



TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Executive Session Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2026, 9:03 a.m.

Capitol Extension, Room E1.014

Austin, Texas 78701



COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chris Flood, Chair; Patrick W. Mizell, Vice Chair, Randall H. Erben, Sean Gorman, Geanie W. Morrison, Richard S. Schmidt, Joseph O. Slovacek, and Mark Strama, Commissioners.

COMMISSIONERS NOT PRESENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Amanda Arriaga, Brandon Barrett, Margie Castellanos, Carmen Dalpiaz, Desirae Gonzalez, Jessie Haug, Cristina Hernandez, Jordan Hunn, Natalie McDermon, David Onyike, Amy Padilla, Lindsay Powers, Marie Primm, Meredith Rasmussen, Margaret Sanchez, Patti Shannon, Seth Smith and Bill Wilson.

MINUTES

These minutes are a summary record of the Commission's actions at the meeting. For a detailed record of discussions and statements made by persons speaking at the meeting, please consult the video recording located on the Texas House of Representatives' audio/video website here: <https://house.texas.gov/video-audio/capitol-events/>.

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order; Roll Call.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Flood. Amanda Arriaga, General Counsel, called the roll. All Commissioners were present except for Commissioner Slovacek.

Executive session pursuant to Section 551.071, Government Code, Consultation with Attorneys, and Section 551.074, Government Code, Personnel Matters; Closed Meeting.

Commissioner Slovacek appeared during these agenda items.

DISCUSSION OF PENDING LITIGATION TO SEEK LEGAL ADVICE

Agenda Item 2: Cause No. D-1-GN-17-001878: *Texas Ethics Commission v. Michael Quinn Sullivan*, in the 250th Judicial District Court, Travis County, Texas; Cause No. 03-17-00392-CV: *Michael Quinn Sullivan v. Texas Ethics Commission*, in the Third Court of Appeals at Austin, Texas; Cause No. 03-21-00033, *Michael Quinn Sullivan v. Texas Ethics Commission*, in the Third

Court of Appeals at Austin, Texas; and Cause No. 18-0580: *Michael Quinn Sullivan v. Texas Ethics Commission*, in the Supreme Court of Texas. Cause No. D-1-GN-21-003269: *Michael Quinn Sullivan v. Texas Ethics Commission*, in the 459th Judicial District Court, Travis County, Texas; and related case, Cause No. 03-22-00133-CV: *Michael Quinn Sullivan v. Texas Ethics Commission*, in the Third Court of Appeals, Austin, Texas.

Agenda Item 3: Cause No. 25-0679, *Christopher D. Paddie, Sr. v. Texas Ethics Commission, et al.*, in the 71st Judicial District Court, Harrison County, Texas.

Agenda Item 4: Case No. 4:23-cv-00808-P, *Institute for Free Speech, a nonprofit corporation and public interest law firm, vs. James Tinley in his official capacity as Executive Director of the Texas Ethics Commission, et al.*, in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, Austin Division.

Agenda Item 5: Cause No. PD-0310-23, *Ex Parte John Morgan Stafford*, in the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

Agenda Item 6: Cause No. 2023-DCL-01478, *Valleywide Pharmacy and DMI, Inc., vs. Texas Ethics Commission, by and through its Executive Director, J.R. Johnson, in his official capacity*, in the 445th Judicial District Court, Cameron County, Texas.

Agenda Item 7: Civil Action 1:24-CV-500, *LIA Network v. James Tinley in his official capacity as Executive Director of the Texas Ethics Commission, et al.*, in the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, Austin Division.

Agenda Item 8: Cause No. 2024-DCL-03953, *Ruben Cortez, Jr. v. Texas Ethics Commission*, in the 404th Judicial District Court, Cameron County, Texas.

Agenda Item 9: Discussion of contemplated litigation and to seek legal advice regarding the collection of imposed penalties.

OTHER MATTERS

Agenda Item 10: Discussion to seek legal advice regarding entering into outside counsel contracts on behalf of the Texas Ethics Commission and its officers.

Agenda Item 11: Discussion and possible action related to personnel matters.

Agenda Item 12: Confidential sworn complaint matters under Section 571.139 of the Government Code.

Agenda Item 13: Reconvene in open session.

Reconvened in open session at 10:13 a.m.

Agenda Item 14: Recess or continue to “Agenda 2” noticed for the same time and place as this agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 10:13 a.m. by unanimous consent.