

**PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING  
OF JULY 24, 2017**

The meeting convened at 1:00 PM, Monday, July 24, 2017 at 333 Market Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Commissioners:

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

Staff:

JoAnn Edwards, Executive Director  
Tammy McElfresh, Special Assistant to the Executive Director  
Kathy Morrison, Chief Counsel  
Jinada Rochelle, Assistant Director of Enforcement  
Heather Roth, Harrisburg Regional Office Director  
Geoffrey Biringer, 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  
Katie Petruczok, Mediation Coordinator

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Bolstein called the meeting to order at 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.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

No guests were in attendance for this meeting.

**APPROVAL OF COMPLIANCE MINUTES****MOTION:**

Commissioner Hardiman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bolstein to approve the minutes of the June Commission Meeting. With all in favor, the motion carried to approve the minutes.

**CHIEF COUNSEL'S LITIGATION STATUS REPORT**

Chief Counsel Morrison reviewed of her status report and a copy was provided. Chief Counsel Morrison also provided in her report an outline of work done by the legal staff and trainings they have conducted. Chief Counsel Morrison also provides for the commissioners an overview of cases filed in commonwealth court and cases of interest to PHRC.

**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. A waiver request has been submitted and we are currently awaiting approval. Commissioner Bolstein noted his skepticism of that being approved given the current state budget deficit.

Executive Director Edwards asked that any commissioners interested in attending the IAOHRA conference in September let her know so that a request for approval can be submitted to HUD.

Executive Director Edwards welcomed back, Director of Education and Community Service, Geoffrey Biringier after an extended illness.

Director Biringier provided updates on advisory councils and noted the Allentown Council is doing a meet & greet with the school district superintendent and Centre County Council is doing a picnic. The Cumberland/Dauphin/Perry council is not doing as well. They have had many board members recently resign.

The July Task Force meeting had been cancelled while Director Biringier was out of the office. Executive Director Edwards provided an update on the Lebanon Council asked that Director Biringier relay to Lori with the Lebanon council that Commissioner Yiengst did not get the email meeting notice.

**Report on Mediation**

An overview of the monthly report was provided. It was noted Karen George continues to do a good job with making the first calls.

Commissioner Bolstein noted a discussion he had with a mediation attorney and how she expressed her level of enthusiasm with the program and the ongoing training.

**HRC Update**

Hearing Examiner Carl Summerson has been working with local HRCs that only provide mediation. There is an agreement before them to be able to dual file complaints with PHRC.

Commissioner Robinson asked about progress on PHRC exchanging case information as required by our Act. Hearing Examiner Summerson noted it is within the agreement and PHRC would report out every six months.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**ADJUDICATION**

MacDougall v. Rhonda Smith

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Dawson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Robinson to find for the complainant an order of liability against Respondent, Rhonda Smith for failure to file an answer. With all in favor, the motion carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**NEXT SESSION**

The August Commission meeting will be held on Monday, August 28, 2017 at 1:00 PM at 333 Market Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

**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,



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Joel Bolstein  
Interim Chairman

S\Radheshyam Agrawal

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Dr. Radheshyam Agrawal  
Commissioner