

**CITY OF PHOENIX  
ETHICS COMMISSION  
Summary Minutes  
December 18, 2025**

Phoenix City Hall  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor, Central Conference Room  
200 W Washington St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Committee Members Present

Jose Samuel (Sam) Leyvas III, Chair  
Patricia Sallen, Vice Chair  
Ann Hart  
Cheryl Pietkiewicz  
Peter Schirripa

Committee Members Absent

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

Chairman Sam Leyvas called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. with Vice Chairwoman Sallen and Commissioners Ann Hart, Cheryl Pietkiewicz, and Peter Schirripa present.

**2. Commission Attorney Explains Public Comment**

Elizabeth Nillen, Commission Attorney, stated members of the public may speak for up to two minutes on agenda items and gave direction on appropriate decorum when providing comments.

**3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 20, 2025**

Vice Chairwoman Sallen made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2025, Ethics Commission Meeting. Commissioner Pietkiewicz seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 5-0.

**4. Staff Update**

Deputy City Manager David Mathews provided an update on the Citizen Petition submitted by a member of the public on December 3. He summarized the Citizen Petition contained several recommendations relating to either the Ethics Ordinance or the Rules of Procedure for the Ethics Commission. He stated the item was heard by the City Council on the December 17<sup>th</sup> Formal City Council meeting, and the City Council voted to refer the Citizen Petition to the Ethics Commission at the January 2026 meeting for discussion and potential recommendations back to City Council. Deputy City Manager Mathews noted the petition was included in today's agenda for reference and will be included as an agenda item at the January meeting for discussion.

Vice Chairwoman Sallen asked how and what City Council voted on specifically. She noted there were policy questions regarding the notarization and thought there was discussion about a waiver.

Deputy City Manager Mathews stated the City Council voted to refer the entire Citizen Petition to the Ethics Commission for review and recommendations.

Vice Chairwoman Sallen asked if there was any other recommendation from City Council.

Deputy City Manager Mathews responded no. The City Council voted to accept staff's recommendation to refer the Citizen Petition to the Ethics Commission.

Chairman Leyvas asked if Vice Chairwoman Sallen had additional questions about the need for a waiver for the notarized signature.

Vice Chairwoman Sallen responded yes. She stated the topic was discussed during the November meeting as to whether the Commission had authority to waive their Rules of Procedure to act on an unnotarized complaint. She clarified her question was if the City Council had an opinion on this matter. She stated the Commission could discuss this issue at the January meeting.

Chairman Leyvas stated the Commission could discuss this matter today versus waiting, as it is a critical question regarding the complaints on the agenda today. He stated he would have postponed any vote on the inquiries during the November meeting, even if they were notarized, as the inquiries were only received a few days prior to the meeting; the Commission would not have had adequate time to fully review the inquiries.

Assistant Chief Council Deryck Lavelle provided additional clarification to the Commission regarding the Citizen Petition. He clarified the Commission is not necessarily charged with the discussion of a waiver, with respect to the Citizen Petition, but rather the five identified areas identified in the Citizen Petition. He recommended the Commission specifically review the five areas identified in the Citizen Petition.

Chairman Leyvas acknowledged Assistant Chief Council Lavelle's clarification. He summarized the petition and the barriers referenced, noting that the City Council asked the Commission to review the petition, which differs from the Commission's ability to waive a rule during the meeting.

Assistant Chief Council Lavelle recommended the Commission to review the specific requests in the petition.

Chairman Leyvas opened the floor to discussion from the Commission.

There was no further discussion.

**5. Review of Current Complaints**

Chairman Leyvas asked if the Commission would make a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss inquiries listed under Agenda Item 5 and to receive legal advice, pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes Section 38-431.03.

Commissioner Hart made a motion to convene in Executive Session to discuss inquiries listed under Agenda Item 5. Vice Chairwoman Sallen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 5-0.

The Commission entered Executive Session at 3:12 p.m.

The Commission returned from Executive Session at 4:32 p.m.

Chairman Leyvas stated that he would have voted to postpone the inquiries during the November meeting to allow for more time to review, regardless of if the inquiries were notarized or not. He stated the need to balance rules with efficiency and to not let the process prevent the Commission from being prudent and timely in their investigations. He noted the Rules of Procedure allow some latitude to best serve the public's broader interest. He stated he is open to hearing and considering the inquiries during this meeting.

Vice Chairwoman Sallen supported the comments made by Chairman Leyvas. She referenced the Ethics Commission's Rules of Procedure (Rules), Section 4 Rule 1. She noted the Rules of Procedure states the rules "should be construed, administered and employed by the Ethics Commission and the parties to secure the just, speedy and inexpensive determination of every action and proceeding." She noted the Complainants were not informed of the notarization requirement, and the requirement was not included on the Request for Inquiry submittal form. Per the Rules, she agrees with the proposal to consider the inquiries as is..

Chairman Leyvas noted the Commission and staff did not provide the appropriate notarization requirement on the form and noted this requirement will be fixed to align with the Rules. He opened the floor to discussion.

There were no additional comments by the Commission.

Chairman Leyvas asked if the Commission would make a motion on EC-25-01.

Commissioner Pietkiewicz noted there are 21 complaints and urged the Commission to respect the effort the complainants took to submit the complaints. She stated the Commission should investigate the claims as responsibly and completely as possible while not attempting to review them in an urgent manner.

Commissioner Pietkiewicz made a motion to investigate EC-25-01 and EC-25-06, focusing on the timeliness of the actions identified in the complaint. There was no second. The motion failed.

Vice Chairwoman Sallen made a motion to accept jurisdiction on and investigate EC-25-01 and EC-25-06, as both are facially sufficient and warrant additional investigation. Commissioner Schirripa seconded the motion.

Chairman Leyvas opened the floor to discussion from the Commission.

Chairman Leyvas stated he will vote in favor of an investigation as it falls within the Commission's jurisdiction and warrants investigation. He noted there are additional questions and concerns he would like the Counsel to investigate.

Chairman Leyvas called for the roll call vote. He reminded the Commission the motion would need an affirmative vote of four Commission members to pass.

The motion passed 5-0 by the following roll call vote:

<b>Yes:</b>	5 – Chairman Leyvas, Vice Chairwoman Sallen, Commissioner Pietkiewicz, Commissioner Schirripa, and Commissioner Hart
<b>No:</b>	0

EC-25-01 and EC-25-06 will be investigated.

Chairman Leyvas asked if the Commission would make a motion on EC-25-02.

Commissioner Pietkiewicz noted she made a mistake on her previous motion and intended to make a motion relating to another respondent.

Chairman Leyvas reminded Commissioner Pietkiewicz the specific details of the inquiry are confidential at until the inquiry is voted on. He requested she restate her motion now.

Commissioner Pietkiewicz stated she was not making a motion on EC-25-01.

Chairman Leyvas stated EC-25-01 has already been voted on.

Commissioner Pietkiewicz stated she does not have a motion.

Chairman Leyvas made a motion to dismiss EC-25-02 and EC-25-16 and to decline to take jurisdiction on the matters because the complaints are facially insufficient to pursue. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion.

Chairman Leyvas commented that although one may argue the respondent is acting unethically, he does not believe the complaints were facially sufficient. He stated the complainants may provide more information, but he will be voting to dismiss.

Chairman Leyvas opened the floor to discussion from the Commission.

Chairman Leyvas called for the roll call vote. The motion passed 5-0 by the following roll call vote:

<b>Yes:</b>	5 – Chairman Leyvas, Vice Chairwoman Sallen, Commissioner Pietkiewicz, Commissioner Schirripa, and Commissioner Hart
<b>No:</b>	0

EC-25-02 and EC-25-16 were dismissed.

Chairman Leyvas asked if the Commission would make a motion on EC-25-03.

Commissioner Schirripa made a motion to dismiss EC-25-03, EC-25-15, and EC-25-20 and decline to take jurisdiction on the matters because the complaints are facially insufficient to pursue. Vice Chairwoman Sallen seconded the motion.

Chairman Leyvas noted the inquiries relate to the same respondent and does not believe the information provided meets the standard of a true conflict of interest. He noted he will be voting in favor of the motion to dismiss.

Chairman Leyvas opened the floor to discussion from the Commission.

Chairman Leyvas called for the roll call vote. The motion passed 5-0 by the following roll call vote:

<b>Yes:</b>	5 – Chairman Leyvas, Vice Chairwoman Sallen, Commissioner Pietkiewicz, Commissioner Schirripa, and Commissioner Hart
<b>No:</b>	0

EC-25-03, EC-25-15, and EC-25-20 were dismissed.

Chairman Leyvas asked if the Commission would make a motion on EC-25-04.

Chairman Leyvas made a motion to dismiss EC-25-04, EC-25-13 and EC-25-17 and decline to take jurisdiction on the matters because the complaints are facially insufficient to pursue. He explained he does not believe sufficient information has been provided to warrant investigation or create a strong case of a conflict of interest. He noted he did not ask for a second prior to providing his comments.

Vice Chairwoman Sallen seconded the motion.

Chairman Leyvas opened the floor to discussion from the Commission.

Chairman Leyvas called for the roll call vote. The motion passed 4-1 by the following roll call vote:

**Yes:** 4 – Chairman Leyvas, Vice Chairwoman Sallen, Commissioner Schirripa, and Commissioner Hart  
**No:** 1 - Commissioner Pietkiewicz

EC-25-04, EC-25-13 and EC-25-17 were dismissed.

Chairman Leyvas asked if the Commission would make a motion on EC-25-05.

Chairman Leyvas made a motion to dismiss EC-25-05, EC-25-14, and EC-25-21 and decline to take jurisdiction on the matters because the complaints are facially insufficient to pursue. Vice Chairwoman Sallen seconded the motion.

Chairman Leyvas opened the floor to discussion from the Commission.

Chairman Leyvas noted his reasons for motioning to dismiss these inquires is the same as the previous. He explained he does not believe substantive information has been provided to warrant investigation.

Chairman Leyvas called for the roll call vote. The motion passed 4-1 by the following roll call vote:

**Yes:** 4 – Chairman Leyvas, Vice Chairwoman Sallen, Commissioner Schirripa, and Commissioner Hart  
**No:** 1 - Commissioner Pietkiewicz

EC-25-05, EC-25-14, and EC-25-21 were dismissed.

Commission Attorney Nillen provided a time update and reminded the Chairman of the vote required in Agenda Item 6.

Chairman Leyvas asked if the Commission would make a motion on EC-25-07.

Vice Chairwoman Sallen made a motion dismiss EC-25-07, EC-25-11, and EC-25-19 and decline to take jurisdiction on the matters because the complaints are facially insufficient to pursue. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion.

Chairman Leyvas opened the floor to discussion from the Commission.

Chairman Leyvas called for the roll call vote. The motion passed 4-1 by the following roll call vote:

**Yes:** 4 – Chairman Leyvas, Vice Chairwoman Sallen, Commissioner Schirripa, and Commissioner Hart  
**No:** 1 - Commissioner Pietkiewicz

EC-25-07, EC-25-11, and EC-25-19 were dismissed.

Chairman Leyvas stated EC-25-08 and EC-25-18 involve the same respondent. He believes one is facially sufficient to investigate and the other is not. He made a motion to accept jurisdiction on EC-25-18, and the complaint facially meets the benchmark to warrant investigation. Commissioner Pietkiewicz seconded the motion.

Vice Chairwoman Sallen asked the Chair to clarify which complaint the motion applied to.

Chairman Leyvas responded the motion was only for EC-25-18.

Commission Attorney Nillen asked if Commissioner Pietkiewicz agreed with the motion.

Commissioner Pietkiewicz responded yes.

Chairman Leyvas called for the roll call vote. The motion passed 5-0 by the following roll call vote:

**Yes:** 5 – Chairman Leyvas, Vice Chairwoman Sallen, Commissioner Pietkiewicz, Commissioner Schirripa, and Commissioner Hart  
**No:** 0

EC-25-18 will be investigated.

The Commission did not take action on EC-25-08, EC-25-09, EC-25-10, and EC-25-12.

## **6. Elect Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for 2026**

Chairman Leyvas nominated Patricia Sallen to act as Chairwoman for 2026. Commissioner Schirripa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Chairman Leyvas nominated Peter Schirripa to act as Vice Chairman for 2026. Vice Chairwoman Sallen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

**7. Call to Public**

Chairman Leyvas asked staff to introduce the public who requested to speak.

Scott McGill noted his cases have been dismissed but wanted to speak on behalf of the North Gateway Village Planning Committee, for which he is the Chair of as of December 2025. He noted all members who serve on the Committee are residents and work in the North Valley and take their role very seriously. He stated that, with the ethics inquiries filed against them, they have been subjected to significant scrutiny, specifically regarding the rezoning case for North Park Development. He noted the Complainants are attempting to discredit the Committee Members and stop a quorum from voting during their meetings. He stated at no time has he received money or benefitted from the developers. He asked the Commission to review the actions of the Complainants, specifically referring to the recent North Gateway Village Planning Committee Meeting in November.

Paul Li thanked the Commission for serving on the Board as volunteers. He noted that while they don't want to discourage public from filing valid complaints, there should be a mechanism to deter the public from making false allegations to harass the members. He noted that all Board and Commission members at the City serve as volunteers to be part of the participatory government processes. He asked the Commission to not remove any potential deterrents from the Rules for people who misuse the policy to harass the members. He stated it could decrease the public's willingness to volunteer to serve on Boards to better the community, and it would be a disservice to the City of Phoenix.

**8. Future Agenda Items and Meeting Dates**

There were no future agenda items discussed.

**9. Adjournment**

Chairman Leyvas adjourned the meeting 5:07 p.m.