

**PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING
OF APRIL 23, 2018**

The meeting convened at 1:03 PM, Monday, April 23, 2018 at Montgomery County Community College, Blue Bell, PA.

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners:

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

Staff:

Michael Hardiman, Interim Executive Director
Kathy Morrison, Chief Counsel
Jinada Rochelle, Director of Enforcement
Heather Roth, Harrisburg Regional Office Director
Geoffrey Biringer, Director of Education and Community Services
Carl Summerson, Hearing Examiner
Lyle Wood, Pittsburgh Regional Office Director
Diana Medley, Philadelphia Regional Office Director
Debbie Walters, Administrative Officer
Ian Fahnstock, Clerk Typist

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bolstein called the meeting to order at 1:03 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.

APPROVAL OF COMPLIANCE MINUTES**MOTION:**

Commissioner Dawson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Carusone to approve the minutes of the March Commission Meeting. With all in favor, the motion carried to approve the minutes as written. (Commissioner Hardiman abstained from the vote since he is filling the role of Interim Executive Director.)

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF MANAGEMENT UPDATES
UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Management updates and reports of directors were provided in the monthly commission packet and displayed on screen. Highlights were provided by Interim Executive Director Michael Hardiman.

LETTERS OF COMMENT

A letter of thanks was received by Huma Relations Representative Stephanie Seaton of the Harrisburg Regional Office from a complainant for her kindness in alleviating their nervousness. A copy of the email is included in the official record.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE FAIR HOUSING ACT

Interim Chair Bolstein welcomed everyone to this month's public meeting and welcomed everyone who came to the meeting to celebrate with us 50 years of the Fair Housing Act and provided an overview of the history of the Act with regard to PHRC's role.

Interim Executive Director Michael Hardiman also thanked everyone for coming. Hardiman noted that the passing of the Fair Housing Act in 1968 and opened the meeting relative to the Celebration of the Fair Housing Act.

Director of Enforcement Jinada Rochelle opened the program with the airing of PHRC Housing videos and a video about service animals. These videos are available on the internet through PHRC's website and YouTube and were produced through a partnership with HUD.

Director Rochelle introduced the speakers Melody Taylor, Regional Director in the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity of US Housing and Urban Development who referenced the history of Dr. Martin Luther King and the "Commemoration of the Act" and discussed the importance of the fair housing partnership with PHRC.

Next to present was Chief Executive Officer of the Fair Housing Rights Center in Southeastern Pennsylvania Angela McIvor, who explained the of "Red Lining" and reviewed a news article about unlawful lending in Philadelphia.

The final speaker, Caroline Capistrano, Outreach and Communications Coordinator with Housing Equity Center of Pennsylvania who is celebrating their 62nd anniversary this year. Ms. Capistrano spoke about the importance of testing for Red Lining or Steering in the new environment.

Interim Executive Director Hardiman acknowledged and welcomed the special guests, Randy Duque of Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations and Christopher McMahon of the Red Hill Water Authority Board and Zoning Board and PHRC staff who do not get to typically attend monthly meetings Ian Fahnstock, Dana Prince, Terri Thomas, Latifa Riley and Lisa Kaplan.

Commissioner Jones extended his sincere thanks for everyone taking their time to come today and encouraged PHRC staff to attend upcoming local meetings.

NEXT SESSION

The May Commission Meeting will be held on Monday, May 21, 2018 at 1:00 PM in Harrisburg. Interim Chair Bolstein closed by extending his thanks to Commissioner Hardiman for filling in as the Interim Executive Director. He also announced that a candidate has been selected for the executive director position and should be in place at the next monthly meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

Commissioner Dawson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to adjourn the April Public meeting of the PA Human Relations Commission. With all in favor, the motion carried.

This meeting was recorded, and the video will become part of the permanent record.

Respectfully submitted,

S\Joel Bolstein

Joel Bolstein
Interim Chairman

S\Radheshyam Agrawal

Mayur Patel
Secretary