

**METROPLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT
OF GREATER CHICAGO
ETHICS COMMISSION
OPEN SESSION MINUTES**

**August 22, 2022 MEETING
HELD REMOTELY AT**

[*****hklaw.zoom.us/j/81778393354](https://hklaw.zoom.us/j/81778393354)

Dial In:

(646) 876-9923

Meeting ID: 817 7839 3354

10:00 A.M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

STAFF PRESENT

Trisha Rich, Chair
Kevin Hopkins
Jose A. Lopez

Ellen M. Avery, Deputy General Counsel

- I. Call to Order. The Meeting convened with a call to order at 10:00 a.m.
- II. Roll Call. The Chair began with a Roll Call. Commissioners present: Ms. Rich (Chair), Mr. Hopkins, and Mr. Lopez. Members of the Public present: Mr. John Morrison (Complainant), Sean M. Sullivan, Esq. for Ms. Kari Steele (Commissioner, MWRD), and Ms. LaShunda Cooperwood (Investigator, Office of the Inspector General, MWRD).
- III. Approval of the Minutes. The minutes for the June 24, 2022 Meeting of the Ethics Commission were unanimously approved without modification.
- IV. Old Business. Complaints submitted by John Morrison against MWRD Commissioner Kari Steele.
 - a. **Open Session.** The Chair began the meeting by discussing Mr. Morrison's First and Second Complaints filed against MWRD Commissioner Kari Steele. The Chair proposed that the two complaints be consolidated as a result of the common issues raised in both complaints. Commissioner Hopkins motioned that the complaints be consolidated. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion. The motion to consolidate the Morrison complaints against Ms. Steele was passed.

The Chair informed that on July 22, 2022, the Ethics Commissioners had received Attorney Sullivan's response to the Morrison complaints. The Chair noted that because Mr. Sullivan's response had only been forwarded to the Commissioners and not to Mr. Morrison, Mr. Morrison would be provided with

additional time to review and to respond back to Mr. Sullivan. Both parties agreed to an additional thirty day response period. As a result of Mr. Morrison's previous scheduling commitments, The Chair set the response date for September 21, 2022.

The Chair then provided Mr. Morrison with an opportunity to read a statement into the record that summarized his positions and the alleged ethics violations including the photographs provided in the Morrison Complaints. The Chair also provided Mr. Sullivan with the opportunity to summarize his response to the Morrison Complaints.

Because of the issues raised in the Morrison Complaints and the supporting photographs designed to highlight the alleged ethics violations committed by Ms. Steele, the Chair requested that Mr. Morrison respond to the issue of whether the photographs provided as exhibits in his Complaints were photographs that were in the public domain.

- b. **Executive Session.** None.
 - c. **Public Comment Period.** The Chair allowed for public comments. The Chair provided members of the public with 3 minutes to comment on any relevant issues discussed during the meeting. There were no comments.
 - d. **Actions Taken.** The Commission provided Mr. Morrison with 30 days to respond to Mr. Sullivan's response to the Morrison Complaints.
- V. Other Business. None.
- VI. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m.