

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by
John Sepelak,

FINAL DECISION

Complainant

Docket #FIC83-199

against

April 11, 1984

Stratford Housing Authority,

Respondent

The above captioned matter was heard as a contested case on December 6, 1983 at which time the complainant and the respondent appeared and presented testimony, exhibits and argument on the complaint.

After consideration of the entire record the following facts are found:

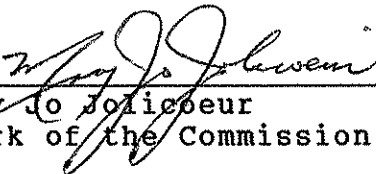
1. The respondent is a public agency within the meaning of §1-18a(a), G.S.
2. By letter of complaint filed with the Commission on October 4, 1983, the complainant alleged that when requested on September 28, 1983 the minutes of the respondent's September 19, 1983 meeting were unavailable, in violation of §1-21, G.S. The complainant also alleged that it was the practice of the respondent to file its minutes late.
3. The complainant declines to consider allegations of violations not specifically alleged in the complainant's letter of complaint and lacks jurisdiction to consider allegations of violations which occurred more than 30 days prior to the filing of the complainant's complaint.
4. It is found that minutes of the respondent's September 19, 1983 meeting were not made available to the complainant until October 3, 1983. The complainant was told that the minutes were not available prior to that date because they had not been "approved."
5. It is found that the lack of approval of the minutes does not excuse the respondent's failure to timely file such minutes.
6. It is concluded that the respondent violated §1-21, G.S. when it failed to make the minutes of its September 19, 1983 meeting available for public inspection within seven days of such meeting.

7. The Commission notes with approval, however, the respondent's recent implementation of a policy of increased cooperation, as witnessed by the complainant. The Commission also notes with approval the respondent's policy, recently-discovered by the complainant if not recently-implemented, of making handwritten copies of its minutes available within 48 hours of its meetings.

The following order by the Commission is hereby recommended on the basis of the record concerning the above captioned complaint.

1. Henceforth the respondent shall act in strict compliance with the requirements of §1-21, G.S. regarding the timely filing of minutes.

Approved by order of the Freedom of Information Commission at its regular meeting of April 11, 1984.



Mary Jo Jolicœur
Clerk of the Commission