,
21
     proposed civil penalty of $1,000.60; and page 93,
2.2
     Cause No. 2023-7580-165, proposed civil penalty of
23
     $1,000.60. This is their first time before the
24
     Commission.
25
                            Okay.
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
```

```
1
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: So it would be
 2.
     $501.20.
 3
          MR. ROBBINS:
                        I accept. Thanks.
 4
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                            Okav.
 5
          MR. PENCE: My name is Chris Pence, P-e-n-c-e.
     My cause number is 2023-7666-99.
 6
          MS. THOMPSON: This is on page 58. This is
 7
     Chris Pence for State Rep, Cause No. 2023-7666-99,
 8
 9
     has a proposed civil penalty of $1,000.60. And
10
     this is his first time before the Commission, and
     he has closed his committee.
11
12
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: So $250.60. Accept?
13
          MR. PENCE:
                      Yeah.
14
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                            Thank you.
                      Thank you.
15
          MR. PENCE:
16
                          Hello. Mark Spelbring,
          MR. SPELBRING:
17
     M-a-r-k, S-p-e-l-b-r-i-n-g, and administrative
     cause number is 2023-7731-189, -192, and -193.
18
19
          MS. TAYLOR: On page --
20
          MR. SPELBRING: I was confused because, when
21
     the system auto generated -- these are large
2.2
     contribution things -- it generated two rather than
23
     three, the way the system worked whenever these
24
     were reported in the --
25
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: If you're accepting a
```

```
1
    proposed settlement, we're not making any
 2.
    presentation. We're just...
 3
          MS. TAYLOR:
                       It's on page, bottom of 106 and
     then most of 107. Proposed civil penalty is a
 4
 5
     total of $2,000 and $1.20 mail. This is the first
     time before the Commission.
 6
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: $501.20?
 7
         MS. TAYLOR: $501.20.
 8
         MR. SPELBRING: Accept.
 9
10
         CHAIRMAN OKESON: Okay. Thank you.
11
                     Hi. My name is Susan Smith, the
         MS. SMITH:
12
     treasurer for Michael Paul Hart. The cause number
13
     is 2023-7631-1.
14
          THE REPORTER: Spell your name, please.
15
         MS. SMITH: Susan, S-u-s-a-n, S-m-i-t-h.
16
         MS. TAYLOR: At the bottom of 3, top of 4,
17
     this is Hart for House, Cause No. 2023-7631-1,
18
    proposed civil penalty of $1,000.60, and this is
19
    their first time before the Commission.
20
         VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: So it would be
21
     $250.60.
2.2
         MS. SMITH: Yes, we accept.
23
         CHAIRMAN OKESON: Okay. Thank you.
24
         MS. CUSTER: Hello. Nansi, and it's
25
    N-a-n-s-i, Custer, C-u-s-t-e-r, and it's Cause
```

```
1
    No. 2023-3728-190.
 2.
         MS. THOMPSON: This is --
         MS. TAYLOR: 108 and 109. Rush County?
 4
         MS. CUSTER: Yes, yes.
 5
         MS. TAYLOR: This is Rush County Republican
    Party, Cause No. 2023-3728-198, proposed civil
 6
    penalty of $500.63. This is their second time
 7
    before the Commission.
 8
 9
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: So $250?
10
         MS. TAYLOR: So it would be $250.63.
11
         MS. CUSTER: Accept. Thank you.
12
         CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                            Thank you.
13
         MR. HILL: Allen Hill, A-l-l-e-n, H-i-l-l, and
14
     it's 2023-6134-133.
         MS. THOMPSON: This is at the bottom of
15
16
    page 73. This is Indiana School Counselors
17
    Political Action Committee, Cause
    No. 2023-6134-133. Today is their fourth time
18
19
    before the Commission. They have a proposed civil
20
    penalty of $200.60.
         CHAIRMAN OKESON: I'm sorry. This is School
21
2.2
    Counselors?
23
         MS. THOMPSON: Indiana School Counselors.
24
         CHAIRMAN OKESON: Okay. Got it.
25
         VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: So you're not
```

```
1
     eligible for a reduction. Do you want to stay and
 2.
    present your case?
 3
          MR. HILL:
                     No. I'm just going to go ahead and
    pay the fine. I didn't know. I've only been part
 4
 5
     of the association for seven years, so I assume the
     other ones were --
 6
         MS. THOMPSON: Previous.
 7
          MR. HILL: -- previous ones to that.
 8
 9
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: So you'll accept the
10
    proposed penalty as is?
11
         MR. HILL: Yeah.
12
         CHAIRMAN OKESON: And waive any presentation?
13
         MR. HILL: Yeah.
14
         CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                           Okay.
         MR. HILL: Okay.
15
16
         MS. KERR-COOK: I'm Debbie Kerr-Cook,
17
    D-e-b-i-e, Kerr, K-e-r-r, hyphen Cook, C-o-o-k
    with the First District, and the cause number is
18
19
     2023-4843-201.
20
         MS. TAYLOR: It's on page 110, Cause
    No. 2023-4843-201, proposed civil penalty of
21
2.2
     $950.63, and this is their third time before the
23
    Commission.
24
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: So 75 percent?
25
         MS. TAYLOR: $712.50, so $713.13.
```

```
1
          MS. KERR-COOK: Yes.
 2.
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: Okay. Thank you.
 3
          MR. STEPHENSON:
                           Hi. Robert Stephenson,
     R-o-b-e-r-t, S-t-e-p-h-e-n-s-o-n, Howard County
 4
 5
     Democrats. I don't have cause numbers, but I have
 6
     two.
 7
          MS. THOMPSON: We've got it.
          MS. TAYLOR:
                      We got it.
 8
 9
          MS. THOMPSON: It's at the bottom of page 64
10
     and on page 75. So they have two before the
11
     Commission today. This is the Howard County
12
     Democratic Party, Cause No. 2023-6554-115 and
13
     2023-6554-135. This is their third -- today is
     their third time before the Commission. They have
14
     one proposed civil penalty of $800.60 and one of
15
16
     $300.60.
17
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: So just to make sure I'm --
18
          MS. LAWSON:
                       Total $1,100.
19
          MS. THOMPSON: Yeah. So it's 8 and 3.
20
          MS. TAYLOR: So it will be $701.20.
21
                           Thank you.
         MR. STEPHENSON:
2.2
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                            Thank you.
23
          MS. ELLIS: My name is Sherry, S-h-e-r-r-y,
24
     Ellis, E-1-1-i-s. Case number is 2023-7788-245 for
     Micah for Lieutenant Governor.
25
```

```
1
         MS. THOMPSON: Page 107.
 2
         CHAIRMAN OKESON: Page 107?
 3
          MS. THOMPSON:
                       Yes.
                               This is Micah for
 4
    Lieutenant Governor, 2023-7788-245, has a proposed
 5
     civil penalty of $750.60, and this is the first
     time before the Commission.
 6
         MS. TAYLOR: $187.50 plus .60 is $188.10.
 7
         MS. ELLIS: Yep. Thank you.
 8
 9
         VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: That's it.
                                               Thank
10
    you.
11
         MS. WILLIAMS: My name is Robin Williams,
    R-o-b-i-n, W-i-l-l-i-a-m-s, and it was under Robin
12
13
    Williams for Indiana. This is my first time here.
14
         MS. THOMPSON: What's your cause number?
         MS. WILLIAMS: Cause number is 2023-7643-155.
15
16
         MS. THOMPSON: This is on page 86. This is
17
    Robin Williams for Indiana, Cause
18
    No. 2023-7643-155, has a proposed civil penalty of
19
     $50.60, and this is her first time before the
20
    Commission.
21
         MS. TAYLOR: $12.50 plus .60, $13.10.
2.2
         MS. WILLIAMS: It was three minutes late
23
    because I couldn't get the submit button to work.
                            $13.10?
24
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
         MS. WILLIAMS: Yes, sir. No, problem.
25
```

```
1
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                            Thank you.
 2.
         MS. WILLIAMS:
                         Thank you.
 3
          MR. JOSEPH:
                      Hello. Erick Joseph, E-r-i-c-k,
     J-o-s-e-p-h. Cause number is 2023-7729-159.
 4
 5
         MS. THOMPSON:
                         This is on page 88. This is
    Recenter Indiana, Cause No. 2023-7729-159, has a
 6
    proposed civil penalty of $700.60, and this is
 7
     their second time before the Commission.
 8
 9
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                            $350.60?
10
         MR. JOSEPH: Yes. I accept. Thank you.
11
         MR. MERIDA: Ben Merida, B-e-n, M-e-r-i-d-a.
12
         CHAIRMAN OKESON: I'm sorry. Just a second.
13
          $350.60?
14
         MS. TAYLOR: $350.60.
15
         MR. MERIDA: Do you need me to state my name
16
    again?
17
         CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                            Sorry. Please.
         MR. MERIDA:
18
                      No.
                            That's fine. I can spell
19
     it, so I'm good. Hopefully I can. Ben Merida,
20
    B-e-n, M-e-r-i-d-a, here on behalf of Morgan County
21
    Republican Central Committee. Cause number is
2.2
     2023-5514-127. And I'm new to my position, so
23
    hopefully you're going to tell me this is our first
24
    time in front of this Committee. This was a gift
     left for me.
25
```

```
1
          MS. TAYLOR: Pages 70, 71, Cause
     No. 2023-5514-127, proposed civil penalty of
 2
 3
     $1,000.60, and this is the second time before the
     Commission.
 4
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: Well, you still get a break,
 5
     not as big as you were hoping.
 6
          MR. MERIDA:
 7
                       That's all right.
                            So $500.60?
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
 8
 9
          MS. TAYLOR:
                      $500.60.
10
          MR. MERIDA: And we'll receive that via mail?
11
         MS. THOMPSON:
                         Yes.
12
         MR. MERIDA:
                       Thank you.
13
          MS. VALIQUETT: Karen Valiquett, it's
14
     K-a-r-e-n, V-a-l-i-q-u-e-t-t, Elect Republican
     Women PAC, Cause No. 2023-7198-141. It should be
15
16
     our first time.
17
          MS. TAYLOR: Page 78, Cause No. 2023-7198-141,
     proposed civil penalty of $200.60, and this is
18
19
     their first time before the Commission, so that
20
     would be $50.60.
21
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Do you accept?
2.2
          MS. VALIQUETT:
                          Sounds good.
23
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Thank you.
24
          MS. VALIQUETT: Thank you.
25
          MR. MORAN: Mike Moran, M-i-k-e, M-o-r-a-n,
```

```
1
     Lafayette Local 472 PAC, Cause No. 2023-7607-153.
          MS. THOMPSON: This is Lafayette Local 472
 2.
 3
     PAC -- sorry. Page 85.
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: If you're going to make me
 4
 5
     find it, I'll never get there.
 6
          MS. THOMPSON: Cause No. 2023-7607-153, has a
     proposed civil penalty of $550.60. This is the
 7
     first time before the Commission.
 8
 9
          MS. TAYLOR: So that would be $137.50 so
10
     $138.10.
11
          MR. MORAN: Thank you.
12
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: And please tell your
13
     fellow firefighters thank you for their service.
14
          MR. MORAN:
                      Thank you.
15
          MS. RODRIGUEZ: Good afternoon. Angela Brito
16
     Rodriguez, A-n-q-e-l-a, B-r-i-t-o,
17
     R-o-d-r-i-q-u-e-z, on behalf of Indy Teachers for
     Public Schools. We have three cause numbers,
18
19
     2023-7457-231, Cause No. 2023-7457-82, Cause
20
     No. 2023-7457-147.
21
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: One of them is on page 82.
2.2
          MS. RODRIGUEZ: Teachers PAC.
23
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: You get the gold
24
     star.
25
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: What are the odds?
```

```
1
                      Page 50, 82, 121 and 122.
          MS. TAYLOR:
                          So that was four.
 2.
          MS. NUSSMEYER:
 3
          MS. TAYLOR:
                       It's three. It's the bottom of
 4
     121, top of 122.
 5
          MS. NUSSMEYER:
                          Oh, sorry.
          MS. TAYLOR: All right. First is
 6
     2023-7457-82, proposed civil penalty of $50.60;
 7
     second is Cause No. 2023-7457-147, proposed civil
 8
 9
     penalty of $200.60; and the third is 2023-7457-231,
10
     proposed civil penalty of $1,000.63. This is their
11
     second -- well, they paid one settlement agreement,
12
     so this is their second time.
13
          MS. RODRIGUEZ: This is the first time before
14
     the Commission.
          MS. TAYLOR: It's the first time before the
15
16
     Commission, but you've paid a settlement agreement.
17
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: You had a settlement prior
18
     to, so your penalty would be reduced by 50 percent.
19
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: So it would be 625
20
     plus -- it would be $626.83.
21
                          I accept. We make that
          MS. RODRIGUEZ:
22
     payment upon receipt of the thing from you?
23
          MS. THOMPSON:
                        Yes, right.
24
          MS. RODRIGUEZ: And how do we go about closing
     that committee?
25
```

```
1
          MS. THOMPSON: Give us a call next week and
 2
     we'll help you.
 3
          MS. RODRIGUEZ:
                          Sounds great. Awesome.
                                                    Thank
 4
     you so much.
 5
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                            $626.83?
          MS. TAYLOR: $626.83.
 6
                          Thank you.
 7
          MS. RODRIGUEZ:
          MR. PEARSON: Hello. My name is Jeremie
 8
 9
     Pearson, J-e-r-e-m-i-e, P-e-a-r-s-o-n.
                                             I'm with
10
     the Lafayette IBEW Political Action Committee.
11
     Cause number is 2023-7710-111.
12
          MS. THOMPSON: This is on page 63. This is
13
     Lafayette IBEW Political Action Fund, Cause
     No. 2023-7710-111, has a proposed civil penalty of
14
     $400.60, and this is the first time before the
15
     Commission.
16
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: It would be $100.60.
17
18
          MR. PEARSON:
                        Sounds good.
                                      Thanks.
19
          MR. SIZEK: Herbert Sizek, H-e-r-b-e-r-t
20
     S-i-z-e-k, Monroe County Young Democrats, Cause
21
     No. 2023-7722-243.
2.2
          MS. TAYLOR: It's on page 127, Monroe County
23
     Young Democrats, Cause No. 2023-7722-243, proposed
24
     civil penalty of $1,000.63, and this is their first
     time before the Commission.
25
```

```
VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: $250.63. You take
 1
 2
     it?
 3
          MR. SIZEK:
                      Yes.
 4
          MS. TAYLOR:
                      Okay.
 5
          MR. JACOB: My name is John Jacob. I'm here
     for the Committee for John Jacob for State
 6
     Representative, Cause No. 2023-7313-166, J-o-h-n,
 7
     J-a-c-o-b. And with all due respect, I disagree
 8
     with the findings of the Commission, but I
 9
10
     understand.
11
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: If you're accepting a
12
     penalty, then no case to make.
13
          MR. JACOB:
                      Understood, but I'm just stating
14
     my point for the record.
15
          MS. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, this is on
16
     page 93, John Jacob for State Representative, Cause
17
     No. 2023-7313-166, has a proposed civil penalty of
18
     $1,000.60, and this is his first time before the
19
     Commission.
20
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: So $250.60.
21
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                            $250.60?
                                      Yeah.
2.2
          MR. JACOB: All right. Thank you.
23
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                            No other takers?
24
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Last chance.
25
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                            I guess that concludes the
```

```
1
     reduced penalty portion of the --
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Wait a minute.
 2
 3
          MR. ALVAREZ: I've decided to take the deal,
 4
     ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Lake and
 5
     Porter County Young Democrats.
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Well, there's no deal
 6
 7
     for you, remember? It's 100 percent.
                        Then, right, I quess.
 8
          MR. ALVAREZ:
 9
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Just checking.
10
          MR. ALVAREZ: The non-deal. So would you like
11
     me to restart the record?
12
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: He can just waive it
13
     just like he did before, waive the hearing and
14
     accept it.
15
          Do you waive the hearing?
16
         MR. ALVAREZ:
                        I do.
17
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: And you accept the
18
     penalty, full amount?
19
          MR. ALVAREZ:
                        I do.
20
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Thank you.
21
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: Oh, that was page 1; right?
2.2
          MS. THOMPSON: Yes.
23
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: Okay. Before we begin, the
24
     remaining committees will be called to permit the
25
     presentation of evidence in their matters.
```

Before doing so, I would note that, in the past, the Commission has followed certain procedures for conducting campaign finance hearings, and I move that the Commission use the following procedures for today: When each campaign finance matter is called, the hearing will begin with recognizing campaign finance staff to provide information about the documents in this matter provided to the Commission members, including letters from committees and notice given to the campaign committee.

Unless there is objection, the documents provided to the Commission by the Election Division will be entered into the record of this meeting.

After campaign finance staff completes a presentation, a representative of the committee will be recognized first and may present their case for no more than five minutes.

You're keeping time?

MS. WARYCHA: Yes.

CHAIRMAN OKESON: Valerie will keep the time.

Commission members may ask questions during the presentation. Any time spent answering those will not count against your five minutes. The Election Division may signal the Chair when the

presenter's time is up.

2.2

If the presenter chooses to offer additional documents or other physical evidence not previously received by the Commission, the original must be provided to the Election Division -- I would ask you to hand it to Valerie Warycha, to my right here in the red -- in order to preserve the record.

If the Commission finds that a committee has violated the campaign finance statutes, state law requires a unanimous vote of all four Commissioners to waive or reduce the amount of penalty set by state law.

If the Commission makes a decision to either fine a committee or dismiss the case against the committee, the Election Division will prepare a final order for the Commission to approve at a later meeting. If a committee is fined today, the committee will receive a notice from the Election Division to pay the fine after the Commission adopts the final order. So it may be some time after today before the committee will be required to pay the fine.

The Commission will recognize committees to make a presentation, beginning with the committees seated at the front of the room. It is very

```
1
     helpful if you can speak up and, again, say your
     cause number, state your name and spell it for the
 2.
 3
     court reporter.
 4
          Everyone here has taken the oath with
     Mr. Kochevar?
 5
          Okay. Is there a second to this motion?
 6
 7
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT:
                                   Second.
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: Any questions or objections?
 8
 9
          Hearing none, all those in favor signify by
10
     saying "Aye."
11
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Aye.
12
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Aye.
13
          MS. LAWSON: Aye.
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: The "ayes" have it.
14
15
     are the procedures.
16
          We'll go ahead and begin at this time, though
17
     I am going to recuse myself on one matter and
     invite Brandon Clifton to sit in for me, and we'll
18
19
     start with that case.
20
          (Chairman Okeson exits.)
21
          CHAIRMAN CLIFTON: It's good to be with
2.2
     friends. My name is Brandon Clifton,
23
     B-r-a-n-d-o-n, C-l-i-f-t-o-n.
          I would ask that the committee JC for Indiana
24
     or JCFOR43 come forward.
25
```

```
1
                        Hi. I'm John Collett, J-o-h-n,
          MR. COLLETT:
     C-o-l-l-e-t-t, with JCFOR43 Committee, Cause
 2
 3
     No. 2023-7675-102.
          MS. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, this is on
 4
 5
     page 59. This is JCFOR43 Committee, Cause
     No. 2023-7675-102, has a proposed civil penalty of
 6
     $1,000.60. This is his first time before the
 7
     Commission, and the committee is closed.
 8
 9
          MR. COLLETT: I'll save a lot of your time.
10
     This is the short version. There's a really long
11
     version. I was approached by a couple legislators
12
     to run for office. I jumped through all the hoops.
13
     Long story short, at the last second, the party
14
     chair wouldn't sign off. So within the time period
15
     allotted, I pulled my name out of the hat.
16
          And JCFOR43, it was opened, but it never had
17
     any -- other than being opened, it had never had
18
     any official capacity, never took in any money,
19
     never held any fund-raisers, never did anything,
20
     but it was open. Upon this notification, I closed
21
     it immediately. And I just wanted the IEC to
22
     understand my position, how it happened.
23
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                            Thank you.
24
          Any questions?
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Ouestion for staff.
25
```

1 Please. CHAIRMAN OKESON: MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: So if this committee 2 is closed, who is responsible for paying the fine? 3 4 MS. THOMPSON: The chairman and the treasurer. 5 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Okay. And do you have a chairman and a treasurer? 6 7 MR. COLLETT: I'm the only person involved. MS. THOMPSON: I don't know. He might have 8 been his own chairman and treasurer. 9 10 MR. COLLETT: Oh, yeah. There may have been 11 one, but I can't remember. It never really 12 materialized. I don't remember if I named one or 13 not. But I would be responsible regardless. 14 VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Was there any money 15 in the account? 16 MR. COLLETT: No. 17 MS. TAYLOR: No. Zero report. 18 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: So you realize by 19 waiting you now face getting 1,000 when you could 20 have had 250? 21 MR. COLLETT: I understand that. 22 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: And you acknowledge 23 that you did file late; correct? 24 MR. COLLETT: I just wanted the IEC to 25 understand that I was never involved in any type of

```
1
     run and the party chair pulled everything.
     just wanted to state my case, and it was worth the
 2
 3
     chance. I'm hoping that you will dismiss it. If
     not, I'm hoping you'll reduce it. But I'm at your
 4
     mercy. But to me, it was worth the chance to just
 5
     let you know what happened.
 6
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: So when was it opened
 7
     and when was it closed?
 8
 9
          MS. TAYLOR: It was opened February 9th of
10
     2022, and closed April 3, 2023.
11
          MR. COLLETT: That would have been when I was
     notified.
12
13
          MS. LAWSON:
                       No contributions were given --
14
          MR. COLLETT: Zero.
15
          MS. LAWSON: -- and there was no expenses paid
16
     out?
17
          MR. COLLETT:
                        Zero.
          MS. TAYLOR: No contributions, no
18
19
     expenditures.
20
                      Mr. Chairman, I move we dismiss
          MS. LAWSON:
21
     this case.
2.2
          CHAIRMAN CLIFTON: Well, are there any
23
     additional questions from the Commissioners?
24
          MR. KING: You have a motion before
     discussion.
25
```

1 CHAIRMAN CLIFTON: I'm sorry. Is there a second to close and dismiss this case? 2 3 Thank you, Brad. 4 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Can we have a discussion? 5 VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: I think we have to 6 have a second. 7 MR. KING: You need a second to have 8 discussion on the motion. 9 10 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: For purposes of 11 discussion, I'll second it. 12 CHAIRMAN CLIFTON: Okay. Discussion. 13 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Here's my problem: understand people have busy lives and they're doing 14 all kinds of stuff, and you thought you were going 15 16 to run, but then it turned out you weren't able to 17 run and all that. 18 But at the time that you opened that 19 committee, you had a campaign finance book, you 20 knew you had reports due, you knew that once this 21 committee came into existence that it was going to 2.2 have to require something. And when the time came 23 and you -- you said you found out shortly. I quess 24 it was before the primary in May. You opened it in

February and before the primary in May --

25

MR. COLLETT: No. It was completed before that. I think it was within a week of --

2.

2.2

MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Of opening it that you knew that. So you knew you had this committee, and that is my problem because technically you didn't follow the law.

So on the other hand, I understand why
Secretary Lawson has moved to dismiss it because
it's no harm, no foul in a way since there was no
money that passed through it.

CHAIRMAN CLIFTON: Commissioner, could I maybe enrich our discussion. Is there any precedence from fellow commissioners or from the staff as to how similar cases have been handled in the past?

MR. KOCHEVAR: I can't give you a clear example. The Commission has essentially waived penalties, which is what this motion is under law, in situations like this where we've had a number of committees that have had zero dollars. I can't point to you, because we do these rather infrequently, like, once or twice a year, but I've been here for eight years, and so I know we've come across one of these beforehand. I'm sorry I can't give you an example because I don't know, unless one of the other staff can think of one right off

1 the top of their head, but it has. MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: All right. 2. I move 3 that we --4 VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Wait. 5 MR. KING: You've got a pending motion. I'm sorry. I will add one 6 MR. KOCHEVAR: thing. I do know what is more clear, this is more 7 present of mind, is that we have had committees who 8 9 have come for various reasons, some have been zero 10 dollars, some of them have been a tragedy that has 11 happened to them, where we said okay -- either they 12 had some money or they didn't have any, but we have 13 told them we will waive everything contingent on 14 you closing it. So this one is a little bit different because it is closed, so that one has 15 16 already been met. So I just wanted to add that on for the record. 17 18 CHAIRMAN CLIFTON: So there's a motion and a 19 second to dismiss this enforcement action with no 20 fine. Is that restatement correct, Secretary? 21 MS. LAWSON: Correct. 2.2 CHAIRMAN CLIFTON: Is that a fair restatement? 23 MS. LAWSON: Yes. 24 CHAIRMAN CLIFTON: All those in favor of 25 dismissing this action with no fine please say

```
1
     "Aye."
 2
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Aye.
 3
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN:
                                   Aye.
 4
          MS. LAWSON: Aye.
          CHAIRMAN CLIFTON: And your matter is
 5
 6
     dismissed with no fine.
 7
          MR. COLLETT:
                        Thank you.
          CHAIRMAN CLIFTON:
                            You bet.
 8
 9
          Any further action? Close that one out.
10
          (Chairman Clifton exits.)
11
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: I'll move for a brief
12
     recess. I can do that.
13
          MR. KING: You are vice chair.
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Yeah, I know.
14
15
     have a second for a recess?
16
         MS. LAWSON: Second.
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: All those in favor.
17
18
     Recess by consensus?
19
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: By consensus, yes.
20
          MR. KING: To reconvene?
21
         VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: To reconvene --
22
          MR. KING: In two minutes or whatever.
23
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: You are such a
     stickler, and we'll reconvene in three minutes.
24
25
          (Recess taken.)
```

```
1
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: Are we prepared for the next
 2
     case?
 3
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN:
                                   Yes.
 4
          MS. WARYCHA: Do we need to reconvene?
 5
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Yes.
                                         Do the gavel.
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: Reconvene at 1:59 p.m., same
 6
     date and place.
 7
          Are we calling them up or are they coming up
 8
 9
     in order?
10
          MS. LAWSON:
                       They're coming up.
11
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: I feel like I missed
12
     everything.
13
          MS. PORTER:
                       Hello. Debora Porter,
14
     D-e-b-o-r-a, P-o-r-t-e-r, from Porter County, no
15
     relation, Case No. 2023-7498-151, cause number.
16
                      It's on page 84.
          MS. TAYLOR:
17
          MS. PORTER:
                       Thank you. This is a political
     action committee that was formed in relation to --
18
19
                            Which one is it?
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
20
          MS. TAYLOR: 2023-7498-151, Indiana Freedom
     Political Action Committee.
21
2.2
          MS. PORTER: So we were very aspirational.
23
     formed a 501(c)(3) called Indiana Freedom, and with
24
     that we also wanted to have in place ready to go a
25
     political action committee, so at the same time we
```

opened both. This one was sitting in the back burner. We never opened an account for it. We've never done anything relative to this political action committee, so it kind of fell off our radar.

2.2

We have been limping along for two years. If we've ever had \$500 in our 501(c)(3) account, it was because we had \$600 in bills to pay. We literally are just limping along. This has never been activated. We've never done any activity relative to the activities in the political action.

Our idea was very aspirational, and that's why we wanted to have the two accounts. Our idea was to activate this whenever the time had come. Therefore, the idea of filing a campaign report for this account just was not on our radar. I'm the treasurer for it. It was not on our radar.

So we're asking that this be dismissed for cause. We have never opened an account. Right now this has been disbanded. If you do a search on it, it no longer exists.

MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Did you file to close it with the Election Division?

MS. PORTER: I believe it is no longer. I've done a search on it. I can't find it anywhere.

MS. LAWSON: But is it closed with the

```
Election Commission?
 1
 2.
         VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: That's a separate
 3
    process from if you --
 4
         MS. PORTER: If there is a separate process, I
 5
    will do it this moment because we're not going to
    be able to -- like I said, we won't be --
 6
                      It is closed.
 7
         MS. TAYLOR:
 8
         MS. PORTER:
                      Okay.
 9
         MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: So this is like the
10
     last one?
11
         MS. TAYLOR: Sorry. We missed it on the
12
    spreadsheet. We're sorry.
13
         MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: That will be a $300
14
     fine.
         VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: I would move to
15
16
    dismiss and not pursue the penalty.
         MS. LAWSON: I second.
17
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: Okay. Any discussion or
18
19
    questions?
20
         VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Other than what you
    missed?
21
2.2
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: Yeah. So there's a motion
23
     to dismiss. It's been seconded. All those in
24
    favor signify by saying "Aye."
25
         VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Aye.
```

```
1
         MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Aye.
 2
         MS. LAWSON:
                       Aye.
 3
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: The "ayes" have it.
 4
    matter is closed.
 5
         MS. PORTER: Thank you so much.
         VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: We've concluded that
 6
     type of approach is consistent with our past
 7
    actions.
 8
         MR. MICHAEL: Good afternoon. My name is
 9
10
    Terry Michael spelled T-e-r-r-y, M-i-c-h-a-e-l,
11
    Terry Michael for Senate. The reason I didn't come
12
    up earlier is because I think I'm supposed to have
    been here other times. I think I was here in 2007
13
14
     for a similar incident with also state Senate.
15
         MS. THOMPSON: This is page 42.
16
         MR. MICHAEL:
                        Sorry.
17
         MS. THOMPSON: This is Terry Michael for
18
     Senate.
          MR. MICHAEL: So in 2020, I filed to run for
19
20
     state Senate. COVID hit. I -- house arrest.
                                                    Τ
21
    mean, I didn't do anything. I didn't collect any
22
             I didn't have any fund-raisers. In April,
    money.
23
     I did file my report. I thought I had toggled the
24
     switch to end my account. Clearly I didn't because
25
     otherwise I wouldn't be here right now. And I
```

```
1
    honestly didn't even know that I was --
 2.
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: So you were attempting to
     close the committee? Is that what you're saying?
 4
         MR. MICHAEL: I found out in April of 2020,
 5
     and I think it was May that you received it, you
 6
    said.
         MS. THOMPSON: I'll have to look.
 7
         CHAIRMAN OKESON: Is it closed now?
 8
 9
         MR. MICHAEL: It is.
         MS. THOMPSON: It is closed. He closed it
10
11
    this morning with us.
12
         MR. MICHAEL: And it was only because a friend
13
    told me you're in trouble. I'm like crap.
                                                 So I'm
14
    here just to say I'm sorry and see if I can have a
15
    reduced amount.
16
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: Is this consistent with the
17
    other two?
         MS. THOMPSON: I don't think he had anything.
18
19
     It was all zeros.
20
         MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Did you have any
21
    money?
2.2
         MS. THOMPSON: There was no money.
23
         MR. MICHAEL: No. I never collected any
24
    money.
         MS. TAYLOR: There were no contributions.
25
```

```
1
                        I became a foster parent and
          MR. MICHAEL:
 2
     didn't think about these things.
 3
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Then I --
 4
          MR. MICHAEL: I'm also legally blind, so I
 5
     apologize that I sometimes miss little toggle
 6
     switches, but I do remember that toggle switch.
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: The toggles don't
 7
     always work.
 8
 9
          It seems like this is consistent with the
10
     prior two cases and our past practice. I would
11
     move to dismiss and not pursue the penalty.
12
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: Is there a second?
13
          MS. LAWSON: I second.
14
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: Hearing a motion to dismiss
     and a second, any discussion or questions?
15
16
          Hearing none, all those in favor signify by
17
     saying "Aye."
18
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Aye.
19
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN:
                                   Aye.
20
          MS. LAWSON: Aye.
21
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: The "ayes" have it.
                                                 It's
22
     dismissed.
23
          MR. MICHAEL:
                        Thank you.
24
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: Enjoy the rest of your day.
25
          MR. SIZEK:
                      I'm not here for anybody.
```

```
1
     just observing at this point.
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: I'm patting myself on
 2.
 3
     the back.
 4
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: I am shocked.
 5
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: Would campaign finance staff
     identify any matters for which a motion for
 6
     continuance was received for today's meeting.
 7
          MS. TAYLOR: We have a handful.
 8
 9
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                            Okay.
10
          MS. TAYLOR: Cause No. 2023-7097-48, Cindy for
11
     Indiana 58; Cause No. 20 --
12
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: I'm sorry?
13
          MS. LAWSON: Cindy for Indiana.
14
          MS. TAYLOR: Cindy for Indiana 58; Cause
     No. 2022-7097-93, Cindy for Indiana 58.
15
16
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Can I ask a question?
17
          MS. TAYLOR: Yeah.
18
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Who is Cindy?
19
          MS. TAYLOR: Her name is Cindy Reinert.
20
     name of her committee is just Cindy for Indiana 58.
21
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Okay. And has she
2.2
     asked for a continuance before?
23
          MS. TAYLOR: The second, the 2022-7097-93, was
24
     continued in the September of '22 hearing. This is
25
     her second request for a continuance.
```

```
1
         MS. NUSSMEYER: Don't we have a -- didn't the
 2.
    Commission at some point decide that after a
 3
     certain number of continuances --
 4
         MS. TAYLOR: It was after the second.
 5
         MS. NUSSMEYER: -- you need to show up at the
 6
    next meeting?
 7
         MS. TAYLOR:
                      Yes.
 8
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: So we would grant two but
 9
    not a third.
10
         MS. TAYLOR: At one time, yes. It was Wabash
11
    Democrats, but I couldn't tell you a year.
12
         MS. NUSSMEYER: And this would be her second
13
    request for continuance; correct?
14
         MS. TAYLOR: Yes.
15
         VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: On one of them?
16
         MS. TAYLOR: Yes, and her first on the other.
17
          2022-321-166, Indiana Federation of Republican
18
    Women.
19
         VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: I'm sorry. Do we
20
    want to consider these --
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: One at a time?
21
2.2
         VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Yeah.
23
         MS. TAYLOR: Okay.
24
         CHAIRMAN OKESON: Well, so we have --
25
         VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: They're written up
```

```
1
            So it seems like for Cindy Reinert -- well,
     so for the committee for Cindy for Indiana 58, I
 2.
     would move that on 2022-7097-93, that we deny that
     request for a continuance because she has already
 4
     received two other continuances.
 5
          MS. TAYLOR: One, this is her second.
 6
 7
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: She's asking for her second.
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Oh, never mind.
 8
 9
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: So let's --
10
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Never mind.
11
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: I move that we grant
12
     the continuances in both and that our notice state
13
     that no further continuances will be granted as
14
     regards the matter where she's getting her second
     continuance.
15
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: Is that a motion?
16
17
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN:
                                   Yes.
18
          MS. LAWSON:
                       Second.
19
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: Hearing no discussion, all
20
     those in favor signify by saying "Aye."
21
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Aye.
2.2
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Aye.
23
          MS. LAWSON:
                       Aye.
24
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: The "ayes" have it. Okay.
25
          MS. TAYLOR: Okay. The next one,
```

```
2022-321-166, Indiana Federation of Republican
 1
 2.
             This is their second request. The first
 3
     was granted at the September 9, 2022, hearing.
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: I move that we grant
 4
 5
     the continuance, again, with a statement in the
 6
     order that says that no further continuances shall
     be granted.
 7
                      Second.
 8
          MS. LAWSON:
 9
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: All those in favor signify
10
     by saying "Aye."
11
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Aye.
12
         MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Aye.
13
          MS. LAWSON:
                      Aye.
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: The "ayes" have it.
14
                                                  The
15
     motion carries.
16
          MS. TAYLOR: The next is 2023-7365-67, Lovely
17
     for Indiana. This is their first request.
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: I'd move that we
18
19
     grant the continuance.
20
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                            Second?
21
         MS. LAWSON:
                       Second.
2.2
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: All those in favor signify
23
     by saying "Aye."
24
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Aye.
25
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN:
                                   Aye.
```

```
1
         MS. LAWSON:
                      Aye.
 2
         CHAIRMAN OKESON: The "ayes" have it.
 3
         MS. TAYLOR: The next one is 2023-7382-72,
 4
    Blad for Indiana. This is their first request.
 5
         MS. LAWSON: I move we grant the continuance.
         CHAIRMAN OKESON:
 6
                            Is there a second?
         VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Second.
 7
         CHAIRMAN OKESON: All those in favor signify
 8
 9
    by saying "Aye."
10
         VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Aye.
11
         MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Aye.
12
         MS. LAWSON: Aye.
13
         CHAIRMAN OKESON: The "ayes" have it.
14
    motion carries.
         MS. TAYLOR: The next is 2023-7630-96, Ward
15
16
    for State Representative. This is their first
17
    request.
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: That is the most succinct
18
19
    request I think I've ever seen.
20
         MS. LAWSON: "I'm requesting a continuance."
21
          I move we grant their continuance.
2.2
         CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                            Second?
23
         VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Second.
24
         CHAIRMAN OKESON: All those in favor signify
25
    by saying "Aye."
```

```
1
         VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Aye.
 2
         MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Aye.
 3
         MS. LAWSON: Aye.
         CHAIRMAN OKESON: The "ayes" have it.
 4
                                                 The
    motion carries.
 5
 6
         MS. TAYLOR: The next is Evan Shearin for
     Indiana. He has two cause numbers, 2023-7677-157
 7
    and 2023-7677-103. This is his first request.
 8
 9
         MS. LAWSON: Can I ask a question?
10
         MS. TAYLOR: Uh-huh.
11
         MS. LAWSON: The reason the cause numbers --
12
    he's got two cause numbers, is that because of two
13
    different filings that have been missed?
14
         MS. TAYLOR: Yes.
15
         CHAIRMAN OKESON: Did you say this was the
    first?
16
         MS. TAYLOR: His first, yes.
17
         MS. LAWSON: I move we accept the continuance.
18
19
         VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT:
                                   Second.
20
         CHAIRMAN OKESON: All those in favor signify
21
    by saying "Aye."
2.2
         VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Aye.
23
         MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN:
                                   Aye.
24
         MS. LAWSON:
                      Aye.
                            The "ayes" have it.
25
         CHAIRMAN OKESON:
```

MS. TAYLOR: The next is Cause

No. 2023-7696-158, Libertarian Party of Jefferson

County. This is their first request.

2.2

MR. KOCHEVAR: I have a note for the Commission. On this, technically two requests in writing have been made. One is that they've asked for a reduction of their penalty in writing. Second is a motion to continue.

To my knowledge -- and that's subject to other people who have been here longer than I have -- the Commission has never granted a reduction of a penalty to a committee that has not shown up for a hearing in person, sending it by writing. I've not seen it ever happen before.

And so with that, I just want to make you aware of that and say that probably, to be consistent, just considering the continuance part of this request would be appropriate and not to take any action on the reduction of the penalty. They probably should be here because we've had everyone else come here to come before the Commission and argue. But that's my statement and everything for your consideration on this particular committee.

MS. WARYCHA: I agree with Matthew. That's

```
1
     accurate with what I've seen. But he's been here
     longer and others have been here longer that might
 2
 3
     know more.
                       I haven't seen them accept a
 4
          MS. TAYLOR:
     written statement since 2006.
 5
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Well, I would move
 6
 7
     that we grant the request for continuance and deny
     a request that we consider the penalty via email.
 8
 9
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Well, should we --
10
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Did I not --
11
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: I was going to say
12
     continue the request for reductions until present
13
     or until the hearing.
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: Well, I think --
14
15
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Because if we come
16
     out and say we deny it now --
                            I think Vice Chair Overholt
17
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
18
     is correct. I think we would deny -- if I'm
19
     understanding correctly, we are going to deny their
20
     request for a reduced penalty via writing, inform
21
     them that they need to appear, but we'll grant them
2.2
     a request for a continuance.
23
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Okay. I mean, that
24
     will work. I think technically it probably -- it's
```

25

fine. That's fine.

```
1
                      I second the vice chair's motion.
          MS. LAWSON:
 2
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: So we have a motion to
 3
     accept the request for a continuation but deny the
 4
     request for reduced penalty, and we have a second.
 5
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Well, sorry. What I
     said was to deny the request that we consider a
 6
     reduced penalty via email because he could still
 7
     seek a reduced penalty coming before us but just
 8
 9
     not via email.
10
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                            Did I say it that way?
11
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: You just said deny
12
     the request for a reduction or something. I don't
13
     know.
14
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: Okay. Thank you. We're
     going to go with what she said. We have a first
15
16
     and a second. All those in favor signify by saying
17
     "Aye."
18
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT:
                                   Aye.
19
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN:
                                   Aye.
20
          MS. LAWSON:
                       Aye.
21
                            The "ayes" have it.
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                                                  The
2.2
     motion carries.
23
          MS. TAYLOR: And the final continuance,
24
     2023-6953-221, Warrick County Republican Central
25
     Committee. This is their first request.
```

```
1
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: She didn't want to
 2.
     give up a vacation to come here?
 3
          MS. LAWSON:
                       I move we --
          MS. TAYLOR: She didn't invite me either.
 4
 5
          MS. LAWSON: -- accept the request for
 6
     continuance.
 7
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: I second.
 8
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: All those in favor signify
 9
     by saying "Aye."
10
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Aye.
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Aye.
11
12
         MS. LAWSON: Aye.
13
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: The "ayes" have it. Request
14
     is granted.
          Does that take care of all the --
15
16
          MS. TAYLOR: We've got a couple more. That's
     the end of the continuances. We just have other
17
18
     cleanup.
19
          MS. THOMPSON: We have another one here, The
20
     Hero Committee, Cause No. 2023-5170-12. Mr. Hero's
     report was -- I don't have a page number. Let me
21
2.2
     find the page.
23
          MS. TAYLOR:
                      Page 10.
24
          MS. NUSSMEYER: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman.
25
     We're skipping over the Indiana School Counselor
```

```
Association document in the back because that
 1
 2
     gentleman was here.
 3
          MS. TAYLOR:
                       He was here. Sorry.
 4
          MS. NUSSMEYER:
                          And is there a document that
 5
     you're referring to here with Mr. Hero?
 6
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                            Yeah.
                                   Thank you.
                              Just the cause is on
 7
          MS. THOMPSON:
                        No.
 8
     page 10.
 9
          MS. NUSSMEYER:
                          Thank you.
10
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                            Okay.
11
                         Mr. Hero's committee was filed
          MS. THOMPSON:
12
     late, and he has a proposed civil penalty of
13
     $300.60. When his wife found out it was late, I
     helped her get it filed. Mr. Hero passed away.
14
15
     With the new law that came in effect July 1st, she
16
     was the executor of the will or his estate, and so
17
     I was able to help her close the committee. So the
     committee is closed now, and we ask that the
18
19
     proposed civil penalty be dismissed, waived or
20
     dismissed.
21
                            Yeah.
                                   Somebody want to
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
22
     move?
23
          MS. LAWSON: I move the penalty be dismissed.
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Second.
24
25
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: All those in favor signify
```

```
1
     by saying "Aye."
 2
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Aye.
 3
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN:
                                   Aye.
 4
          MS. LAWSON:
                       Aye.
                            That cause is dismissed.
 5
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
          MS. THOMPSON:
                        Okay. And then we have one
 6
     other one here. It's Cause No. 2022-7296-111, Nick
 7
     White for Indiana. At the last meeting in
 8
 9
     September --
10
          MS. LAWSON:
                      Do you have a page number?
11
          MS. TAYLOR: I don't have a page number.
12
                         In the last meeting when he was
          MS. THOMPSON:
13
     here, the Commission asked that he close the
14
     committee, and he came back and did close the
15
     committee. And, therefore, we're coming back for
16
     this one to be dismissed because he did what the
17
     Commission asked him to do.
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: Was the motion contingent
18
19
     upon --
20
          MS. THOMPSON:
                         Yes.
21
          MS. TAYLOR: Close the committee in 30 days
2.2
     and you would dismiss it, and he did it within
23
     seven days.
24
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: Do we have to do anything
25
     with that if it's already part of the previous
```

1 motion? 2 Yes. We have to acknowledge for MR. KING: 3 the record that the conditions have been met. 4 VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: So I would move that 5 the cause number that you just referenced -- Nick 6 White? MS. TAYLOR: Nick White for Indiana. 7 VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: I would move that the 8 9 proposed penalty for Nick White be dismissed 10 because he met the preconditions to dismissal that 11 we set at the prior meeting. 12 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Is there a second? 13 MS. LAWSON: Second. CHAIRMAN OKESON: All those in favor signify 14 15 by saying "Aye." 16 VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Aye. 17 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Aye. 18 MS. LAWSON: Aye. 19 The motion carries. CHAIRMAN OKESON: 20 Do we have any administrative dissolutions? 21 MS. THOMPSON: Yes, we do. Mr. Chairman, your 2.2 yellow tab in the back is a list of committees to 23 dissolve. These committees can be administratively 24 dissolved because they have not filed a report in 25 three years and they have a balance of less than

\$1,000. Both chairman and treasurer of these committees have been notified.

CHAIRMAN OKESON: I move the Commission do the following: Make a finding that there is no evidence that these committees continue to receive contributions, make expenditures, or otherwise function as a committee; make a finding that, according to the best evidence available to the Commission, the dissolution of these committees will not impair any contract or impede the collection of a debt or judgment by any person; make a finding that the prudent use of public resources makes further efforts to collect any outstanding civil penalty imposed against these committees wasteful or unjust, and that therefore the Commission administratively dissolve each of these committees.

Is there a second?

VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Second.

CHAIRMAN OKESON: Any discussion or questions?

Hearing none, all those in favor signify by

saying "Aye."

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20

21

2.2

23

24

25

VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Aye.

MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Aye.

MS. LAWSON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN OKESON: The "ayes" have it. The motion carries.

2.

2.2

I see no one else remaining to testify.

MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Is this something for us today, this Andrew Straw?

CHAIRMAN OKESON: Yeah. So what's in the back of the binder here? I see a lot of interesting --

VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Yeah, I know. I just saw some x-rays and thought wait a minute, what is this?

MS. WARYCHA: I'll tell you what I know. I'm actually sitting here kind of flipping trying to remind myself about what happened back in July. But Mr. Straw is a man who lives overseas. I believe he lives in the Philippines. And he runs for office every now and then. I think he's interested in running again.

But what I'm seeing in the back is an email that he sent to Ms. Taylor and Ms. Thompson and the co-directors asking that his campaign finance that was on the agenda not be enforced. He lives overseas. He says he has a disability and he is below the poverty line. So he is asking for a dismissal, it looks like.

We do know that we are not, being the

- Commission, the Secretary of State's office, staff, anybody named, but did see that he filed a lawsuit against the State about his law license, trying to get his law license put back in so that he could run for Attorney General because that is a
- 7 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: He's filed litigation 8 and threatened litigation.

requirement.

6

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

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21

2.2

23

24

25

- MS. WARYCHA: I think he lost at the trial court level in Monroe County and just this week appealed in the 7th maybe. I haven't had a chance to really look --
- VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: That's separate from this, though?
- MS. WARYCHA: Yeah. Just to give you some oversight into what's going on with Mr. Straw and why he's interested in campaign finance. This one, I think, is from the Secretary of State.
- MS. TAYLOR: He found out there was a Commission hearing in July and just assumed he was on the agenda, so that's when he sent this, back in July.
  - MS. WARYCHA: Oh, thank you.
- MS. TAYLOR: There was no campaign finance at that hearing. I don't remember what you guys did

- 1 | in July, but it was not campaign finance.
- 2 CHAIRMAN OKESON: But is there a pending cause
- 3 | for him?
- 4 MS. TAYLOR: Yes. Yeah, he filed -- he ran
- 5 | for Secretary of State last year and missed the
- 6 | fourth quarterly report.
- 7 MS. THOMPSON: Yeah. He's on page 90, top of
- 8 | page 91.
- 9 CHAIRMAN OKESON: So, Valerie, given your and
- 10 | Co-Counsel Kochevar's comments on a prior matter
- 11 | regarding requests in writing, how would you weigh
- 12 | in on this one?
- MS. WARYCHA: I wouldn't change the precedent
- 14 | for anyone. I would continue with the current
- 15 precedent.
- 16 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Mr. Kochevar?
- 17 MR. KOCHEVAR: Given that it's already been
- 18 | put into the record that the last time a request to
- 19 | waive a penalty was considered only in writing was
- 20 | in 2006 and based on actions today and through
- 21 other committees we've seen, I would say that this
- 22 | be -- to do what you've done for the other ones,
- 23 | either to dismiss the action or just not consider
- $24 \mid \text{it at all.}$
- MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: He's closed his

1 committee? 2 His Secretary of State committee MS. TAYLOR: 3 is closed. He does now have an Attorney General 4 committee open. 5 VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: He does have a 6 committee? Yes. But it's a new committee. 7 MS. TAYLOR: That's why it's hard to keep 8 MS. WARYCHA: track of is that he switches offices so regularly 9 10 and lawsuits so regularly. 11 VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: We allow people to 12 designate representatives to appear before us; 13 right? 14 MS. WARYCHA: Yes. And he does have family in 15 the state. 16 VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Right. Yeah, so he's on today's agenda. 17 18 MS. TAYLOR: Yes. VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: This is kind of sort 19 20 of a request for continuance or --21 He thought he was on the MS. TAYLOR: No. 2.2 July agenda because he caught wind of a Commission 23 meeting in July and knew he had a late filing. 24 was not on the July agenda. 25 MS. WARYCHA: I'm sorry to interrupt. Is he

1 on this agenda, then? 2. MS. TAYLOR: Yes, page 91. 3 MS. WARYCHA: So that would be a default 4 judgment since he didn't show up, given current 5 precedent and what's been said. MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: But you can construe 6 this as a motion to continue. 7 8 MS. WARYCHA: Yes, you could. 9 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Because he does state 10 that in there. 11 VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: I mean, my thought 12 would be, because he's also overseas -- I mean, 13 he's overseas. We have no reason to question him 14 being in the Philippines. But, you know, I'm wondering if we grant -- if we deem this as a 15 16 request for continuance, grant the continuance and 17 somehow let him know that he could appoint -- I 18 think it needs to be, I guess like what we said 19 before, that we grant the continuance, we will not 20 consider the request for a reduction in the fine, 21 you know, on paper or via email, and add that he 2.2 can designate a representative to appear in person 23 before us.

25 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Can we just disregard the

MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: He's also asked --

24

rest of his motion? 1 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: No. 2. That's what I 3 was just going to say. 4 MS. NUSSMEYER: He does ask for continuance. 5 MR. KOCHEVAR: Not exactly. He asks for the appointment of counsel, for which I don't think 6 this Commission can ask, and then, if that is done, 7 for a continuance. I think you, as administrative 8 9 law judges, have the ability to grant the 10 continuance if you feel that the matter is 11 warranted and then instruct the Election Division 12 to include, specifically for him, a reminder that, under the Administrative Orders and Procedures Act, 13 14 that he can appoint a representative, who I don't 15 even think needs to be legal counsel, to come in 16 front of you. 17 CHAIRMAN OKESON: That's what I'm asking. 18 we need to address his request to set aside this 19 \$350 fine he's referred to at several points in the 20 motion? 21 Well, we are going to MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: 2.2 address it saying we don't address motions for 23 reductions. 24 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Okay.

MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: I think the motion

25

```
1
     should also say that -- no, no, no, this is
     discussion -- that we deny --
 2.
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                            Do we have a motion?
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: I thought I made a
 4
 5
     motion.
          MS. LAWSON: I thought it was good, but I
 6
 7
     can't repeat it.
 8
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Maybe I'll sneak in
 9
     making up some ground we've covered since then.
10
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Our court reporter,
11
     Maria --
12
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Well, I feel bad for
13
     her because we keep talking all over each other.
14
     If you have been able to transcribe this in any
15
     way, shape, or form, hats off to you.
16
          My motion -- this is meant to be a
17
     reiteration, perhaps a clarification or expansion.
18
     But so my motion is that we -- so given the order,
19
     that we would deny the request for appointment of
20
     counsel, that we grant the request for continuance,
     and that --
21
2.2
          MS. LAWSON: We don't waive the penalty.
23
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: -- we deny the
24
     request that we waive penalties via written
25
     submission and that, however this gets communicated
```

```
1
     to Mr. Straw, that it would include that he may
 2.
     designate a representative of his choosing to
 3
     appear before the Commission on his behalf.
 4
          MS. LAWSON:
                       I second.
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: I'll second.
 5
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: Having a motion and a
 6
     second, is there any further discussion? Any
 7
     questions?
 8
 9
          Hearing none, all those in favor signify by
10
     saying "Aye."
11
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Aye.
12
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN:
                                   Aye.
13
          MS. LAWSON:
                       Aye.
14
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
                            The "ayes" have it.
15
          I believe that concludes our business for the
16
     day.
17
          MR. KING: You have defaults.
18
                            Oh, defaults.
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
19
          MS. TAYLOR:
                       Everybody else.
20
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Everyone else, these
21
     other 800 pages.
2.2
                            There is no one else here to
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
23
     testify, so I declare all hearings on remaining
24
     campaign finance matters scheduled for today
25
     closed.
```

```
1
          Is there a motion to impose the entire amount
     of the proposed penalty, plus mailing costs, in all
 2
 3
     remaining campaign finance enforcement actions?
 4
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT:
                                   So moved.
 5
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: Is there a second?
          MS. LAWSON:
                       Second.
 6
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: Any further discussion on
 7
     that matter?
 8
 9
          Hearing none, all those in favor signify by
10
     saying "Aye."
11
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Aye.
12
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN:
                                   Aye.
13
          MS. LAWSON:
                      Aye.
                            The "ayes" have it.
14
          CHAIRMAN OKESON:
15
     motion to impose the penalty is adopted.
16
          With that, I think we can conclude our
17
     business today. Thank you, former Secretary of
     State Connie Lawson, for joining us today.
18
19
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Yes.
                                         Thank you.
20
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Thank you.
21
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: Does that make you feel like
2.2
     you need to jump back in?
23
          MS. LAWSON:
                       No.
24
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: Is there a motion to
25
     adjourn?
```

```
1
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: So moved.
 2
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: Is there a second?
 3
          MS. LAWSON: Second.
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: All those in favor say
 4
     "Aye."
 5
 6
          VICE CHAIRMAN OVERHOLT: Aye.
 7
          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Aye.
          MS. LAWSON: Aye.
 8
 9
          CHAIRMAN OKESON: We're adjourned. Thank you.
          (The Indiana Election Commission Public
10
11
     Session was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.)
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
```

1	STATE OF INDIANA		
2	COUNTY OF HAMILTON		
3	I, Maria W. Collier, a Notary Public in and		
4	for said county and state, do hereby certify that the		
5	foregoing public session was taken at the time and		
6	place heretofore mentioned between 1:00 p.m. and		
7	2:28 p.m.;		
8	That said public session was taken down in		
9	stenograph notes and afterwards reduced to typewriting		
LO	under my direction; and that the typewritten		
L1	transcript is a true record of the public session.		
L2	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my		
L3	hand and affixed my notarial seal this 14th day of		
L4	August, 2023.		
L5			
L6	Maria W. Collier NOTARY PUBLIC SEAL STATE OF INDIANA Commission No. NP0693933		
L7			
18			
L9	My Commission Expires Dec. 5, 2024		
20			
21	My Commission expires: December 5, 2024		
22			
23	Job No. 183262		
24			
25			

	<b>\$50.60</b> 28:19 30:20 32:7	<b>11</b> 4:3
\$	<b>\$500</b> 15:9 22:10 47:6	<b>110</b> 26:20
<b>\$1,000</b> 15:1,2 22:6 65:1	<b>\$500.60</b> 30:8,9	<b>121</b> 32:1,4
<b>\$1,000.60</b> 13:2 15:12 22:21,23	<b>\$500.63</b> 25:7	<b>122</b> 32:1,4
23:9 24:18 30:3 34:18 39:7	<b>\$501</b> 22:10	<b>125</b> 18:1
<b>\$1,000.63</b> 32:10 33:24	<b>\$501.20</b> 22:12 23:2 24:7,8	<b>126</b> 18:1
<b>\$1,001.20</b> 15:14	<b>\$550.60</b> 31:7	<b>127</b> 33:22
<b>\$1,100</b> 16:3,12,14 27:18	<b>\$553.60</b> 16:20	<b>1:59</b> 46:6
<b>\$1,200</b> 16:8	<b>\$600</b> 47:7	<b>1st</b> 62:15
<b>\$1.20</b> 24:5	<b>\$600.60</b> 20:1	
<b>\$100</b> 18:11,12	<b>\$626.83</b> 32:20 33:5,6	2
<b>\$100.60</b> 17:8 33:17	<b>\$700.60</b> 29:7	<b>20</b> 52:11
<b>\$100.63</b> 19:14	<b>\$701.20</b> 27:20	<b>2006</b> 59:5 68:20
<b>\$12.50</b> 28:21	<b>\$712.50</b> 26:25	<b>2007</b> 49:13
<b>\$13.10</b> 28:21,24	<b>\$713.13</b> 26:25	<b>2020</b> 49:19 50:4
<b>\$137.50</b> 31:9	<b>\$750.60</b> 28:5	<b>2022</b> 41:10 55:3
<b>\$138.10</b> 31:10	<b>\$800.60</b> 27:15	<b>2022-321-166</b> 53:17 55:1
<b>\$150</b> 20:14	<b>\$950.60</b> 12:4	<b>2022-6681-72</b> 12:20,23
<b>\$150.60</b> 20:17	<b>\$950.63</b> 26:22	<b>2022-7097-93</b> 52:15,23 54:3
<b>\$187.50</b> 28:7	· -	<b>2022-7262-201</b> 11:20 12:2
<b>\$188.10</b> 28:7		— <b>2022-7296-111</b> 63:7
<b>\$2,000</b> 24:5	<b>-192</b> 23:18	<b>2023</b> 4:3 5:13,18 41:10
<b>\$2,400</b> 16:9	<b>-192</b> 23:18	<b>2023-3728-190</b> 25:1
<b>\$2.40</b> 16:13	-133 25.10	— <b>2023-3728-198</b> 25:6
<b>\$200.60</b> 25:20 30:18 32:9	1	<b>2023-4008-187</b> 14:23 15:2
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