

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

The meeting convened at 1:25 PM, Monday, July 23, 2018 at 333 Market Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners:

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

Staff:

Chad Dion Lassiter, Executive Director
Kathy Morrison, Chief Counsel
Jinada Rochelle, Director of Enforcement
Geoffrey Biringer, Director of Education and Community Services
Carl Summerson, Hearing Examiner
Lyle Wood, Pittsburgh Regional Office Director
Heather Roth, Harrisburg Regional Office Director
Diana Medley, Philadelphia Regional Office Director
Anja Velemir, Administrative Officer
Debbie Walters, Administrative Officer

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bolstein called the meeting to order at 1:25 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

APPROVAL OF COMPLIANCE MINUTES**MOTION:**

Commissioner Dawson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Robinson to approve the minutes of the June Commission Meeting. With all in favor, the motion carried to approve the minutes as written.

MOTION:

Commissioner Yiengst made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Robinson to approve the corrected minutes of the May Commission Meeting. With all in favor, the motion carried to approve the minutes as written.
(Commissioner Hardiman abstained from the vote since he was 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 prior to the meeting and is included with the minutes.

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

Executive Director Lassiter distributed his monthly report prior to the meeting, a copy of which is included with the minutes.

HUD and EEOC Reports

Director of Enforcement Jinada Rochelle noted that June ended the HUD contract period and the internal goal of 120 cases was met with 122 total closures.

The EEOC contract is on target. It has been decided a downward modification will not be requested this year and EEOC has advised that as of June PHRC has been granted credit on 608 cases.

Report on Mediation

An overview of the monthly report was provided by Katie Petruczok and an explanation of the process was discussed with Commissioners.

Taskforce

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

Advisory Councils

Education Director Geoff Biringer explained that the advisory councils are on hiatus for the summer.

Local HRCs

Hearing Examiner, Carl Summerson noted he is awaiting documents to be returned from the Attorney General's office. He will need to reach out to those HRCs that have not yet responded.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A discussion was led by Katie Petruczok on the Comment and Response Document for the clarification of "sex" as a protected class under the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act and Pennsylvania Fair Educational Opportunities Act from the open invitation for public comment.

MOTION:

Commissioner Hardiman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Carusone to approve the revised Guidance for the clarification of "sex" as a protected class under the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission and Pennsylvania Fair Educational Opportunities Act in place of the previous Policy 957. The revised guidance was approved by Commissioners with one nay vote from Commissioner Robinson. The revised guidance is to be implemented and posted on the PHRC website.

NEW BUSINESS

Executive Director Lassiter stated a new list of meeting dates and locations are to be posted.

Chairman Bolstein discussed the Crisis Protocol and asked Executive Director Lassiter if he had been provided a copy. The Protocol was developed through the Education and Community Service Division and Director Biringier agreed to provide Executive Director Lassiter with a copy for his review.

NEXT SESSION

The August Commission Meeting will be held on Monday, August 20, 2018 at 1:00 PM at 333 Market Street, Harrisburg PA, 17101 in the Heritage Rooms on the Lobby level.

ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION:

Commissioner Hardiman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Carusone to adjourn the meeting. With all in favor the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Joel Bolstein
Interim Chairman


o/b/o Mayur Patel

Mayur Patel
Secretary