

**PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING
OF OCTOBER 22, 2018**

The meeting convened at 1:10 PM, Monday, October 22, 2018 at 333 Market Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners:

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

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
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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES**MOTION:**

Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hardiman to approve the minutes of the September Commission Meeting. Commissioner Shanker abstained as he was not on the board at that time. With the remaining commissioners in favor, the motion carried to approve the minutes.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chairman Bolstein asked the guests in attendance to introduce themselves and state the agency or organization they represent.

Executive Director Lassiter extended his appreciation for those who have come to attend the meeting and is thankful for the partnerships and a warm welcome to our staff attending from our Pittsburgh Regional Office as they are the ones advocating on behalf of the citizens.

MANAGEMENT UPDATES

Monthly reports were provided in advance of the meeting by the directorship. Executive Director Lassiter provided highlights for those in attendance.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Lassiter explained his vision statement for the PHRC to bring people to the Beloved Community. A framework that comes out of the teachings of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel and looking the Civil Rights vision of making PHRC the premier Civil Rights enforcement agency in the Commonwealth to be looked upon as the thought leaders with regards to discrimination.

Executive Director Lassiter explained the shared leadership philosophy that surrounds the Racial Tension Reduction Response Team will be comprised of staff members from all levels to provide a multitude of lenses.

A new program initiated by PHRC, the Social Justice Lecture Series, was developed to rejuvenate us. The second of which will take place this evening with Dr. Michael Eric Dyson.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Panel Members consisted of Celest Scott, Crystal Jennings, Professor Gerald Dickinson, Helen Gerhart and Carl Redwood Jr. Biographies of the panelists is attached.

The questions posed were tailored to each of the panelists' area of expertise. Executive Director Lassiter encouraged participation in the form of questions and comments from those in attendance at the meeting. Panelists and PHRC staff provided feedback and answers to the questions posed.

NEXT SESSION

The November Commission Meeting will be held Monday, November 19, 2018, at 1:00 PM in Harrisburg, PA.


ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,



Joel Bolstein
Interim Chairman


o/b/o Mayur Patel

Mayur Patel
Secretary