

**ALABAMA ETHICS COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**August 7, 2024**

**9:30 a.m.**

**9<sup>th</sup> Floor, RSA Union Building  
Montgomery, Alabama**

The Alabama Ethics Commission met on August 7, 2024, 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 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  
Chris McCay, Senior Special Agent  
Brian Baker, Special Agent  
Dylan Baker, Special Agent  
April Innes, Special Investigator  
Kayla Pfeil, Lobbyist/Principal Liaison

General Crowell served as chair for the meeting, called the meeting to order at 9:31 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 June 5, 2024, meeting:

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

**New Business:**

**FCPA Appeals**

**Kelvin Datcher**

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 reduce the first***

*fine imposed on May 30, 2024, and uphold the additional penalties and offenses imposed on June 27, 2024 and July 3, 2024. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

**Shirley A. Millwood**

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

**Steven Miller**

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 9:42 a.m. Mr. Pappas moved that the Commission go into Executive Session. Mr. Dodd seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

*At 11:18 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. 2023-0248**

**Artze Daniel, Police Officer, Birmingham Police Department**

*Mr. Dodd moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Artze Daniel 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. 2023-0274**

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

*Mr. Pappas moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Crystal May 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. 2023-0409**

**Sean Ayers, Sales Associate I, Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board**

*General Crowell moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Sean Ayers 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. 2024-0029**

**Stanley Allred, Mayor, Town of Millport**

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

**Case No. 2024-0193**

**Tab Bowling, Mayor, City of Decatur**

*Mr. Pappas moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exist cause to hold that Tab Bowling 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. 2024-0194**

**Nicholas Coggin, Senior Residential Facilities Manager, The University of Alabama in Huntsville**

*Mr. Pappas moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists insufficient facts to hold that Nicholas Coggin 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.*

**Case No. 2024-0010**

**Robert Gardner, Council Member, Town of Ragland**

*General Crowell moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Robert Gardner 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. 2023-0276**

**Danielle Smith, Curriculum Specialist, Mobile County Public Schools**

*Mr. Dodd moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Danielle Smith 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. 2023-0293**

**Timothy Fletcher, Employee, Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs**

*Mr. Pappas moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Timothy Fletcher 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. 2024-0054**

**Alex Sherron, Sales Associate I, Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board**

*Mr. Dodd moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Alex Sherron 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.*

**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. 2023-0265; Case No. 2023-0351; Case No. 2023-0359, Case No. 2023-0365, Case No. 2023-0382, Case No. 2023-0393, Case No. 2024-0024, Case No. 2024-0026, Case No. 2024-0027, Case No. 2024-0028, Case No. 2024-0043 and Case No. 2024-0216. *Mr. Pappas moved that the Commission dismiss the cases as recommended. Mr. Dodd seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.*

**Case No. 2023-0188**

**Jimmy McFarland, Employee, City of Birmingham**

*Mr. Pappas moved that on June 5, 2024, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Jimmy McFarland, Employee, City of Birmingham, 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 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on or before July 2, 2024. Accordingly, I hereby move as follows: 1) An administrative penalty in the amount of \$0.00; 2) There is no restitution owing for this minor violation. Mr. Dodd seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.*

**Case No. 2023-0263**

**Branch Whitlock, Employee, Cullman City Board of Education**

*General Crowell moved that on June 5, 2024, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Branch Whitlock, Employee, Cullman City 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 32<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on July 15, 2024. Accordingly, I hereby move as follows: 1) An administrative penalty in the amount of \$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 October 2, 2024; 2) There is no restitution owing for this minor violation. Mr. Dodd seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.*

**Case No. 2023-0338**

**John James, Chief Deputy Coroner, Russell County Commission**

*Mr. Dodd moved that on June 5, 2024, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found John James, Chief Deputy Coroner, Russell County 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 26<sup>th</sup> Judicial*

*Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on or before June 18, 2024. 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 October 2, 2024; 2) Restitution in the amount of \$40.41 be ordered to be paid to the Ethics Commission by cashier's check, money order, or online payment on or before October 2, 2024 and disbursed to Russell County Commission thereafter. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.*

**Case No. 2023-0391**

**Andrea Rains, Former Instructor, Jacksonville State University**

*Mr. Dodd moved that on June 5, 2024, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Andrea Rains, Former Instructor, Jacksonville State University, 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 7th Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on or before July 26, 2024. 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 October 2, 2024; 2) Restitution in the amount of \$1,048.29 be ordered to be paid to the Ethics Commission by cashier's check, money order, or online payment on or before October 2, 2024 and disbursed to Jacksonville State University thereafter. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.*

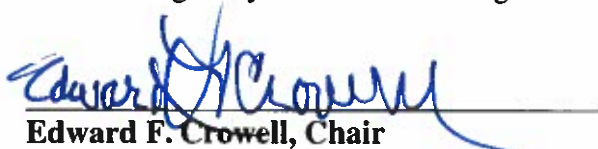
**Other Matters**

*At 11:40 a.m. Director Albritton presented the Commission with the proposed 2025 Commission dates. Mr. Dodd moved the dates be adopted. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.*

**Adjournment**

*There being no further business at 11:41 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 October 2, 2024.

  
Edward F. Crowell, Chair

  
Thomas B. Albritton, Executive Director

  
Byron Butler, Recording Secretary