

**PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING
OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2018**

The meeting convened at 1:25 PM, Monday, September 24, 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
Michael Hardiman
Curtis Jones
Gerald S. Robinson
Aleena Sorathia

Staff:

Chad Dion Lassiter, Executive Director
Martin Cunningham, Assistant 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
Renee Martin, Director of Communications
Tameka Hatcher, Education & Outreach Coordinator
Debbie Walters, Administrative Officer
Anja Velemir, Administrative Officer
Devin Heckman, Administrative Assistant
Katherine Petruczok, Mediation Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bolstein called the meeting to order. 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 Sorathia made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Agrawal to approve the minutes of the August Commission Meeting. With all in favor, the motion carried.

CHIEF COUNSEL'S LITIGATION STATUS REPORT

Assistant Chief Counsel Martin Cunningham provided the report on behalf of Chief Counsel Morrison in her absence.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**Advisory Councils**

Education Director Geoff Biringer highlighted his report and discussed the meeting held in Erie that included 20-plus local leaders including the Mayor to re-engage the local Erie Commission and that most of the advisory councils are now getting back to work after the summer hiatus. Director Biringer noted that a few councils need chairpersons.

Commissioner Yiengst invited PHRC staff to come to the Reading Hispanic Center. In the past, PHRC staff would come to the Center once a month to assist those needing to file complaints.

Local HRCs

Hearing Examiner Carl Summerson noted he is looking to the Attorney General's office for the returned MOUs previously submitted and that he is working on language for HRCs which have the same powers as the PHRC to develop work-sharing agreements.

Report on Mediation

An overview of the monthly report was provided by Mediation Coordinator Katie Petruczok. Attorney Petruczok also noted the revisions to the monthly report to make it easier to understand.

Commissioner Hardiman asked Attorney Petruczok if she was aware of the average time a case spends in Mediation status. Attorney Petruczok stated that she did not have the current statistics but that she would provide same. Attorney Petruczok reported that the number of mediators decreased as the number of available cases decreased. Commissioner Hardiman also asked for data on how long it takes a case to get to the Mediation status and any significant impact this has reaching a successful mediation. Executive Director Lassiter recommended Attorney Petruczok use Commissioner Robinson's proposal to identify possible attorneys for pro bono services for recruiting additional mediators.

HUD and EEOC Reports

Director of Enforcement Jinada Rochelle noted the modified HUD report showing 120 cases for 2018-19 year as based on the current census.

The EEOC goal has been met with extra cases available if needed to balance any potential reviews or cases denied credit.

Director Rochelle discussed the upcoming EEOC Mini Conference in October. Commissioner Jones stated the importance of conference attendees bringing back knowledge gained to share with the rest of the staff.

Communications Update

Director of Communications Renee Martin provided an update on current and community events.

Commissioner Carusone recommended Director Martin contact *Harrisburg Magazine* to have current PHRC events included in their calendar portion of the monthly magazine.

Report of the Executive Director

Executive Director Lassiter, Administrative Officer Anja Velemir and Education Coordinator Tameka Hatcher met with the new executive director of the LGBT Commission and a current review of the budget was provided.

Professional Development & Engagement

- Mindfulness in the Workplace Course for PHRC
- HUD & EEOC Technical Training Request
- PHRC Social Justice Lecture Series (Sexual Harassment)
- #MeToo Panel -
- Basic Compliance Training Meet & Greet
- PHRC Exit Interview Progress Update
- Commonwealth Leadership Development Institute
- York, PA Town Hall Racial Tension Update
- Bridgeport, PA Racial Tension Update
- Abington, PA Racial Tension Update
- Trainings & Conferences
- Erie, PA Update
- Legislative Testimony

Brand Identity & Marketing

- PHRC Web-Site Redesign Update
- PHRC Social Justice Lecture Series Community Outreach Design
- IAOHRA Conference Update
- York, PA Run
- EEOC National Conferences and State-Wide Greater Visibility
- Upcoming DOE meeting with PHRC
- PHRC Inter Agency Task Force Revamping
- Hate Mapping
- PHRC Commonwealth Superintendent Meeting

Outreach

- Erie, PA
- York, PA
- PHRC Volunteer Corps
- Harrisburg Police Advisory Meeting

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

NEXT SESSION

The October Commission Meeting will be held Monday, October 22, 2018, at 1:00 PM at the University of Pittsburgh, O'Hara Student Center, Pittsburgh, PA.

ADJOURNMENT

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


MOTION:

Commissioner Yiengst made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hardiman 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