

**BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
SPECIAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
BOARD ROOM 3
HENRICO, VA
FEBRUARY 8, 2019**

- CALL TO ORDER:** A meeting of a Special Conference Committee (“Committee”) of the Virginia Board of Optometry (“Board”) was convened on February 8, 2019, at 12:47 p.m., at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 2nd Floor Conference Center, Board Room 3, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia 23233.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Devon Cabot, Chairperson
Steven A. Linas, O.D.
- STAFF PRESENT:** Kelli Moss, Deputy Executive Director
Terri H. Behr, Discipline/Compliance Specialist
Jessica Kelley, Adjudication Specialist
- MATTER SCHEDULED:** **Chinweuba Obi, O.D. Applicant**
Case No.: 191813
- Discussion:** Dr. Obi appeared before the Committee in person in accordance with a Notice of Informal Conference dated January 8, 2019, to consider his application for licensure to practice optometry in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and to inquire into evidence that grounds may exist to deny his application. Dr. Obi was not represented by counsel. The Committee fully discussed the allegations contained in the Notice with Dr. Obi.
- Closed Session:** Dr. Linas 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 **Chinweuba Obi, O.D. Applicant**. Additionally, Dr. Linas 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. Linas 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. 191813:

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 Dr. Obi's application for licensure because he did not meet the requirements for licensure as an optometrist in Virginia by examination or endorsement.

Upon a motion by Dr. Linas, and duly seconded by Ms. Cabot, the Committee voted to accept the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and decision as read by Ms. Moss. The hearing adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

Devon Cabot, Chairperson

Kelli Moss, Deputy Executive Director