

**ALABAMA ETHICS COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**February 5, 2025
9:30 a.m.
9th Floor, RSA Union Building
Montgomery, Alabama**

The Alabama Ethics Commission met on February 5, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. in the Public Service Commission Hearing Room on the 9th Floor of the RSA Union Building.

Commission Members Present:

Honorable BG (R) Edward Crowell (USAF), Member
Honorable J. David Dodd, Member
Honorable Greg Pappas, Member

Commission Members Absent:

Commission Staff Present:

Thomas B. Albritton, Executive Director
Brian Paterson, Assistant General Counsel
Cynthia Raulston, Special Assistant to the Director
Byron Butler, Executive Assistant to the Director
Chris Clark, Chief Special Agent
Dustin Lansford, Senior Special Agent
Brian Baker, Special Agent
Dylan Baker, Special Agent
Kayla Pfeil, Lobbyist/Principal Liaison
Lisa Nixon, Administrative Support Assistant
Jamaeica Singleton, Administrative Support Assistant

General Crowell served as chair for the meeting, called the meeting to order at 9:29 a.m. and introduced Minister Jennifer Foster from Heritage Baptist Church, Montgomery, Alabama, who gave the invocation.

Old Business:

Approval of the minutes from the December 4, 2024, meeting:

Mr. Dodd moved to adopt the minutes as written. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.

New Business:

Advisory Opinion No. 2025-01

Requested by Ken Hamilton

Mr. Paterson explained the request for Advisory Opinion No. 2025-01. ***Mr. Pappas moved to adopt Advisory Opinion No. 2025-01 as written. Mr. Dodd seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.*** Opinion No. 2025-01 holds that a member of a town council who serves as an uncompensated, volunteer firefighter may vote on, attempt to influence, or otherwise participate in legislation before the Council affecting the volunteer fire department provided neither he, his family members, nor a business with which he is associated would uniquely benefit from his vote.

FCPA Appeals

ABC Merit PAC 2023 HD-16

Mr. Paterson explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Mike Jones, General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. ***Mr. Dodd moved to uphold the fine and offense for violations one and two. Remit the fine and offense for violations three and four. Reduce the fine for violation five. Uphold the fine and offense for violations six and seven. Remit the fine and offense for violations eight through eleven. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.***

ABC Merit PAC 2024

Mr. Paterson explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Mike Jones, General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. ***Mr. Pappas moved to remit the fine but uphold the offense for violations one and two. Remit the fine and offense for violations three and four. Uphold the fine and offense for violation five. Remit the fine and offense for violations six through ten. Uphold the fine and offense for violations eleven and twelve. Remit the fine and offense for violations thirteen through sixteen. Uphold the fine and offense for violation seventeen. Remit the fine and offense for violations eighteen through nineteen. Mr. Dodd seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.***

James S. Wilkerson

Mr. Paterson explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Mike Jones, General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. ***Mr. Dodd moved to set aside the penalty and offense. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.***

Bryan Taunton

Mr. Paterson explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Mike Jones, General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. ***Mr. Dodd moved to set aside the penalty and offense. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.***

Alabama Hospital Association PAC

Mr. Paterson explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Mike Jones, General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. ***Mr. Dodd moved to***

set aside the penalty and offense. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.

At 9:43 a.m. Mr. Dodd moved that the Commission go into Executive Session. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.

At 11:31 a.m. Mr. Dodd moved that the Commission go back into Open Session. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.

Case No. 2024-0162

Zane “Buddy” Snipes, Board Chairman, Montgomery County Board of Registrars

Mr. Dodd moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Zane “Buddy” Snipes has committed a minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be handled administratively and referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2024-0173

Steve Guice, Mayor, Town of Clayhatchee

Mr. Pappas moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Steve Guice has committed a minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be handled administratively and referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. Mr. Dodd seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2024-0183

Curtis Williams, Commissioner, Dallas County Commission

Mr. Dodd moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Curtis Williams has committed a minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be handled administratively and referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2024-0263

Joshualand Pleasant-Bey, Vision Rehabilitation Teacher, Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services

Mr. Pappas moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Joshualand Pleasant-Bey has committed a minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be handled administratively and referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. Mr. Dodd seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2024-0142

Thomas Walker, Heavy Equipment Operator, Jefferson County Commission - Village Creek WRF

Mr. Dodd moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Thomas Walker has violated the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2024-0143

Jecory Parham, Skilled Laborer, Jefferson County Commission - Village Creek WRF Education

Mr. Pappas moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Jecory Parham has committed a minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be handled administratively and referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. Mr. Dodd seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2024-0145

Deterrior Brown, Heavy Equipment Operator, Jefferson County Commission - Village Creek WRF

Mr. Dodd moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Deterrior Brown has violated the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2024-0044

Akali Fulmer, Employee, University of North Alabama

Mr. Dodd moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Akali Fulmer has committed a minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be handled administratively and referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2024-0071

Chris Lewis, Principal, Hazlewood Elementary

Mr. Pappas moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists insufficient facts to hold that Chris Lewis has violated the Alabama Ethics Act. He further moved that this case be closed. Mr. Dodd seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

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. 2024-0133; Case No. 2024-0189; Case No. 2024-0252 and Case No. 2024-0264. *Mr. Dodd moved that the Commission dismiss the cases as recommended. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.*

Case No. 2024-0276

Danielle Smith, Curriculum Specialist, Mobile County Public Schools

Mr. Dodd moved that on August 7, 2024, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Danielle Smith, Curriculum Specialist, Mobile County Public Schools, had committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act and approved an administrative resolution at the request of the Respondent. The Commission forwarded the case to the District Attorney of the 13th Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on November 19, 2024. Accordingly, I hereby move as follows: 1) An administrative penalty in the amount of \$25.00 be ordered by the Commission to be paid to the Ethics Commission by cashier's check, money order, or online payment on or before April 2, 2025; 2) There is no restitution owing for this minor violation. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2024-0197

Elijah Bell, Technology Coordinator, Sumter County Board of Education

Mr. Pappas moved that on December 4, 2024, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Elijah Bell, Technology Coordinator, Sumter County Board of Education, had committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act and approved an administrative resolution at the request of the Respondent. The Commission forwarded the case to the District Attorney of the 17th Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on January 3, 2025. Accordingly, I hereby move as follows: 1) An administrative penalty in the amount of \$2,500.00 be ordered by the Commission to be paid to the Ethics Commission by cashier's check, money order, or online payment on or before June 4, 2025; 2) Restitution in the amount of \$2,396.80 be ordered to be paid to the Ethics Commission by cashier's check, money order, or online payment on or before June 4, 2025 and disbursed to Sumter County Board of Education thereafter. Mr. Dodd seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2024-0051

Krystine Roberts, Teacher, Madison City Schools

Mr. Dodd moved that on December 4, 2024, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Krystine Roberts, Teacher, Madison City Schools, had committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act and approved an administrative resolution at the request of the Respondent. The Commission forwarded the case to the District Attorney of the 23rd Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on January 7, 2025. Accordingly, I hereby move as follows: 1) An administrative penalty in the amount of \$100.00 be ordered by the Commission to be paid to the Ethics Commission by cashier's check, money order, or online payment on or before April 2, 2025; 2) There is no restitution owing for this minor violation. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2024-0229

Mattalia Davis, Sales Associate I, Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

Mr. Pappas moved that on December 4, 2024, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Mattalia Davis, Sales Associate I, Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, had committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act and approved an administrative resolution at the request of the Respondent. The Commission forwarded the case to the District Attorney of the 15th Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on January 23, 2025. Accordingly, I hereby move as follows: 1) An administrative penalty in the amount of \$250.00 be ordered by the Commission to be paid to the Ethics Commission by cashier's check, money order, or online payment on or before April 2, 2025; 2) Restitution in the amount of \$28.00 be ordered to be paid to the Ethics Commission by cashier's check, money order, or online payment on or before April 2, 2025 and disbursed to Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board thereafter. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2024-0303

Justin Graham, Fire Lieutenant, City of Cullman

Mr. Pappas moved that on December 4, 2024, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Justin Graham, Fire Lieutenant, City of Cullman, had committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act and approved an administrative resolution at the request of the Respondent. The Commission forwarded the case to the District Attorney of the 32nd Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on January 17, 2025. Accordingly, I hereby move as follows: 1) An administrative penalty in the amount of \$200.00 be ordered by the Commission to be paid to the Ethics Commission by cashier's check, money order, or online payment on or before April 2, 2025; 2) There is no restitution owing for this minor violation. Mr. Dodd seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Other Matters

Case No. 2018-0396

Chuck Holloway, Street Department, City of Roanoke

Mr. Dodd moved that on February 6, 2019, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Chuck Holloway, Street Department, City of Roanoke, had committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act and approved an administrative resolution at the request of the Respondent. The Commission forwarded the case to the District Attorney of the 5th Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on or before January 7, 2020. Accordingly, I hereby move as follows: 1) On February 5, 2020, an administrative penalty in the amount of \$1,000.00 was ordered by the Commission. The Commission hereby approves a payment plan with monthly installments in the amount of \$250.00 on the remaining balance of \$1,000.00, to be paid to the Ethics Commission by cashier's check, money order, or online payment on or before September 17, 2025. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2023-0274

Crystal May, Assistant Director of Bessemer Office, Jefferson County DHR

Mr. Pappas moved that on August 7, 2024, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Crystal May, Assistant Director of Bessemer Office, Jefferson County DHR, had committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act and approved an administrative resolution at the request of the Respondent. The Commission forwarded the case to the District Attorney of the 10th Judicial Circuit / Bessemer Division who approved the administrative resolution on or before September 4, 2024. Accordingly, I hereby move as follows: 1) On October 2, 2024, an administrative penalty in the amount of \$500.00 was ordered by the Commission. The Commission hereby approves a payment plan with monthly installments in the amount of \$175.00 on the remaining balance of \$350.00, to be paid to the Ethics Commission by cashier's check, money order, or online payment on or before May 21, 2025. Mr. Dodd seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Adjournment

There being no further business at 11:52 a.m., Mr. Dodd moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission is April 2, 2025.


Edward F. Crowell, Chair


Thomas B. Albritton, Executive Director


Byron Butler, Recording Secretary