

**PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING  
OF AUGUST 28, 2017**

The meeting convened at 1:00 PM, Monday, August 28, 2017 at 333 Market Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Commissioners:

Joel Bolstein, Interim Chair  
Dr. Raquel O. Yiengst, Vice Chair  
Dr. Radheshyam Agrawal (phone)  
George Dawson (phone)  
Kathleen Dormer-Carusone (absent)  
Michael Hardiman  
Curtis Jones (absent)  
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 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  
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 Robinson to approve the minutes of the July 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 announced that Dana Prince, who currently works in the legal department in Central Office has been brought onboard as an Assistant Chief Counsel. Attorney Prince will be working out of our Philadelphia Regional Office.

**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.

The HUD and EEOC Contracts were reviewed. Executive Director Edwards explained how HUD determines the contract number each year. It is based on a state's population.

With the EEOC contract being increased to 940 cases, the legal department will be helping by looking at cases that have gone to court as those can be closed.

**Report on Mediation**

An overview of the monthly report was provided. Mediation Coordinator Katie Petruczuk discussed the status of Mediation in the new CMS program, frequently asked questions and a comparison of the past two years' statistics.

**Taskforce**

Education Director Geoffrey Biringer noted that during his absence, Tameka Hatcher conducted the Taskforce meeting. Going forward, Director Biringer will be completing the administrative portion and Ms. Hatcher will host the meetings.

**Advisory Councils**

Director Biringer noted that the Advisory Councils have been asked to submit their meeting minutes within two weeks of their regular meetings being held. This will allow meeting minutes to be provided to commissioners. Director Biringer also added he is hopeful commissioners will be able to attend council meetings that are in their local area.

It is anticipated there will be fourteen advisory councils across the state by next year.

Proposed Advisory Council memberships for Luzerne were presented to the commissioners for approval. Those proposed members are Megan Kennedy, Sandra Medina-López, Niurka DeLaRosa, and Elaine Maddon Curry.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Hardiman made a motion seconded by Commissioner Agrawal to approve the proposed members listed above for the Luzerne Advisory Council. With all in favor the motion carried.

Director Biringer also proposed memberships for the Cumberland/Perry/Dauphin Advisory Council for approval. Those proposed members are Michelle Geter Wilson and Kathy Watson.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Yiengst made a motion seconded by Commissioner Robinson to approve the proposed members listed above for the Cumberland/Perry/Dauphin Advisory Council. With all in favor the motion carried.

**REPORT OF PRESS SECRETARY**

Press Secretary Christina Reese highlighted her report provided in advance of the meeting. Ms. Reese highlighted the statement on our website and tweets regarding PHRC's support of Charlottesville, York Advisory Council's updated meeting date, formalizing the new complaint process brochure and a press conference with NAACP scheduled on September 11, 2017 for a stand against hate.

Chairman Bolstein asked if there have been any past incidents at the Gettysburg Battlefield. We all need to be aware of evolving situations and be prepared.

Executive Director Edwards discussed her and Joshua Barthash's interview that was broadcast on Smart Talk radio.

Chairman Bolstein stated that PHRC needs to be seen as the leader working with our partners not following behind and that the Governor's office needs reminded that we are all on the same team.

**NEW BUSINESS****ADJUDICATION**

Pegg v. Fox-Eichelberger VFW Post 7415 Friends of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Inc. – A Rule to Show Cause is presented due to the Respondent's failure to submit an answer to the complaint. Hearing Examiner Carl Summerson recommends finding the Respondent liable.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Yiengst made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Robinson to find for the complainant an order of liability against Respondent, VFW Post 7415 Friends of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Inc. 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, September 18, 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.

Respectfully submitted,

S\Joel Bolstein

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Joel Bolstein  
Interim Chairman

S\Radheshyam Agrawal

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Dr. Radheshyam Agrawal  
Commissioner