

**PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING
OF MAY 21, 2018**

The meeting convened at 1:03 PM, Monday, May 21, 2018 at 333 Market Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners:

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

Staff:

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

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.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chairman Bolstein introduced the Commission's new Executive Director, Chad Dion Lassiter, who will officially start effective May 24, 2018.

APPROVAL OF COMPLIANCE MINUTES**MOTION:**

Commissioner Patel made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Robinson to approve the minutes of the April 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.)

CHIEF COUNSEL'S LITIGATION STATUS REPORT

Chief Counsel Morrison reviewed her status report and a copy was provided. Chief Counsel Morrison provided additional details for guests in attendance. Interim Executive Director gives brief explanation of report to Chad Lassiter.

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

Interim Executive Director Hardiman provided an update of the PHRC budget. A copy of the budget summary is included in the meeting records. Interim Executive Director gives brief explanation of report to Chad Lassiter.

HUD and EEOC Reports

Director of Enforcement Jinada Rochelle was unable to give report due to absence. The HUD and EEOC monthly reports were included for review within the monthly meeting packet.

Report on Mediation

An overview of the monthly report was provided. Ms. Petruczok gave a brief overview of the Mediation Program and how it operates.

Taskforce

Education Director Geoff Biringer discussed taskforce activities and provided an update on current issues. Geoff Biringer reported the next Taskforce meeting will be Thursday, May 24, 2018.

Advisory Councils

Education Director Geoff Biringer discussed Council activities and provided an update on current issues.

Local HRCs

Hearing Examiner, Carl Summerson, was not able to give an update due to absence.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Bolstein addressed the Grandview Golf Course incident. Governor Wolf sent letters to the Commission asking the PHRC to address the incident and intervene.

MOTION:

Commissioner Robinson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Carusone that PHRC would schedule an investigatory hearing and issue a press release on same. Interim Executive Director Michael Hardiman abstained from the vote. With all in favor, motion carried.

As of the May Commission Meeting, the Commissioners have decided to write a press release stating PHRC will hold an investigatory hearing. A follow up letter was to be sent to Governor Wolf and Senator Hughes. A potential venue for the hearing is York County Community College. Commissioner Robinson suggested Chad Lassiter write a press release for distribution concurrent with his first day as Executive Director for impact.

Guest Chad Lassiter addressed a civil tension incident in Harrisburg involving a black female sorority allegedly harassed by state police while voluntarily cleaning along a highway. State police would be sending a trooper to the next task force meeting. PHRC reached out to the local Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations concerning the Starbucks incident but received no response from them. Chad Lassiter stated he is an acquaintance of the Executive Director of that Commission and will do what he can to mend those relationship's with local HRC's.

LETTERS OF COMMENT

Congratulations were extended to Deven Price regarding a letter of comment received from a complainant noting his kindness.

NEXT SESSION

The June Commission Meeting will be held on Monday, June 25, 2018 at 1:00 PM at 333 Market Street, Harrisburg PA, 17101 in the Honors Suite, 1st Floor.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

S\Joel Bolstein

Joel Bolstein
Interim Chairman

S\Radheshyam Agrawal

Mayur Patel
Secretary