

**PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING
OF JUNE 26, 2017**

The meeting convened at 1:00 PM, Monday, June 26, 2017 at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh at Homewood, Pittsburgh, PA 15208.

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners present:

Joel Bolstein, Interim Chair
Dr. Raquel O. Yiengst, Vice
Dr. Radheshyam Agrawal
George Dawson (absent)
Kathleen Dormer-Carusone
Michael Hardiman
Curtis Jones (absent)
Mayur Patel (absent)
Gerald S. Robinson

Staff present:

JoAnn Edwards, Executive Director
Tammy McElfresh, Special Assistant to the Executive Director
Kathy Morrison, Chief Counsel
Heather Roth, Harrisburg Regional Office Director
Geoffrey Biringier, Director of Education and Community Services
Christine Reese, Press Secretary
Carl Summerson, Hearing Examiner
Lyle Wood, Pittsburgh Regional Office Director
Diana Medley, Philadelphia Regional Office Director
Debbie Walters, Administrative Officer

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bolstein called the meeting to order at 1:15 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 not noted.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chairman Bolstein introduced Dr. Hamlett, School Board Superintendent of Pittsburgh Schools who provided a presentation of his strategic plan for the school district to the commissioners, staff and guests attending the meeting. An extensive discussion ensued following the presentation.

Also in attendance were PHRC staff members from the Pittsburgh Regional Office Michelle Boxley, Jodi Bradley, Erin Dugan, Carrie Gagliano, Karen George, Rotana Jay, David Jones, Gwendolyn Ormes, Derrick Testa, and Joseph Warner and from PHRC's Central Office, Education staff attorney, Jelani Cooper.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**MOTION:**

Commissioner Robinson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Agrawal to approve the minutes of the April and May Public Commission Meetings. With all in favor, the motion carried to approve the minutes.

CHIEF COUNSEL'S LITIGATION STATUS REPORT

Chief Counsel Morrison provided an overview of the legal division and how the commission works for the benefit of guests in attendance. Chief Counsel also reviewed of her status report and a copy was provided.

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

Executive Director Edwards provided an update of the PHRC budget and reviewed the current budget. A copy of the budget summary is included in the meeting records.

In advance of the meeting commissioners and staff were provided with reports on the HUD and EEOC contracts, Mediation, Advisory Councils, and HRC MOU's.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJUDICATION

Yetter v. No. 1 Cycle Center H-D Inc.

MOTION:

Commissioner Hardiman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Yiengst to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Examiner and find for the Complainant. With the exception of Commissioner Robinson, the remaining commissioners voted to adopt the recommendation and finding of the Hearing Examiner and the motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Director Biringer requested the commissioners' approval of two candidates for membership in local advisory councils. The candidates are Joshua L. Wilder to the Lehigh County Advisory Council and TaWanda Stallworth to the Lancaster/Lebanon Advisory Council. Copies of their resumes were provided in advance of the meeting.

MOTION:

Commissioner Agrawal made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Robinson to approve the two candidates for their local advisory councils. With all in favor, the motion carried.

GUEST COMMENTS AND CLOSING REMARKS

Pittsburgh Regional Director, Lyle Wood and other PHRC staff provided information on how PHRC's process works, the PHRA and what PHRC does for the citizens of the

commonwealth. An extensive question and answer session ensued which was focused on the current issues effecting the local area with regard to housing, employment, opportunities, available resources and discrimination in general.

NEXT SESSION

The July Commission meeting will be held on Monday, July 24, 2017, at 1:00 PM at 333 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA.

ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION:

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

Respectfully submitted,



Joel Bolstein
Interim Chairman

S\Radheshyam Agrawal

Dr. Radheshyam Agrawal
Commissioner