

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
SPECIAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
BOARD ROOM 4
HENRICO, VA
JUNE 4, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER: A meeting of a Special Conference Committee (“Committee”) of the Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine (“Board”) was convened on June 4, 2019, at 8:40 a.m., at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 2nd Floor Conference Center, Board Room 4, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia 23233.

FIRST CONFERENCE 8:40 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Yancey Spencer, Chairperson
Mark Johnson, DVM, Committee member

STAFF PRESENT: Kelli Moss, Deputy Executive Director
Terri H. Behr, Discipline/Compliance Specialist
Emily Tatum, Administrative Proceedings Division

MATTER SCHEDULED: **Rohan Rajapakse, Veterinarian**
License No. 0301203945
Case No.: 194365

Discussion: Mr. Rajapakse appeared before the Committee in person in accordance with a Notice of Informal Conference dated April 2, 2019, to inquire into allegations that he is not in compliance with an Order entered August 23, 2016. Mr. Rajapakse was represented by counsel, Nancy Schlichting, Esq. The Committee fully discussed the allegations contained in the Notice with Mr. Rajapakse.

Closed Session: Dr. Johnson moved that the Committee convene a closed meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter regarding **Rohan Rajapakse, Veterinarian**. Additionally, Dr. Johnson moved that Ms. Moss attend the closed meeting because her presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Committee in its deliberations. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Reconvene: Dr. Johnson moved that the Committee certify that it heard, discussed or considered only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters

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as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The Committee reconvened in open session pursuant to § 2.2-3712(D) of the Code.

**DECISION:
Case No. 194365**

Ms. Moss read the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law made by the Committee. Ms. Moss also reported that the Committee decided to refer this matter to a Formal Hearing and to offer Mr. Rajapakse a Consent Order for indefinite suspension of his license.

Upon a motion by Dr. Johnson and duly seconded by Ms. Spencer, the Committee voted to accept the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and decision as read by Ms. Moss. The hearing adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

SECOND CONFERENCE:

4:42 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mary Yancey Spencer, Chairperson
Mark Johnson, DVM, Committee member

STAFF PRESENT:

Kelli Moss, Deputy Executive Director
Terri Behr, Discipline/Compliance Specialist
Emily Tatum, Adjudication Specialist

MATTER SCHEDULED:

**Maria Wheeler, LVT Applicant
Applicant No. 1251124
Case No.: 195764**

Discussion:

Ms. Wheeler appeared before the Committee in accordance with a Notice of Informal Conference dated May 17, 2019, and an Amended Notice of Informal Conference (“Amended Notice”) dated May 30, 2019, to consider her application for licensure to practice as a veterinary technician in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and to inquire into evidence that grounds may exist to deny her application. Ms. Wheeler was provided the Amended Notice by email on May 30, 2019, and by hand delivery at the time of the Informal Conference. Ms. Wheeler stated she wished to proceed with the Informal Conference. Ms. Wheeler was not represented

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by counsel. The Committee fully discussed the allegations contained in the Notice with Ms. Wheeler.

Closed Session:

Dr. Johnson moved that the Committee convene a closed meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter regarding **Maria Wheeler, LVT Applicant**. Additionally, Dr. Johnson moved that Ms. Moss attend the closed meeting because her presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Committee in its deliberations. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Reconvene:

Dr. Johnson moved that the Committee certify that it heard, discussed or considered only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The Committee reconvened in open session pursuant to § 2.2-3712(D) of the Code.

DECISION

Case No. 195764:

Ms. Moss read the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law made by the Committee. Ms. Moss also reported that the Committee decided to deny Ms. Wheeler's application for licensure because she does not meet the requirements for licensure as a veterinary technician in Virginia.

Upon a motion by Dr. Johnson, and duly seconded by Ms. Spencer, the Committee voted to accept the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and decision as read by Ms. Moss. The hearing adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

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Mary Yancey Spencer., Chairperson

Kelli Moss, Deputy Executive Director