

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

The meeting convened at 1:30 PM, Monday, March 25, 2019 in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Commissioners:

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

Staff:

Chad Dion Lassiter, Executive Director  
Martin Cunningham, Interim Chief Counsel  
Jinada Rochelle, Director of Enforcement  
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  
Debbie Walters, Administrative Officer  
Devin Heckman, Administrative Assistant  
Katie Petruczok, Mediation Coordinator  
Reed Reynolds, Education and Community Services Division

**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 Sorathia to approve the minutes of the February Commission. Commissioner Shanker abstained as he was not present at the previous month's meeting. With the remaining in favor, the motion carried to approve the minutes.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Chairman Bolstein welcomed guests in attendance and asked the commissioners and staff to introduce themselves.

**MANAGEMENT UPDATES**

Interim Chief Counsel Martin Cunningham provided highlights of current court cases for the benefit of those in attendance.

Hearing Examiner Carl Summerson provided an updated status on MOUs and workshare agreements between PHRC and local commissions and explained for the audience what local human relations commission MOUs are and why they are needed. There are currently six in effect and four more in process.

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

Executive Director Lassiter explained the inter-agency taskforce, their duties and the use of townhalls as a means of PHRC becoming proactive versus reactive.

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

Director of Communications, Renee Martin provided highlights from the monthly report noting the television spot in Philadelphia will become a series and also appearing on Iheart radio next week. Executive Director Lassiter added that the meeting facilitated between PHRC and the Department of Corrections brought about finalizing the PHRC recommendation of the Arts and Crafts venture, where it has become an official policy in all 24 state correctional institutions. Each correctional facility will have an arts and crafts area where the incarcerated parent can interact with their child or children during the visit and maintain the bonds between parent and child. The program was so well received that *World Health and News Report* published an article about it and this publication reaches over 5 million people.

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**

Adjudication vote was tabled until the April meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The resume of Donna King of State College was proposed for membership to the State College Advisory Council.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Yiengst made a motion seconded by Commissioner Robinson to approve Ms. King for membership in the State College Advisory Council. With all in favor, motion carried.

A Panel Discussion, moderated by Commissioner and Executive Director of the Bradbury Sullivan Center Adrian Shanker, on LGBT issues faced by youth in public schools. An informative and spirited discussion ensued which provided the commissioners with foundational information directly from those involved on a daily basis. The panel consisted of Jason Landau Goodman, Executive Director of Pennsylvania Youth Congress, Molly Magro, Library Media Specialist, Eyer Middle School East Penn School District, Rachel Zane, Biology teacher and Advisor to the Gay Straight Alliance at William Allen High School, Allentown School District, and Kim Ketterer, Youth Programs Manager at Bradbury Sullivan Center.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

Chairman Bolstein thanked the panel members for coming and sharing their feelings and experiences. Bolstein also stated, "The better we can educate ourselves, the better we can advocate."

**NEXT SESSION**

The next Commission Meeting will be held Monday, April 22, 2019, at 5:00 PM in Hazleton, PA.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**MOTION:**


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

Respectfully submitted,



---

Joel Bolstein  
Chairman

  
o/b/o Mayur Patel

---

Mayur Patel  
Secretary

