

**ALABAMA ETHICS COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**April 1, 2020**

**9:30 a.m.**

**9th Floor, RSA Union Building  
Montgomery, Alabama**

The Alabama Ethics Commission met on April 1, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. in the Public Service Commission Hearing Room on the 9th Floor of the RSA Union Building.

**Present:**

Honorable Charles Price, Ret. Circuit Judge, Chairman  
*(Virtual Attendance)*  
Honorable Beverlye Brady, Vice Chair  
Honorable John Plunk, Member  
*(Virtual Attendance)*  
Honorable Lyn Stuart, Ret. Chief Justice, Member  
Honorable Stanton H. McDonald, Member  
*(Virtual Attendance)*  
Thomas B. Albritton, Executive Director  
Cynthia Propst Raulston, General Counsel  
*(Virtual Attendance)*  
Arthur Acosta, Assistant General Counsel  
Elizabeth Robison, Director of Finance and Administration  
R. Christopher Clark, Chief Special Agent  
*(Virtual Attendance)*  
Byron Butler, Senior Special Agent  
Chris McCay, Special Agent  
Brian Baker, Special Agent  
Jessica L. Grant, Administrative Support Assistant III  
Patrick Miller, Court Reporter

**Absent:**

Dustin Lansford, Senior Special Agent  
Vicky Manning, Lobbyist Liaison  
April Innes, Admin. Support Assistant  
Austin Gilmore, Clerk  
Sara Frost, Admin. Support Assistant

Ms. Brady served as chair and called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. Attendance for this meeting was restricted to keep the total number of attendees physically present at any one time under 10 consistent with Governor Kay Ivey's Proclamation regarding the Coronavirus State of Emergency of March 18, 2020. Attendance via video conference and telephone conference for this meeting were expressly allowed to establish quorum, deliberate, and take any action per the March 18, 2020 Proclamation.

**Old Business:**

Approval of the minutes from the February 5, 2020 meeting:

*Chief Justice Stuart moved to adopt the minutes as written. Judge Price seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.*

*At 9:39 a.m. Judge Price moved that the Commission go into Executive Session. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote .*

*At 12:41p.m. Chief Justice Stuart moved that the Commission go back into Open Session. Mr. Plunk seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote .*

**Case No. 2019-189**

**Joseph Williams, Constable, District 16, Jefferson County**

*Chief Justice Stuart moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Joseph Williams has violated the Alabama Ethics Law, and further moved that this case be referred for review and appropriate legal action to the Attorney General of the State of Alabama. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote .*

**Case No. 2019-502**

**John Scott Starkey, Security Manager, Birmingham Water Works Board**

*Judge Price moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that John Scott Starkey has committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act. He further moved that this case be handled administratively and that it be referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.*

**Case No. 2019-455**

**Chris King, Director of Bands, Prattville High School**

*Judge Price moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there currently exist insufficient facts to hold that Chris King has violated that Alabama Ethics Law. He further moved that this case be closed. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote .*

**Case No. 2019-476**

**Susan Clark, Director, Irondale Senior Activity Center**

*Judge Price moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there currently exist insufficient facts to hold that Susan Clark has violated that Alabama Ethics Law. He further moved that this case be closed. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote .*

**Case No. 2020-004**

**Shelia Field, Former Assistant District Attorney, 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit**

*Judge Price moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Shelia Field has committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act. He further moved that this case be handled administratively and that it be referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. Mr. Plunk seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.*

**Case No. 2019-172**

**Demetrius Player, Former Custodial Employee, Vestavia Hills Board of Education**

*Chief Justice Stuart moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Demetrius Player has violated the Alabama Ethics Law, and further moved that this case be referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the*

*appropriate Judicial Circuit. Mr. Plunk seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.*

**Case No. 2019-190**

**Brandon Hughes, District Attorney, 37<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit**

*Mr. Plunk moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Brandon Hughes has violated the Alabama Ethics Law, and further moved that this case be referred for review and appropriate legal action to the Attorney General of the State of Alabama. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed with three ayes (McDonald, Plunk, Stuart) and two recusals (Brady and Price) with a roll call vote.*

**Case No. 2019-228**

**Mark Eubanks, Teacher, Jeff Davis High School**

*Judge Price moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there currently exist insufficient facts to hold that Mark Eubanks has violated that Alabama Ethics Law. He further moved that this case be closed. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote .*

**Case No. 2019-247**

*Chief Justice Stuart moved that the Commission request an audit be done by the Examiners of Public Accounts regarding case 2019-247. Mr. Plunk seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.*

**Cases Recommended for Dismissal**

The following cases were presented to the Commission by Executive Director Albritton, with the recommendation that they be dismissed: Case No. 2019-197; Case No. 2019-209; Case No. 2019-225; Case No. 2019-232; Case No. 2019-272; Case No. 2019-361; Case No. 2019-394; Case No. 2019-395; Case No. 2019-396; Case No. 2019-397; Case No. 2019-398; Case No. 2019-399; Case No. 2019-400; Case No. 2019-401; Case No. 2019-402; Case No. 2019-403; Case No. 2019-404; Case No. 2019-405; Case No. 2019-406; Case No. 2019-407; Case No. 2019-408; Case No. 2019-409; and Case No. 2019-434. *Judge Price moved that the Commission dismiss the cases as recommended. Mr. Plunk seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.*

**Case No. 2019-121**

**Jessica Jackson, Former Employee, Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention**

*Ms. Brady moved that on February 5, 2020, the Alabama Ethics Commission found that Jessica Jackson, Former Employee, Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention, had committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Law. Jessica Jackson requested an administrative resolution on that date. The Commission unanimously approved an administrative resolution of the case and forwarded to the District Attorney of the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit. That request has been approved by Danny Carr, District Attorney, 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit. Accordingly, I hereby move that the request be granted and that this matter be handled administratively as follows: 1) that an administrative penalty in the amount of \$1,000.00 is ordered by the Commission; and 2) that the administrative penalty be paid to the Ethics Commission by cashier's check, money order or online payment on or before April 15, 2020. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting in a roll call vote.*

**Case No. 2019-277**

**Glenda Gardner, Former Administrative Technician, City of Daphne Animal Shelter**  
*Mr. McDonald moved that on December 4, 2019, the Alabama Ethics Commission found that Glenda Gardner, Former Administrative Technician, City of Daphne Animal Shelter, had committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Law. Glenda Gardner requested an administrative resolution on that date. The Commission unanimously approved an administrative resolution of the case and forwarded to the District Attorney of the 28<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit. That request has been approved by Robert Wilters, District Attorney, 28<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit. Accordingly, I hereby move that the request be granted and that this matter be handled administratively as follows: 1) that an administrative penalty in the amount of \$1,000.00 is ordered by the Commission; and 2) that the administrative penalty be paid to the Ethics Commission by cashier's check, money order or online payment on or before April 15, 2020. Ms. Brady seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting in a roll call vote.*

**Case No. 2019-295**

**Gerald Clark, Councilman, City of Madison**  
*Ms. Brady moved that on February 5, 2020, the Alabama Ethics Commission found that Gerald Clark, Councilman, City of Madison, had committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Law. Gerald Clark requested an administrative resolution on that date. The Commission unanimously approved an administrative resolution of the case and forwarded to the District Attorney of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Judicial Circuit. That request has been approved by Robert Broussard, District Attorney, 23<sup>rd</sup> Judicial Circuit. Accordingly, I hereby move that the request be granted and that this matter be handled administratively as follows: 1) that an administrative penalty in the amount of \$2,000.00 is ordered by the Commission; and 2) that the administrative penalty be paid to the Ethics Commission by cashier's check, money order or online payment on or before April 15, 2020. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting in a roll call vote.*

**Case No. 2018-011**

**Tonya Lindsey, Former Employee, Alabama Department of Labor**  
*Chief Justice Stuart moved to suspend payments until the State of Emergency due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic is over. Mr. Plunk seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.*

*At 1:01 p.m. Judge Price moved that the Commission go into Executive Session. Mr. Plunk seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.*

*At 1:06 p.m. Chief Justice Stuart moved that the Commission go back into Open Session. Judge Price seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.*

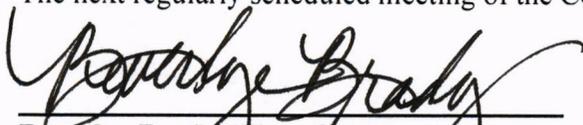
**Case Recommended for Dismissal**

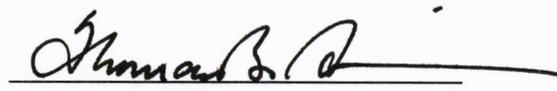
The following case was presented to the Commission by Executive Director Albritton, with the recommendation that it be dismissed: **Case No. 2019-318.** *Chief Justice Stuart moved that the Commission dismiss the case as recommended. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.*

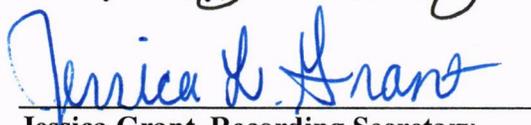
**Adjournment**

*There being no further business, at 1:11 p.m. Chief Justice Stuart moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.*

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission is June 3, 2020.

  
Beverlye Brady, Vice- Chairman

  
Thomas B. Albritton, Executive Director

  
Jessica Grant, Recording Secretary