

**ALABAMA ETHICS COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**April 5, 2023  
9:30 a.m.  
9<sup>th</sup> Floor, RSA Union Building  
Montgomery, Alabama**

The Alabama Ethics Commission met on April 5, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. in the Public Service Commission Hearing Room on the 9<sup>th</sup> Floor of the RSA Union Building.

**Commission Members Present:**

Honorable John Plunk, Chair  
Honorable Lyn Stuart, Ret. Chief Justice, Vice-Chair  
Honorable Stanton H. McDonald, Member  
Honorable BG (R) Edward Crowell (USAF), 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  
Chris McCay, Special Agent  
Melvin Howard, Special Agent  
April Innes, Special Investigator  
Cara Stapleton, Special Investigator  
Kayla Pfeil, Lobbyist/Principal Liaison

Mr. Plunk served as chair for the meeting, called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. and introduced Pastor Ken Roach, Associate Pastor at Frazer Church, Montgomery, Alabama, who gave the invocation.

**Old Business:**

Approval of the minutes from the February 1, 2023, meeting:

*General Crowell moved to adopt the minutes as written. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

**New Business:**

**FCPA Appeals**

**Gerald Freeman**

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. *Chief Justice Stuart moved to set aside penalties and offenses. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

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

*At 11:16 a.m. Chief Justice Stuart moved that the Commission go back into Open Session. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

**Case No. 2022-0067**

**Tracy Jones, Rehabilitation Counselor, Department of Rehabilitation Services**

*Mr. McDonald moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Tracy Jones 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. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

**Case No. 2022-0253**

**Ronald Pinson, Principal, Chilton County High School**

*General Crowell moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists insufficient facts to hold that Ronald Pinson, has violated the Alabama Ethics Act. He further moved that this case be closed. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

**Case No. 2018-0280**

**Christy Rooks, Property Appraiser II, Mobile County Revenue Department**

*Chief Justice Stuart moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Christy Rooks 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 4-0 with all those present voting.*

**Case No. 2022-0349**

**DeeAnn White, Education and Outreach Director, Department of Public Health**

*Chief Justice Stuart moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that DeeAnn White 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. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

**Case No. 2022-0442**

**Cody Collins, Former Employee, University of Alabama**

*General Crowell moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Cody Collins 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. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

**Case No. 2022-0443**

**Larry Baranowski, Employee, University of Alabama**

*General Crowell moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Larry Baranowski 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. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

**Case No. 2022-0444**

**Chris Grindle, Former Employee, University of Alabama**

*General Crowell moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Chris Grindle 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. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

**Case No. 2022-0048**

**Chris Logan, Former Groundskeeper, Jacksonville State University**

*Mr. McDonald moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Chris Logan 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. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

**Case No. 2022-0446**

**Christopher Looser, Police Lieutenant, City of Lanett**

*Chief Justice Stuart moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Christopher Looser 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. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

**Case No. 2022-0448**

**Amber Bolt, Police Officer, City of Lanett**

*Chief Justice Stuart moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Christopher Looser 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. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 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. 2022-0218; Case No. 2022-0278; Case No. 2022-0303; Case No. 2022-0332; Case No. 2022-0371; Case No. 2022-0461; Case No. 2023-0026 and Case No. 2022-0288.** *Chief Justice Stuart moved that the Commission dismiss the cases as recommended. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

#### **Case No. 2021-0408**

**Keiona Rogers, Former Social Worker, Montgomery County Department of Human Resources**  
*Chief Justice Stuart moved that on June 8, 2022, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Keiona Rogers, Former Social Worker, Montgomery County Department of Human Resources, 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 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on or before January 30, 2023. 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 May 31, 2023; 2) There is no restitution owing for this minor violation. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

#### **Case No. 2022-0207**

**Michael Hull, Police Officer, Bayou La Batre Police Department**  
*General Crowell moved that on December 9, 2022, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Michael Hull, Police Officer, Bayou La Batre Police Department, 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 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on March 22, 2023. Accordingly, I hereby move as follows: 1) An administrative penalty in the amount of \$300.00 be ordered by the Commission to be paid to the Ethics Commission by cashier's check, money order, or online payment on or before May 31, 2023; 2) Restitution in the amount of \$168.43 be ordered to be paid to the Ethics Commission by cashier's check, money order, or online payment on or before May 31, 2023 and disbursed to City of Bayou La Batre, Police Department thereafter. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

#### **Case No. 2022-0281**

**Jerry Mitchell, Member, Town of Killen Planning Commission**  
*General Crowell moved that on February 1, 2023, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Jerry Mitchell, Member, Town of Killen Planning Commission, 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 11th Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on or before March 2, 2023. 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 May 31, 2023; 2) There is no restitution owing for this minor violation. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

*Chief Justice Stuart moved to accept consent decree pertaining to Case No. 2022-0281. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

**Other Matters**

**2021 Municipal Statement of Economic Interest Non-Filer Fines**

*General Crowell moved to fine 2021 Municipal Statement of Economic Interest non-filers a fine of \$10 a day up to \$1000 maximum fine beginning May 1, 2023, as provided in Ala. Code § 36-25-14(d). Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

**Adjournment**

*There being no further business at 11:32 a.m., Chief Justice Stuart moved that the meeting be adjourned, and General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission is June 7, 2023.

  
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John Plunk, Chair

  
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Thomas B. Albritton, Executive Director

  
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Byron Butler, Recording Secretary