

**PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING
OF FEBRUARY 25, 2019**

The meeting convened at 1:40 PM, Monday, February 25, 2019 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners:

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

Staff:

Chad Dion Lassiter, Executive Director
Kathy Morrison, Chief Counsel
Jinada Rochelle, Director of Enforcement
Geoffrey Biringier, 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
Reed Reynolds, Education & Outreach Coordinator
Katie Petruczok, Mediation Coordinator
Debbie Walters, Administrative Officer
Anja Velemir, Administrative Officer
Devin Heckman, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bolstein called the meeting to order. The meeting had been advertised and was open to the public, in accordance with the provisions of the Sunshine Act. Prior to the meeting, in keeping with the confidentiality requirements of the Sunshine Act; there had been a closed session to discuss compliance matters.

The chair announced the meeting was being recorded. Attendance was taken and the presence of a quorum noted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES**MOTION:**

Commissioner Yiengst made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dormer to approve the minutes of the January Commission. With all in favor, the motion carried to approve the minutes.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chairman Bolstein welcomed guests in attendance.

Executive Director Lassiter presented the book recommendation of the month as American Apartheid; Segregation and the Making of the Underclass by Douglas S. Masse & Nancy A. Denton.

Executive Director Lassiter asked staff and commissioners to introduce themselves to the guests in attendance.

MANAGEMENT UPDATES

Chief Counsel Morrison provided highlights of current court cases for the benefit of those in attendance.

Director of Education, Geoffrey Biringer described the purpose and current activity of local advisory councils and how they assist PHRC by providing feedback regarding local issues and concerns.

Hearing Examiner, Carl Summerson provided an updated status on MOUs and workshare agreements between PHRC and local commissions. There are currently six in effect and four more in process.

Mediation Coordinator, Katie Petruczuk provided a review of the monthly report and an overview of the Mediation Program.

Education and Outreach Coordinator, Tameka Hatcher provided an overview and current activity of the PHRC Taskforce.

Director of Enforcement, Jinada Rochelle reviewed the HUD and EEOC reports.

Director of Communications, Renee Martin provided highlights from the monthly report, noting the finalization of the Annual Report, updates to the website, trainings and legislative updates.

Executive Director Lassiter reviewed the monthly report.

Chairman Bolstein extend thanks to PHRC staff and expressed how grateful the commissioners are for all the hard work and dedication to the mission of the Commission.

ADJUDICATION

The case Blaine v. Denniston was presented for adjudication of the revised Opinion and Order. by the commissioners.

MOTION:

Commissioner Yiengst made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dormer to approve the recommendation of the Hearing Examiner with regard to the Respondent's order to cease and desist payment as outlined in the Order. With all in favor, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Bolstein called for a vote to approve the proposed schedule of Commission meeting dates for the 2019-20 fiscal year. With all in favor the proposed schedule of meeting dates was approved for publication.

Director of Enforcement, Jinada Rochelle moderated a panel discussion entitled Fair Housing in the 21st Century: Addressing the Elephants of Gentrification in Philadelphia. The panel featured Angela McIver, of Fair Housing Rights, Philadelphia Councilman and PHRC Commissioner Curtis Jones, Philadelphia Councilman Kenyatta Johnson and Gilberto Gonzalez, Senior Design Director from the Community College of Philadelphia. The panel members were presented with questions regarding Gentrification that elicited a thoughtful discussion with questions and comment from the audience.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public in attendance provided information and comments to the commissioners regarding issues of importance to Philadelphia.

NEXT SESSION

The February Commission Meeting will be held Monday, March 25, 2019, at 1:30 PM in Allentown, PA.

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was recorded for video and sound, which will become part of the permanent record.

MOTION:

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

Respectfully submitted,



Joel Bolstein
Chairman


o/b/o Mayur Patel

Mayur Patel
Secretary