

**PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING  
OF AUGUST 20, 2018**

The meeting convened at 1:40 PM, Monday, August 20, 2018 at 333 Market Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Commissioners:

Joel Bolstein, Interim Chair  
Dr. Raquel O. Yiengst, Vice Chair  
Mayur Patel, Secretary  
Rad Agrawal (phone)  
George Dawson (phone)  
Kathleen Dormer-Carusone (absent)  
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 (absent)  
Katherine Petruczok, Mediation Coordinator  
Tameka Hatcher, Administrative Officer  
Debbie Walters, Administrative Officer  
Anja Velemir, Administrative Officer

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Bolstein called the meeting to order at 1:40 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 MINUTES****MOTION:**

Commissioner Yiengst 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 with the revision noted on the name of the LGBTQ policy guidance referenced within the minutes.

**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****Advisory Councils**

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

**Local HRCs**

There were no updates to be provided this month.

**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 noted the July Taskforce meeting was postponed.

**HUD and EEOC Reports**

Director of Enforcement Jinada Rochelle explained that the decrease from 150 cases in 2017 to 120 cases in the 2018 contract goal is based on the decrease in Pennsylvania population.

The EEOC contract is making progress. The overtime project continues through the end of August and staff are working hard to meet the goal.

Commissioner Robinson requested an analysis of the cost of overtime compared to EEOC contract payment.

**Report on the Budget**

Executive Director Lassiter noted that the 2018 budget is for \$8.735 million.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Chairman Bolstein inquired about the cases pending in the Intake units and asked what is being done to relieve the backlog. Commissioner Hardiman noted that a proposal will be going out this week to resolve the backlog issue.

Commissioner Robinson made a proposal to supplement volunteer mediators in the Mediation Program with volunteers from the county bar associations.

Regional Director Heather Roth provided insight on the history of the Intake backlog and the potential solutions of over-staffing can cause an overflow in Investigation. The overflow in Investigation increases caseloads to the point where it has caused decreased closures and probable cause findings. Commissioner Hardiman noted, the faster a case can get in to the Mediation Program, the better the chance of resolution.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Director Biringer presented the commission with the resume of Susan Luna for approval to join the Hazelton Advisory Council.

### **MOTION:**

Commissioner Patel made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Yiengst to approve Susan Luna for membership to the Hazelton Advisory Council. With all in favor, the motion was approved.

### **NEXT SESSION**

The September Commission Meeting will be held on Monday, September 24, 2018 at 1:00 PM at 333 Market Street, Harrisburg PA, 17101 in the Honors Suite on the First floor.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

### **MOTION:**

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

Respectfully submitted,



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Joel Bolstein  
Interim Chairman

  
o/b/o Mayur Patel

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Mayur Patel  
Secretary