

**PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING  
OF DECEMBER 19, 2016**

The meeting convened at 1:00 PM, Monday, December 19, 2016 at 333 Market Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Commissioners present:

Joel Bolstein, Interim Chair  
Dr. Raquel O. Yiengst, Vice Chairperson  
Kathleen Dormer-Carusone  
George Dawson  
Michael Hardiman  
Mayur Patel  
Gerald S. Robinson

Commissioners Absent:

Dr. Radheshyam Agrawal (excused)  
Hon. Terence Farrell

Staff present:

JoAnn Edwards, Executive Director  
Tammy McElfresh, Special Assistant to the Executive Director  
Kathy Morrison, Chief Counsel  
Geoffrey Biringner, Director of Education and Community Services  
Diana Medley, Acting Philadelphia Regional Office Director  
Heather Roth, Harrisburg Regional Office Director  
Carl Summerson, Hearing Examiner  
Christine Reese, Press Secretary  
Jinada Rochelle, Acting Housing Coordinator  
Debbie Walters, Administrative Officer  
Lyle Wood, Acting Pittsburgh Regional Office Director  
Tameka Hatcher, Program Analyst  
Katie Petruczok, Mediation Coordinator

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Bolstein called the meeting to order 1:00 PM. He further announced that the meeting had been advertised and was open to the public, in accordance with the provisions of the Sunshine Act. He stated that prior to the meeting, in keeping with the confidentiality requirements of the Sunshine Act; there had been a closed session to discuss compliance matters.

Chairman Bolstein announced the meeting was being recorded.

Attendance was taken and the presence of a quorum was noted.

Chairman Bolstein had staff introduce themselves to the guests in attendance

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Chairman Robinson had guests introduce themselves and a list of those in attendance is included as an attachment to the minutes.

**APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes of the Public Commission held on November 28, 2016 were presented for approval.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Yiengst made a Motion, seconded by Commissioner Hardiman to approve the minutes. With all in favor, motion carried.

**CHIEF COUNSEL'S LITIGATION STATUS REPORT**

Chief Counsel Morrison provided a review of her status report and a copy is attached for review. Ms. Morrison also provided in her report an outline of work done by the legal staff and trainings they have conducted.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT****Report on the Budget**

Executive Director Edwards provided an update regarding the budget. Executive Director Edwards advised the Commissioners of a projected \$455K balance at the end of the fiscal year and correspondence received from the governor's office regarding a complement hold for PHRC at 71 staff members. Executive Director Edwards will continue doing advocacy for the agency by reaching out to legislators regarding the budget cuts. Department of Labor and Industry furloughs of 500+ employees will have the Bureau of State Employment working with agencies to locate transfer positions.

**Education Division Report**

Director of Education Geoffrey Biringer provided an update to his report noting the department is working around the state with school districts and on the settlement with the Reading School District. Director Biringer noted an increase in racial incidents post-election at several school districts and is working on resolutions. Specific activities were provided within the attached report.

**Report on EEOC and HUD Contracts**

The performance of each office toward meeting its MTD goal for the EEOC contract is provided in the monthly reports.

Year to date, Pittsburgh has submitted 20, Harrisburg 50 and Philadelphia 35 cases for credit. 1109 cases or 91% remain to reach the goal of 1,214.

The performance report for Housing cases was included in the commission packet and shows 42 cases were received since July for our contract goal of 150 cases.

**Report on Mediation**

An overview was provided of the report contained within the commission packets as it contains new metrics on the Mediation Program. A review of the program statistics and satisfaction surveys was provided within the slide presentation.

**Report on Advisory Councils**

The regional advisory councils are expanding. The letter to local HRCs regarding MOU development has been sent out. The letter noted the PHRA requiring HRCs and PHRC are to share information.

Press Secretary Christina Reese noted continued work on the annual report and an OP ED that went out on Friday.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Adjudication: Liability Determination

201504690 17F201661099

Joann Bullard; Monongahela v Westmoreland Community Action; Greensburg

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Yiengst made a Motion, seconded by Commissioner Robinson approve the recommendation from the Hearing Examiner to issue finding of liability for failure to file an Answer in the above referenced case. With all in favor, motion carried.

**Advisory Council Membership Approval**

Director Biringer presented to the commissioners the resume of Beatriz Sanabria for approval of membership on the Lehigh Valley Advisory Council.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Yiengst made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hardiman to approve the recommendation for membership. With all in favor, motion carried.

**NEXT SESSION**

The January Commission meeting will be held Monday, January 23, 2016, at 1:00 PM in Harrisburg, PA.

**PANEL DISCUSSION**

The PHRC has determined it is critically important to educate the commissioners and staff to what is going on in the community and what we can learn and share around the commonwealth. The Panel Discussion today was convened because PHRC wants to discuss important issues going on at the local level explained Tameka Hatcher, Educational Outreach Coordinator of the Education and Community Services Division moderating today's discussion.

Ms. Hatcher noted the last PHRC Public Hearing regarding tensions was held in York City in 1969. Today, a panel of experts has been brought to talk about what their organizations are doing. The Panel consisted of Kelvyn Anderson, Executive Director of the Philadelphia Police Advisory Commission, Captain Kristal Turner-Childs, Commanding officer at Troop L, Pennsylvania State Police, La'Tonya Bey-Gore, Police Diversion Liaison Officer with the Juvenile Justice Center of the Philadelphia Police Department, and Randy Duque, Deputy Executive Director of the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations, Community Relations Division.

The panel members shared what brought them to this type of work and their understanding of the needs of the community they serve.

The key element identified during the discussion is the need for communication. Communication is necessary at all levels of the community and including the agencies working with them as well as communication between the agencies and the PHRC. Building strong relationships and building trust will be key, as local agencies see PHRC as a linking connector to bring agencies together.

Chairman Bolstein thanked the panel members for their time and participation, stating that PHRC wants to be ready when needed to be part of a response and solution.

Chairman Bolstein extended an invitation to the attendees, stating if anyone here wants to join us, feel free to reach out to JoAnn Edwards Executive Director, Tameka Hatcher, Educational Outreach Coordinator or any commissioner.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

This meeting was electronically recorded. The file will become part of the permanent record.

### **MOTION:**

Commissioner Hardiman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Carusone to adjourn. With all in favor, the Public Session was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

S\Joel Bolstein

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Joel Bolstein  
Interim Chairman

S\Radheshyam Agrawal

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Dr. Radheshyam Agrawal  
Commissioner