

1
jb/rr

February 23, 2021
EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE 10:00 A.M.
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSONS: Senator Bob Duff,
Representative Joseph Gresko

SENATORS: Formica, Hartley, Kelly, Moore

REPRESENTATIVES: Gresko, Kennedy, Quinn,
Yaccarino

REP. GRESKO (121ST): So I will reconvene the February 23, 2021 Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee at 10:19 am. As I said, Gresko here, House Chair of the Committee. Our Committee interviews nominees. We act as a check and balance. Nominees are allowed to have an introductory statement, and then Members will ask questions.

Today, we have three Judicial Review Council candidates on the agenda, nominated by Governor Lamont. Congratulations to all three of you on that nomination. So the first item on our agenda is the Senate Joint Resolution confirming the nomination of the Honorable Salvatore C. Agati of Watertown to be a Member of the Judicial Review Council.

Judge, thank you for joining us this morning. And if you would, please raise your right hand so that even, so the camera can see it. Here we go. Do you promise, swear or affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

JUDGE SALVATORE AGATI: I do.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Great. It's customary that when we begin these interviews, like I said, we allow the nominee to make the introductory statement and then we open it up for questions after that. So Judge, the floor is yours.

JUDGE SALVATORE AGATI: Very well. Thank you. Good morning Senator Duff, Representative Gresko and Honorable Members of the Executive and Legislative

Nominations Committee. My name is Salvatore Agati. I want to begin by thanking Governor Lamont for nominating me to serve as a Member of the Judicial Review Council. I am honored to have been nominated to serve in this capacity. I am presently serving as an intern basis on the Judicial Review Council.

As you are aware, the Judicial Review Council investigates and resolves complaints that are filed against Connecticut State Court judges, Family Support Magistrates and Workers Compensation Commissioners.

I was born in Waterbury and my education includes Fairfield University where I graduated with a BA in politics in 1979. And then Temple University where I received my Juris Doctor in 1982. I passed the BAR and began practicing law in 1982, and I was in private practice in Waterbury until November of 2000 when I was nominated to serve as a Superior Court judge by Governor Roland.

My judicial career has spanned more than 20 years, and I've presided over civil, criminal, housing and family matters in Litchfield, Danbury, Bridgeport, New Haven and Waterbury. I was the Administrative Judge in Waterbury from 2004 to 2009. I also sat on complex litigation docket for five years. Currently, I'm presenting as the -- I'm the presiding judge for civil matters in Waterbury.

In addition, I've been a member of various Committees for the Judicial Branch during my tenure, and I also served the term as President of the Connecticut Judges Association. I presently reside in Watertown since 1995, and my wife Tina was a nonprofit director, and we have three adult children who all reside and work in the State of Connecticut. It is with great humility that I accept this nomination. My career as a judge has been both challenging and, and rewarding.

It is important that we maintain the integrity and public confidence in our Judicial Branch. I feel that my experience and background can be evaluated, can be an asset and be a valuable member of the Judicial Review Council. I appreciate the opportunity to serve to promote the best interests of the citizens of the State of Connecticut.

Thank you for this opportunity to appear before your Committee, and I'm happy to respond to any questions, comments, or suggestions that you may have today.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Thank you Judge. Thank you for the time this morning, and access. I will open up the questioning, and you know, this is judicial review to me is similar to what internal affairs would be for the police department, but I'm wondering, since you said you have been serving as an interim or alternate basis for some time now; how do you, how do you recuse yourself? I'm sure you know some other judges that you serve with on the bench and then to all of a sudden be responsible for making a decision on their future. How do you, how do you walk that line?

JUDGE SALVATORE AGATI: If you walk the line the same way you walk the line when you preside over a case and on some occasions, you will have, you'll understand that there is going to be a witness, that's, that's someone you may know or there might be a doctor who is going to testify where you're familiar with or someone that you've known from your past attorneys that you've known from your prior practices and so on.

You make the determination on whether you can still feel that you can be fair and impartial. Specifically, if you have some knowledge of whatever the dispute or grievance that's been filed by that, by that judge in front of you, if you had some prior knowledge and you feel you really need to recuse

yourself, because you have received information that's outside of the scope of what is going to be presented.

These cases that are presented in Judicial Review are just like cases that are presented in court. And you have to stick to the evidence that's submitted by the person who files the grievance. So if you have some outside knowledge, then obviously you have to recuse yourself. But it is a fine line, but we've been, I've been doing it for over 20 years, so you, you know, when you feel you have to back off and when you, you feel you can still remain on the case and be impartial.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Well thank you. Thank you Judge, and my last question before we open it up to two other Members that have questions and please, other Members use the hand raise so I can see. But my last question Judge, the House of Representatives tomorrow is taking up some reinstatement of judges. And, you know, it's been pointed out that the overwhelming percentage of complaints brought to Judicial Review are dismissed, and then the remaining is little, little action happening. By no means am I suggesting any type of witch hunt, and I would presume individuals like yourself are selected to be judges and magistrates of the highest caliber, you know, thus lowering the likelihood of issues.

But since I've been at the Capitol, the number of judges that have had been reprimanded really, the odds and the, and the ratio just isn't the same as I would anticipate it. Or am I just not privy to confidential matters and action does happen, we just don't know about.

JUDGE SALVATORE AGATI: You know what, you know, to respond to that, and I know that's been a, I guess I'll use "a criticism of the Judicial Review Council" since I've been a judge, but having had with the experience of being on it for several

months on this interim basis, the problem is that, you know, it's, it's, of may, maybe liking it to, it's easy to get arrested, but, but it's much more difficult to get convicted of something.

And it's the same thing, it is easy to have someone file a complaint, but it's hard to badly actually find probable cause because many times folks are just disappointed with the result in a case. And they feel that because the judge ruled against them that they then the judge had some bias or some, or was didn't treat them fairly.

But, you know, on many, with many of those cases, we have, we determined on the Judicial Review Council that their avenue was to take an appeal if they feel the judge ruled incorrectly, the avenues are an appeal, but it's not a violation of any of the code of judicial conduct that took place that would have required any reprimand or any other sanction against the judge for how they handled the case.

So the judge heard the case, listened to the evidence and ruled against an individual and they're just not happy with the result, that's not really the basis, but that doesn't prevent them from filing in a complaint. So many of those end up being in that category, and that's, that's what I think skews the numbers.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Thank you judge, and I'm glad to hear there isn't a quota, but either way it's, it's good to hear. Like I said, I'm, I'm finished with my questions. And next with some questions is our House Ranking Member, Representative Kennedy. Ma'am, the floor is yours.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And good morning, Judge Agati.

JUDGE SALVATORE AGATI: Good morning.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): It's a great to see you here this morning. Congratulations on your re-appointment. Following on that just last line of questioning, I'm not sure if it's exactly the same. The Council's annual report states that some of the complaints are dealt better. I'm sorry, I'm at work so, and more appropriate for the appellate court let's say. Is there a better way to inform the public as to the Council's jurisdiction? Is that something you could answer?

JUDGE SALVATORE AGATI: Well, I know the applications are available at the clerk's office in every courthouse. And with that is a pamphlet or guide on how they have to complete it. Unfortunately, since most of the folks that are filing these are self-representative individuals, I don't, I don't think they grasp the, the distinction that sometimes that it's not, they may feel the judge ruled incorrectly in their case.

But that doesn't mean that that's a violation of the Code of Professional Liability. It's really an appellate issue. If you think the judge didn't consider certain evidence or, or rules incorrectly, it's an appellate issue. So, other than and unfortunately the courts can't give any advice. So that's, you know, so they can't say, you know, when we're asked questions by someone on whether they should fill this application out or how they should fill it out, they can't give any advice. So many times these applications are filed, but they're either incomplete or just not, not appropriate for any adjudication or against any individual judge.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Thank you. Thank you Judge Agati. Mr. Chairman, just another followup, kind of in the same line and, and not that I'm looking that I want to see complaints filed against judges. I worked in the legal field for about 44 years now. And that's the last thing I want to see, but I still, sometimes people just get a mixed feeling or

it's emotions that run, but do you think that the general public has enough awareness of the Council and what they actually do and, and, and how can we better advise or guide the general public towards?

JUDGE SALVATORE AGATI: It's an interesting question. I mean, I know the Council has a, you know, a website with all information and all. I, you know, quite frankly, I haven't studied the, I've seen the website and I've read it. But I, you know, I haven't really thought of it in terms of whether it should have more, more information or resources or educational resources that they have people look at. It, you know, probably, I would, I would think, just thinking off the top of my head right now, maybe some example of how, what categories would comprise a valid complaint and maybe point out the, the, the code of judicial conduct.

And how, you know, if a judge acted inappropriately or said something inappropriate during a proceeding or something of that nature, that would rise to the level of, or judge had a conflict. I know Representative Gresko raised it in a different manner. But if a judge had a conflict and didn't recuse themselves, that's, that will be an issue with, for us, or you know, Judicial Review.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Thank you, I appreciate that. And then just because we're in this COVID world, how has, how has COVID affected your ability? And I know, you said you're a newer member, how's COVID affected your ability to meet either on an regular basis or --

JUDGE SALVATORE AGATI: Well, you know, briefly, I mean, when COVID hit, we, we shut down obviously, just like you did, and then the legislature did and all the other state offices. We came around within two months through, you know, tremendous efforts by the, the branch to get us up and running, and we've been, we've been using Microsoft Teams which is

similar to Zoom, plus we've been using that since about mid May, so it took us about two months to get up and running.

But we've been conducting, you know, pre-trials, hearings, well, you know, virtually now. Other than those matters, they still have to be done in person, and though every person matters.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Right.

JUDGE SALVATORE AGATI: Criminal arraignments and temporary restraining orders and civil protection orders in, in the court where people are, are allowed to still come and appear in the courtroom. But all other matters are done now virtually and as a matter of fact, I'm going to, I'm going to be starting a trial in a few minutes and it's going to be a virtual trial.

It'll, the attorneys will be presenting evidence and they've already pre-filed all their exhibits. So it's, it's, it's available now on, on Edison. So it's, it's, it's worked well. I, you know, I think it probably took the pandemic that maybe bringing us into the 21st Century a little bit now.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Yeah.

JUDGE SALVATORE AGATI: I know other places and other jurisdictions in the federal court as well. I've been doing a lot more of this, you know, virtual meetings, and, and, you know, over the years prior to this, but I think we're, you know, we're equipped for it, and I, I'm anticipating that we're going to be doing much more of that even once we, you know, return to "normal" you know.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): I agree with you Judge Agati. I agree with you Judge Agati. I think we might see a lot more of those all the times. I want to thank you very much for your time, and congratulations on your

nomination and most importantly for your willingness to serve. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Thank you, thank you Representative Kennedy. Next, we have our House Vice Chair, Representative Quinn. Sir, the floor is yours.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Good morning, and good morning Your Honor. Very nice to see you. I've been practicing for over 20 years and I don't think I've appeared before you before. But when were you appointed on an interim basis to the Commission?

JUDGE SALVATORE AGATI: I began in November of 2020.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Okay. Since you've been on, have, have there been any disciplinary hearings for judges?

JUDGE SALVATORE AGATI: Everything's at this point still on review process. We have either reviewed and, and made determinations that there is a probable cause. And obviously, I can't disclose because of confidentiality. But there are a few matters at this point that are being further reviewed and additional information is being sought to follow up to determine whether probable cause exists.

REP. QUINN (82ND): And I would assume then that if probable cause is found that at this point everything is being handled virtually?

JUDGE SALVATORE AGATI: Yes, at this point yes.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Okay. All right. Since you've been on, has there been anything that has occurred that you'd like to see happen differently or are you pretty satisfied with how the process is working?

JUDGE SALVATORE AGATI: At this point, yes I'm satisfied that the processes was functioning fine. Each complaint is being, is being reviewed by all the individual members of the, the Council. And we have, you know, obviously, legal representative who also reviews them as well, and then we have had hearings once a month each month.

And we get, we've reviewed each of the, of the complaints filed and, and made determinations on what, whether it has either substantial basis for and set factual basis for it to continue or whether it should be dismissed. And or also, we also, the other basis for determining whether a matter can proceed is whether it's beyond the statute of limitations.

So some people have filed matters that had occurred three or four years ago and there is a one-year time limit as to when these matters should be filed. Anything within that timeframe during COVID, we've been more liberal with obviously, but the things that go back to 2019 and all are just too old at this point for consideration.

REP. QUINN (82ND): And have most of the complaints that you've seen so far been filed by pro se litigants?

JUDGE SALVATORE AGATI: For the most part, yes. Yeah. The overwhelming majority have been, yes.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Okay. And is the process simple enough for someone to do it pro se, or is it more complicated in a lot of what you're seeing is people who just don't understand the process and how to effectively file a complaint?

JUDGE SALVATORE AGATI: I'll, I will say that if there is enough that they can file it, I think they don't understand that at times that it's more than just your mere allegation that would require us to

investigate further. So if they, if there is a transcript, they need to file that with it. If there is some other you know, ruling that was, that took place that they, that is in question, they need to file that as well.

So I don't, yeah I don't think they understand the rules. I'm not going to say the rules of evidence, but the rules of involving, having enough factual basis to make a determination. You know, it's, it's a probable cause finding. I mean similar to like when I have warrants that I read my evidence to make a probable cause finding, but I need enough facts to determine that there is something there to allow for the process to continue.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Okay. All right. Thank you very much, Judge. And again congratulations on your nomination.

JUDGE SALVATORE AGATI: Thank you.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Thank you Representative Quinn. Anyone else with any questions for Judge Agati? Seeing no other hands raised, Judge, congratulations. And I'd like to congratulate you and Lisa, everybody on the agenda for today. But before you go, we have one more question that we ask every nominee. Is there anything in your past that you believe might prove embarrassing to this Committee, to the governor, or to the State of Connecticut?

JUDGE SALVATORE AGATI: I certainly hope not, and don't feel offended I've been asked that question, obviously, several times into my re-nomination processes as well, so.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): All right, and you're, you're pro already. Thank you. We are going to move to the next Judge on the agenda, which actually, can you mute your, thank you. We're going to move on to

another item on the agenda, we're going to skip the second item and go down to item which is listed No.2 on the Public Hearing Agenda, the House Resolution confirming the nomination of the Honorable Anthony P. Fusco of Brookfield to be a Member of the Judicial Review Council as an alternate Family Support Magistrate. Judge, thank you for having the time to join us today and.

JUDGE ANTHONY FUSCO: You're welcome Chair.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): And as you just saw, you will be able to have an opening statement. But first, would you please raise your right hand and there you go. Do you promise, swear, or affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

JUDGE ANTHONY FUSCO: I will.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Thank you. As I said, your introductory statement is next and then we will open it up to questions after that. So Judge, the floor is yours.

JUDGE ANTHONY FUSCO: Okay, thank you Chairman Gresko, Members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee. I'm Tony Fusco. I've been a Family Support Magistrate since March 2009. I thank Governor Lamont for nominating me as an alternate to the Judicial Review Council. I presently sit in Bridgeport, Danbury, New Britain and at times Stamford, Norwalk. I would be honored to serve on the Judicial Review Council should the Honorable Committee so choose. I'm pleased to answer any questions you may have. I thank you for your consideration. I believe my resume had been sent on if you have any questions, I'd be pleased to answer them.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Thank you, Judge. And thank you for, for coming on early. You were able to hear some of the questions that the previous nominee was

asked, and I'm wondering if you have any additional answers to those questions, specifically start with mine about, you know, having a social relationship with some of your peers, and now all of a sudden needing to, to make a decision on their futures. How do you walk that line?

JUDGE ANTHONY FUSCO: Well, I've only sat through one hearing last year, I had been in front of the Committee last year. My understanding was that the Senate didn't vote, but I sat as an alternate, I did not vote that day. I noted that the, I guess the Secretary to the Council reads the allegations as to the member, magistrate and Magistrate Ferguson voted on it, I didn't vote. If I felt that there was a, a reason to recuse myself, I would. Right now, there are only eight of us. We don't, if someone should be cited by a complainant, we don't talk about it until probably after there is, there is a finding on the record.

My experience has been that when folks are unhappy with the decision from a magistrate, they really should be filing an appeal to the Superior Court. They have 14 days to do that, and it appears that instead of filing the, following the appeal process, they go to Judicial Review Council. I also noted that there is a booklet the state prepares, and that the public has access to as to how to contact the council and really how to follow the procedures. So I think that would be helpful.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): That was my follow up question Judge, you beat me to it. So, and then my, my final question that I had asked Judge Agati as well is that it seems like the number of these complaints are either dismissed or little is found. And I understand that individuals might not know the system well enough to properly navigate through it. But I was also glad to hear Judge Agati say that there really isn't any, you know, a quota system based either. So how do you, how do you feel about

the number of cases that are started versus the number that a solution is, is determined?

JUDGE ANTHONY FUSCO: Well, my knowledge is to the family of magistrates. I don't think there have been too many complaints filed, most likely there has been at least one for everyone. Some are by the statute and the procedure have been time barred, others where there is no finding of probable cause. I, I think like the judge indicated, we have litigants, one or both can be unhappy, and I, I guess they look to the bench to be responsible.

Magistrates deal with 95%, at least of self-represented parties, and I find that I enjoy that. I kind of miss the, the seeing of people coming in the court and, and bringing their children in, because we're doing everything virtually. And I think that system virtually is good for the public because they only give up a half an hour of their day, but they can call in from their car, from their home, and they're not waiting in court all day for their matter to be heard. So I think it's really a plus. But I don't think there have been that many complaints brought against magistrates, say versus family judges.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Judge, thank you for the response. Do any members have any questions for Judge Fusco?

JUDGE ANTHONY FUSCO: Thank you Mr. Chairman.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): We're going to, we're going to go to Representative Kennedy, who was our House Ranking Member. Ma'am, you have the floor.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Thank you Mr. Chairman, and welcome Judge Fusco. It's wonderful to have you here, congratulations on your nomination.

JUDGE ANTHONY FUSCO: Thank you, Representative Kennedy.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Because you did answer most of my questions, but I, I want to thank you in reading your resume. You served our country in the army and I want to say thank you very much for your service to our country. It just means so much, my dad was in the army. So, it's always --

JUDGE ANTHONY FUSCO: Was he?

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Yeah.

JUDGE ANTHONY FUSCO: I was in that first lottery that the minute I graduated college in June of 1970, in July I was gone. I got a letter from President Nixon, and I went off to Fort Dix and Fort Polk, Louisiana. And when I got to Louisiana, I knew where I was going. So I was honored to serve with the first cavalry and the 101st Airborne in the infantry. So kind of odd as a college graduate, because you see how far you really fell from up here to down there. But thank you for the comment.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Much appreciated. Just, just really one quick question, because you pretty much answered everything. But, you know, I always feels like it's just, I would think it would have to be some things just so gracious when someone files a complaint. Can you just briefly state what kind of evidence I guess would you be looking for when a complaint would be filed against a judge, what type of?

JUDGE ANTHONY FUSCO: Well, they think, as I recall the procedure, they have the folks type out a form as to the allegations and then that's sent in to the commission and then the judge or magistrate gets a copy of it. You don't really respond to it, you feel kind of like there is a complaint against you and there is no way that you can respond to it.

But then they sat down to hearing which you would attend. And, and then there is a written decision quickly thereafter, most of which I, I think are dismissed and properly so, because I understand we see in our area of family support, you know, we're dealing with child support with, with the children, with the family.

And I, I sometimes ask myself, who am I to insert myself into their life for a few minutes, but I tend to feel that when they leave the courtroom if they're both sort of happy and they understand the orders that you will avoid any complaints. So I, I think you have to put yourself in the shoes of the person in front of you and show them deference and regard. And again, most of our people don't have attorneys. So you know, we're fact finders, we listen, try to give them as much time as we can.

Right now, there are a lot like a half-an-hour and most hearings don't take that long. If we have a special hearing, that might take a couple of hours. I know in one case in Stanford, I invited the folks to come in and we had a live hearing. I told we have all day if you need the time, because there were exhibits and there was an attorney involved. But our, in the old days, our cases were handled pretty swiftly. And I, and I like to think my colleagues do a good job. And if you go home at night, the beauty of it is you think you helped some kids.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Yes.

JUDGE ANTHONY FUSCO: And I know when we, when the State shut down and the courts shut down last March, it took me about a month to get over the fact that we weren't helping children. And I remember saying to my wife "who's going to take care of these kids, you know, who's going to set orders or enforce

orders?" But then you realize there isn't much you can do at that point.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Your Honor, I thank you very much, because, and, and God bless you because that has got to be in family court just so difficult. So again, Judge Fusco, thank you for being here today. And congratulations on your nomination. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

JUDGE ANTHONY FUSCO: Thank you very much.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Thank you Mr. Chairman.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Thank you Representative Kennedy. Any other Members with questions for Attorney Fusco? Seeing none and no further questions or remarks, I'd like to congratulate you on your appointment as a Member of the Judicial Review Council. Before you go, there is one question we ask of every nominee, is there anything in your past that you believe might prove embarrassing to this Committee, to the Governor, or to the State of Connecticut?

JUDGE ANTHONY FUSCO: Not that I'm aware of.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Thank you sir. Thank you sir.

JUDGE ANTHONY FUSCO: Thank you Mr. Chairman, thank you Members.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Yes. Thank you for your spending some time with us this morning.

JUDGE ANTHONY FUSCO: You're welcome. Thank you.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Now we're going to go back to the Public Hearing Agenda and go to the item that we skipped to. Thanks to Wendy, we have navigated the technological challenges, and I will be bringing up the Senate Joint Resolution confirming the

nomination of Robert Bouvier of Greenwich to be a Member of the Judicial Review Council.

Mr. Bouvier, thanks for navigating this morning and connecting to our Zoom link. As you, you will have a chance to give some opening remarks. But first things first, would you please raise your right hand. And do you promise, swear, or affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

ROBERT BOUVIER: I do.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Thank you. And as I said, as we begin these nominee interviews, you'll get a chance to make an introductory statement and then take some questions from members. So sir, the floor is yours.

ROBERT BOUVIER: Sure. And I'd like to thank Wendy for connecting me to this meeting this morning. I apologize for, for running a little late here. And I also want to just correct the record that it's Rob Bouvier from West Hartford, Connecticut, not Greenwich, Connecticut. And, you know, it's, it's interesting because we, I've been introduced to some of the meetings already as a Civilian Member of Judicial Review. And I'm learning a great deal right now, I'm not an attorney by training.

So I'm just trying to take it all in and seeing what value I can bring to the Commission in making decisions. It's something that obviously is we take very seriously. And I'm seeing where a lot of this work is already done by a researcher who looks into all these claims and kind of breaks it down for us and gives their best judgment. From what I'm seeing already is that the majority of these, these alleged claims or allegations are, are without merit. It's, it's people are saying that they just didn't like the way the decisions were made. But judicial

misconduct is a completely different, different thing.

And we haven't gotten into any cases of that quite yet. But certainly something I'm looking forward to serving and giving back to the State of Connecticut.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Thank you sir. I'll, I'll start it off with some, some with a question as you know, mine is being a layman, as I say, what interested you into getting on to Judicial Review?

ROBERT BOUVIER: Well, Mitch Harris is a friend of mine who, who chairs Judicial Review, and I have a lot of regard for his integrity and his work ethic. And he said, is this something you would consider, and the more I thought about it and gave it consideration. I said, this is something you know, I've served. Well, I was the Mayor of West Hartford for a point in time, I was 11 years on my town council here in town, and served on numerous boards and commissions. And this is something that really interested me, the higher levels of, of, of government and Judicial Review.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Thank you sir, for that response. I will open up the, the questioning to, to Members. Please, if you have a question, indicate it by raising your hand on the Zoom link, and, and we will go to you. First is our House Vice Chair, Representative Quinn. Thank you. You have the floor sir.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Thank you Mr. Chairman. And good morning, Mr. Bouvier. Very happy to have you before us and congratulations on your nomination. When did you start with Judicial Review, when were you first appointed?

ROBERT BOUVIER: Assuming this goes back to December of last year, I can, I can see if I can find the

exact appointment. Yeah. So doing it, I think for a couple.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Of couple of months then?

ROBERT BOUVIER: Yes, yes.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Okay. Has, have you seen anything yet that you think you'd want to change procedurally on how the Commission operates, or are you too new at this point?

ROBERT BOUVIER: That's a terrific question Representative Quinn. I think I'm too new to, to really comment on any, with any kind of meaning on that. But yes, and, and that's what I was looking forward to see what value I could bring in terms of process and, and structure and efficiencies.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Okay. All right. Thank you. I don't have any further questions. And again, congratulations on your appointment.

ROBERT BOUVIER: Thank you very much.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Thank you Representative Quinn. Any other Members with questions? We'll go to our House Ranking Member, Representative Kennedy. Thank you ma'am, you have the floor.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): I promise Mr. Chairman, I'll be quick. Mr. Bouvier, thank you so much for being here, and congratulations on your appointment. I actually don't have any questions. I think you did a great job of answering the questions of Chairman Gresko, and Representative Kelly, but I just wanted to say thank you for being here again, and congratulations on your nomination. You seemed to have a very good grasp of the type of work that you'll be doing. And again, I say thank you to you. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

ROBERT BOUVIER: Thank you very much.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Thanks Representative Kennedy. Any other Members with questions for Mr. Bouvier, please raise your hand on the Zoom link. And seeing none and with no further questions or remarks, one more check. I'd like to congratulate you on your appointment as a Member of the Judicial Review Council. Before you go, there is one question we ask of every nominee. Is there anything in your past that you believe might prove embarrassing to this Committee, to the Governor, or to the State of Connecticut?

ROBERT BOUVIER: No, sir.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Again, thank you for navigating and thank you again to Wendy for doing all that behind the scenes, the work to, to make this possible. And seeing that is the end of our Public Hearing Agenda, and that concludes this Public Hearing. I will entertain a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): So move Mr. Chairman.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Second.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Moved by Representative Kennedy, seconded by Representative Quinn. And we are, we are adjourned. Let's everybody just stay quiet for a second much as so Wendy can do what she needs to do to switch from Public Hearing to meeting and once we get the thumbs up from Wendy, we will transition right into the meeting.

Great. Here we go. I am calling to order the February 23, 2021 meeting of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee at, well, my clock just said 11 o'clock. I do not see my Senate Co-Chair on the link as of yet. So we will go right to the resolutions. I will entertain a motion.

What do we got? Okay, again, I will entertain a motion to approve the Senate Joint Resolution confirming the Honorable Salvatore Agati of Watertown to the Judicial Review Council as a superior court judge serving a term ending November 30, 2024.

WENDY FRITZ: I think everyone's muted, Mr. Chair.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Do I get a motion?

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Move to approve Mr. Chairman.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Thank you Representative Kennedy. Can I get a second?

REP. QUINN (82ND): Second.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Seconded by Representative Quinn. Any discussion? Seeing no discussion, will the clerk please call the roll.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Duff, Representative Gresko.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Gresko votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Looney. Representative Quinn.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Representative Quinn votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Kelly. Representative Kennedy.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Representative Kennedy votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative D'Agostino. Senator Fonfara? Senator Formica? Representative Godfrey? Senator Hartley? Senator Kushner? Senator Moore?

SENATOR MOORE (22ND): Senator Moore votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Perillo? Representative Yaccarino?

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): Representative Yaccarino votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Vargas? Senator Somers? That's the roll.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Okay. I just lost my, my internet connection briefly. So did you finish the?

WENDY FRITZ: I did.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): I'm going to call that miracle happened getting back on so quickly. But thank you. Next item, I'll entertain a motion to approve the Senate Joint Resolution confirming Robert Bouvier of West Hartford to the Judicial Review Council as an individual, neither a judge or an attorney, to serve a term ending November 30, 2024.

REP. QUINN (82ND): So moved.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Moved by Representative Quinn. Can I get a second?

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): Second.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Seconded by Senator Formica. Any discussion? Seeing no discussion, will the clerk please call the roll?

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Duff? Representative Gresko?

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Gresko votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Looney? Representative Quinn?

REP. QUINN (82ND): Representative Quinn votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Kelly? Representative Kennedy.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Kennedy votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative D'Agostino? Senator Fonfara? Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): Formica votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Godfrey? Senator Hartley? Senator Kushner? Senator Moore?

SENATOR MOORE (22ND): Senator Moore votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Perillo? Representative Yaccarino?

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): Yaccarino votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Vargas? Senator Somers? That's the roll sir.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Thank you Wendy. And we will move now to the last item on the agenda. I will entertain a motion to approve the House Joint Resolution confirming the Honorable Anthony Fusco Brookfield to the Judicial Review Council as an Alternate Family Support Magistrate to serve a term ending November 30, 2024.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): So moved Mr. Chairman.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): Second.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Moved by Representative Kennedy, seconded by Representative Yaccarino. Any discussion? Seeing no discussion requests, will the Clerk please call the roll.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Duff. Representative Gresko?

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Gresko votes yes.

25
jb/rr

February 23, 2021
EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE 10:00 A.M.
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Looney? Representative Quinn.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Representative Quinn votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Kelly? Representative Kennedy?

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Kennedy votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative D'Agostino? Senator
Fonfara? Senator Formica?

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): Formica votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Godfrey? Senator
Hartley? Senator Kushner? Senator Moore?

SENATOR MOORE (22ND): May I ask a question, Mr.
Chair?

REP. GRESKO (121ST): You may.

SENATOR MOORE (22ND): Is this a House Resolution or
a Senate?

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Wendy.

WENDY FRITZ: They are all Joint Resolutions, ma'am.

SENATOR MOORE (22ND): They're joint, thank you.
Senator Moore, yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Perillo? Representative
Vargas. Representative Yaccarino?

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): Representative Yaccarino
votes yes, and Wendy, thank you for helping me
getting on this morning. I had a difficult time
between meetings. So thank you.

WENDY FRITZ: You're very welcome. Senator Somers?
That's the roll sir.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Thank you Wendy. And if you will indulge us one more time, I had the pleasure of seeing Senator Duff sign on, so before we recess the meeting, if you'd like to record Senator Duff open, Senator Kushner.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Kushner.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): For hitting the jackpot here. So before we adjourn, we'd like to get the votes recorded for them.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH): Okay, well that was quick, was you run an efficient meeting Representative Gresko. Good morning everybody. Great to see you, sorry to be late. And we have our votes, Madam Clerk.

WENDY FRITZ: Sure. I will do both, Senator Duff and Senator Kushner. We have Salvatore Agati of Watertown to be a Member of the Judicial Review Council. Senator Duff?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Yes, Senator Duff votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Kushner? Senator Kushner votes yes. West Hartford, it says Greenwich on the letter I believe. He mentioned West Hartford, so I'm not sure how to take that move. Mr. Chair.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Yes, Senator votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Kushner?

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH): Senator Kushner votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Anthony Fusco of Brookfield to be a Member of the Judiciary Review Council as an Alternate Family Support Magistrate. Senator Duff?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Senator Duff votes yes.

27
jb/rr

February 23, 2021
EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE 10:00 A.M.
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Kushner?

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH): Senator Kushner votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Again, thank you Wendy. And we will, we will hold the votes open until 3 this afternoon. As a courtesy to, to Wendy, we're going to try to wrangle the members, there seem to be a lot of individuals that have other meetings that they're trying to navigate at the same time. So we'll call the votes open until 3 o'clock and then our next scheduled meeting is for Thursday, this Thursday, February 25 at 10 am to consider reappointing the Claims Commissioner, but in the meantime, we will stand in recess until 3 o'clock. Wendy?

WENDY FRITZ: The 02/25 hearing will be at 10 o'clock and, and will conclude before session begin. We've got both, will not be held open all day.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Understood. Thank you Wendy. Thank you everyone for participating.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Thank you.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Thank you Wendy for everything.

WENDY FRITZ: You're welcome. Thank you.

SENATOR MOORE (22ND): Good day everybody.

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Yeah, well done Wendy, way to knock it out of the park.

WENDY FRITZ: I'm going to go video and mute.

28
jb/rr

February 23, 2021
EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE 10:00 A.M.
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

REP. GRESKO (121ST): Okay, and then I'll, I will start to get the House Members. So hopefully you I'll check back with you to see how we're doing.

WENDY FRITZ: Great. Thank you so much. Bye, bye.

WENDY FRITZ: Good morning.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: How are you Wendy?

WENDY FRITZ: I'm well. How are you, sir?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I'm, I'm sorry, I had to leave because I had a REGS Review Committee at the same time.

WENDY FRITZ: No worries, no worries.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: You know even remotely, we wind up having to be in more than one place at a time, and Zoom only lets you do one meeting at a time. It's very frustrating.

WENDY FRITZ: I hear you, because I did GE last night.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: GE, so I believe I have to go on one house joint resolution?

WENDY FRITZ: Nope, they're all joint. So you've got to vote on three.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Okay.

WENDY FRITZ: We have Salvatore Agati for Judicial Review Council.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I'll vote yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Robert Bouvier, Judicial Review Council.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I'll vote yes.

WENDY FRITZ: And Anthony Fusco, and here we
Alternate Family Support Magistrate.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I'll vote yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you so much.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you. I don't suppose I'll
make it to the calendar tomorrow.

WENDY FRITZ: I think that we're going to try.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good, good.

WENDY FRITZ: As try to get as many on for tomorrow
and then for the meeting on Thursday.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yeah, because I don't see the
House or the Senate for that matter. Senator going
in again this month, certainly probably not.

WENDY FRITZ: Right, probably not for another month.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yeah, yeah, who knows, who knows
what's going to happen, but we never do. Wendy,
thank you.

WENDY FRITZ: You're welcome. Take care.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yep.

WENDY FRITZ: Senators Kelly and Somers let, we can
do you one after the other if that's okay.

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH): Sure.

WENDY FRITZ: Okay. So Salvatore Agati to be a
Member of the Judicial Review Council. Senator
Kelly?

SENATOR KELLY (21ST): Yes.

WENDY FRITZ: I'm not getting you on camera long enough, so.

SENATOR KELLY (21ST): Really?

WENDY FRITZ: There you go. If you just say, Senator Kelly in the affirmative or Senator Kelly votes yes.

SENATOR KELLY (21ST): So yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you. Senator Somers.

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH): Senator Somers, am I unmuted? Senator Somers votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you. Robert Bouvier to be a Member of the Judicial Review Council. Senate Kelly?

SENATOR KELLY (21ST): Senator Kelly votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you. Senator Somers?

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH): Senator Somers votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: And finally, Anthony Fusco to be a Member of the Judicial Review Council as an Alternate Family Support Magistrate. Senator Kelly?

SENATOR KELLY (21ST): Senator Kelly votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you. Senator Somers?

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH): Senator Somers votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you.

SENATOR KELLY (21ST): Okay. Thank you.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative D'Agostino?

31
jb/rr

February 23, 2021
EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE 10:00 A.M.
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91ST): Wendy, do you need me for anything?

WENDY FRITZ: I do, three votes, sir.

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91ST): Thank you.

WENDY FRITZ: Salvatore Agati to be a Member of the Judicial Review Council.

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91ST): D'Agostino votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Robert Bouvier to be a member of the Judicial Review Council.

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91ST): D'Agostino votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: And Anthony Fusco to be a Member of the Judicial Review Council as an Alternate Family Support Magistrate.

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91ST): D'Agostino votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you. You're all set there.

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91ST): Thanks Wendy, take care.

WENDY FRITZ: Take care.