UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

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PUBLIC MEETING

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THURSDAY
AUGUST 27, 2026

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The U.S. Sentencing Commission met via Videoconference, at 11:00 a.m. EDT, Carlton W. Reeves, Chair, presiding.

PRESENT
CARLTON W. REEVES, Chair
LAURA E. MATE, Vice Chair
SCOTT A.C. MEISLER, Ex-Officio Commissioner
CLAIRE MURRAY, Vice Chair
LUIS FELIPE RESTREPO, Vice Chair
CANDICE C. WONG, Commissioner

ALSO PRESENT
MATTHEW IACONETTI, Deputy General Counsel

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

11:10 a.m.

CHAIR REEVES: Good morning. I'm the chair of the United States Sentencing Commission, Carlton W. Reeves, and I welcome you all to this public meeting. I thank each of you for joining us, whether you're in this room with us, or attending by live stream.

I have the honor of opening this meeting with my fellow Commissioners. To my right, we have Vice Chair Luis Felipe Restrepo and Commissioner Candice Wong. To my left, we have Vice Chair Claire Murray, Vice Chair Laura Mate, and Ex-Officio Commissioner Scott Meisler.

We're also joined by our wonderful Commission employees, some of whom are in this room, most of whom are not. They have done the research, they have drafted the policies, they have set up this room on behalf of the Commissioners and the public. And they, ladies and gentlemen, have done and always do so much more.

On behalf of the Commissioners and the public, I want to thank each of you employees. I want to thank our agency staff for the great work that you do every single day for us and this nation. The first order of business is a vote to adopt the April 16, 2026 public meeting minutes. Is there a motion to do so?

VICE CHAIR RESTREPO: So moved.

CHAIR REEVES: Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER WONG: Second.

CHAIR REEVES: Is there any discussion on the motion? Let's vote on the motion by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

CHAIR REEVES: Any nays? Hearing no nays, the motion is adopted by voice vote. The next item of business is a possible vote to promulgate a proposed amendment to the guidelines concerning offenses involving unmanned aircraft. The Deputy General Counsel, Matt Iaconetti, will now advise the Commission on this matter.

MR. IACONETTI: Thank you, Judge Reeves. The proposed amendment responds to the SAFER SKIES Act, which contains several provisions relating to offenses involving unmanned aircraft. The act creates a new felony offense for repeat convictions for violating national defense airspace under 49 U.S.C. 46307 and amends statutory penalties for providing contraband to imprisoned individuals in violation of 18 U.S.C. 1791.

The act also directs the Commission to promulgate guidelines or amendments to guidelines that substantially increase the sentencing range for all offenses involving the use of unmanned aircraft. The proposed amendment would implement these provisions by creating a new guideline at Section 3b1.6, providing a tiered adjustment of six or four levels. The new guideline also includes a special instruction to account for other Chapter 2 enhancements or Chapter 3 adjustments.

Last, the proposed amendment would also

amend Appendix A to provide a reference to 49 U.S.C. Section 46307 to Section 2a5.2 for felony offenses, and Section 2x5.2 for misdemeanor offenses. A motion to promulgate the amendment with an effective date of March 15, 2027 and technical and conforming amendment authority to staff would be appropriate at this time.

CHAIR REEVES: Is there a motion to promulgate the amendment as suggested by our Deputy General Counsel?

VICE CHAIR MURRAY: So moved.

CHAIR REEVES: Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER WONG: Second.

CHAIR REEVES: Is there any discussion on this motion? Hearing no discussion, let's vote on the motion by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

CHAIR REEVES: Any nays? The motion is adopted. And let the record reflect that at least four Commissioners voted in favor of the motion. The next item of business -- and I voted aye. Y'all didn't hear me. Aye. I don't

think I said, but I'm voting in favor of the motion.

The next item of business is a possible vote to publish in the Federal Register the Commission's final policy priorities for the 2026-2027 amendment cycle. The Deputy General Counsel will now advise the Commission on the matter.

MR. IACONETTI: You have before you a notice of final priorities for consideration. The Commission published a notice of possible policy priorities in the Federal Register on June 12th, and the Commission received and reviewed public comment since that time in response to the notice. A motion to adopt and publish in the Federal Register the final notice of policy priorities for the 2026-2027 amendment cycle is appropriate at this time.

CHAIR REEVES: Is there a motion to publish in the Federal Register the final notice of policy priorities for the Commission's 2026-2027 amendment cycle as suggested by our Deputy

General Counsel?

VICE CHAIR MATE: So moved.

CHAIR REEVES: Is there a second?

VICE CHAIR RESTREPO: Second.

CHAIR REEVES: Is there any discussion on this motion? Let's then vote on the motion by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

CHAIR REEVES: Are there any nays? The motion is adopted. And let the record reflect that at least three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion to publish. The next item of business is a possible vote to publish in the Federal Register proposed amendments and issues for public comment on the Commission's rules of practice and procedure. The Deputy General Counsel will now advise the Commission on the matter.

MR. IACONETTI: The proposed amendment revises the Commission's rules of practice and procedure. It is a multi-part amendment and the Commission is considering whether to promulgate

any or all parts of the amendment as they are not mutually exclusive.

Part A of the proposed amendment would make changes to the introduction to the rules to more closely track the statutory requirements set forth in 28 U.S.C. 991(b). Part B of the proposed amendment would revise Rule 2.2 to provide that the decision to make an amendment available for retroactivity shall require an affirmative vote of at least five members at a public meeting.

Part C of the proposed amendment would amend Rules 3.1 and 3.4 to allow a representative of the Committee on the Criminal Law of the Judicial Conference and a representative of the Federal Public and Community Defenders to participate in Commission meetings and public hearings. Part D of the proposed amendment sets forth three options for revising Rule 4.3 addressing ex-parte communications.

Part E of the proposed amendment would

amend Rule 5.2 regarding the procedure for setting the agenda of the Commission's policymaking cycle every year. Part F of the proposed amendment would amend Rule 5.3 to require disclosure of certain materials and documents generated for Commissioners for public and non-public meetings. Part G of the proposed amendment makes several technical and clerical changes. Part H of the proposed amendment provides an issue for comment on possible further revisions to the rules.

A motion to publish the proposed amendment with public comment period closing on October 26, 2026 and technical and conforming changes. Amendment authority to staff is appropriate at this time.

CHAIR REEVES: Is there a motion to publish the proposed amendment to the rules of practice and procedure as suggested by our Deputy General Counsel?

VICE CHAIR RESTREPO: So moved.

CHAIR REEVES: Is there a second?

VICE CHAIR MATE: Second.

CHAIR REEVES: Is there any discussion on the motion? Before we vote on these rules revisions, I just want to say a few words about them. First, these proposals respond to comments we've received over the years about how the Commission does its business. And I know all of us Commissioners have spent considerable time thinking about how we can do our work better.

But I want to emphasize that these proposals are just that, proposals. They are ideas about the kinds of change that could be, I emphasize could be, helpful to our work. That uncertainty is why we are so eager to receive public comment. And that uncertainty is why we will hold a roundtable on these proposals next month. There, we will hear from many people, including experts in administrative procedure, who can help us think through these ideas and any other ideas that may improve our practices and procedures.

In short, ladies and gentlemen, there is more work to do. And I look forward to seeing where this process takes us in the months to come. So colleagues, you may vote on this motion by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

CHAIR REEVES: Are there any nays? Hearing no nays, the motion is adopted. And let the record reflect that at least three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion to public.

Now, is there any further business before the Commission today? Hearing none, is there a motion to adjourn?

VICE CHAIR MURRAY: So moved.

CHAIR REEVES: Is there a second?

VICE CHAIR RESTREPO: Second.

CHAIR REEVES: Let's vote on that motion by saying aye. All in favor?

(Chorus of ayes.)

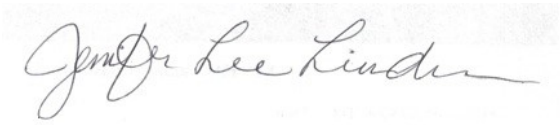
CHAIR REEVES: Any opposed? The motion is adopted by voice vote. And this meeting,

ladies and gentlemen, is now adjourned. Thank you.

(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 11:21 a.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my direction; further, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings; and that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this action in which this matter was taken; and further that I am not a relative nor an employee of any of the parties nor counsel employed by the parties, and I am not financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.



Jennifer Lindeman