

**PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING
OF MAY 20, 2019**

The meeting convened at 1:35 PM, Monday, May 20, 2019 in York, Pennsylvania.

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners:

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

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
Debbie Walters, Administrative Officer
Tameka Hatcher, Education & Outreach Coordinator

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 Hardiman to approve the minutes of the April Commission. With all in favor, the motion carried to approve the minutes.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chairman Bolstein welcomed guests in attendance.

Chairman Bolstein gave the floor to York Mayor Michael Helfrich who thanked PHRC for coming and provided an update on the current initiatives the City is confronting that perpetuate racism.

MANAGEMENT UPDATES

Acting Chief Counsel Martin Cunningham 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. Director Biringer said the department is looking forward to working with new areas.

Hearing Examiner, Carl Summerson provided an updated status on MOUs and workshare agreements between PHRC and local commissions and making ordinances to establish local commissions in other areas. Summerson explained that York City has some of the same powers as PHRC but stressed the importance of enacting the work-sharing agreement to ensure the people's rights.

Executive Director Lassiter noted the commission is currently in the process of hiring two staff members for the Mediation program.

Education and Outreach Coordinator, Tameka Hatcher provided an overview and current activity of the PHRC Taskforce and the trainings and workshops that are offered.

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

Director of Communications, Renee Martin was absent. Executive Director Lassiter reviewed the current status of events and those upcoming.

Executive Director Lassiter reviewed the monthly report highlighting current trainings and events and provided an update on the No Hate in our State campaign.

ADJUDICATION

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Community partners in attendance provided information and comments to the commissioners regarding current issues and initiatives in their organizations. Community partners who spoke are Pastor Kerney, President of Black Ministers Association; Fred Walker, Shilu Baptist Church and Community Street Soldiers; Jane Conniver, Confronting Racism Coalition and Ideas Center; Remona Keena's,

Black Ministers Association; Mabuchi Cooper, York Advisory Council; Cierra Ramos, York Local Human Relations Commission; John Heister, York Advisory Council and Confronting Racism Coalition.

NEXT SESSION

The June Commission Meeting will be held Monday, June 24, 2019, at 5:00 PM in Erie, PA.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

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

Respectfully submitted,



Joel Bolstein
Chairman



o/b/o Mayur Patel

Mayur Patel
Secretary