

**PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING
OF DECEMBER 18, 2017**

The meeting convened at 1:00 PM, Monday, December 18, 2017 at 333 Market Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners:

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

Emily Krepps

APPROVAL OF COMPLIANCE MINUTES**MOTION:**

Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Carusone to approve the minutes of the November Commission Meeting. With all in favor, the motion carried to approve the minutes as written.

CHIEF COUNSEL'S LITIGATION STATUS REPORT

Chief Counsel Morrison reviewed her status report and a copy was provided. Chief Counsel Morrison's report also provided 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 of the PHRC budget and reviewed the current budget showing an anticipated (\$9,000) balance. A copy of the budget summary is included in the meeting records.

HUD and EEOC Reports

Assistant Director of Enforcement Jinada Rochelle noted that monthly closure numbers are slightly lower due to the new CMS but will recover as we move forward. The monthly reports were provided in advance of the meeting and will be included in the monthly minutes.

Report on Mediation

An overview of the monthly report was provided.

Taskforce

Director Biringer provided an overview of the monthly report and noted there will be a refocus on the ELL Programs effects related to the School to Prison Pipeline. Millersville University wants to expand the project.

Advisory Councils

Director Biringer noted there is a new Council in Hazleton and a current trend of school security guards arresting students for minor infractions.

Commissioner Yiengst noted that post-hurricane Pennsylvania has received 750 students from Puerto Rico.

Director Biringer shared that some advisory councils are doing welcoming ceremonies for immigrants and those who are coming from Puerto Rico.

Local HRCs

Hearing Examiner Summerson shared there are three new LHRCs, Dublin, Middletown and Mt. Lebanon.

Commissioner Robinson asked if we are going to continue to comply with the PHRA regarding exchange of complaint information with LHRCs. Hearing Examiner Summerson stated information will be provided by PHRC in January and July and LHRCs will provide information as it is filed.

Chairman Bolstein asked if we have a listing of LHRCs in CMS. Assistant Director Rochelle explained that at this time, we do not have this information in CMS and it was not in the legacy CMS either.

Commissioner Robinson asked if LHRCs know they are required to report to us. Hearing Examiner Summerson said LHRCs are made aware of the reporting requirements when they have the discussion about the MOU.

REPORT OF PRESS SECRETARY

Press Secretary Christina Reese highlighted her report provided in advance of the meeting. Ms. Reese reported the York County Advisory Council met and the next meeting is this Wednesday. On January 4, 2018, PHRC has been asked to do a segment on WGAL for a 15-minute show.

Commissioner Jones discussed the use of public service announcements. Chairman Bolstein referred the suggestion to the Programs Committee and recommended include use of television and radio versions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Policy Approval – Dual Filing Policy

MOTION:

Commissioner Yiengst made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dawson to approve the Dual Filing Policy. With all in favor after discussion, the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Advisory Council Membership Approvals

The resume of Ivelisse Eufrazio was presented for membership approval to the Hazleton Advisory Council.

MOTION:

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

LETTERS OF COMMENT

Letters of comment were received regarding Advocates for African American Students in PPS, Pottstown Education Session and Diversity and Inclusion training that was provided by PHRC staff.

NEXT SESSION

The December Commission Meeting will be held on Monday, January 22, 2018 at 1:00 PM at 333 Market Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

ADJOURNMENT

In closing, Chairman Bolstein shared with the guest in attendance that the LGBTQ comment data is still being tabulated.

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

Respectfully submitted,

S\Joel Bolstein

S\Radheshyam Agrawal

Joel Bolstein
Interim Chairman

Dr. Radheshyam Agrawal
Commissioner