

**PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING
OF JUNE 24, 2019**

The meeting convened at 5:14 PM, Monday, June 24, 2019 in Erie, Pennsylvania.

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners:

Joel Bolstein, Chair (absent)
Dr. Raquel O. Yiengst, Vice Chair (absent)
Mayur Patel, Secretary (absent)
Rad Agrawal (absent)
George Dawson (absent)
Kathleen Dormer (absent)
Michael Hardiman
Curtis Jones
Gerald S. Robinson (absent)
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
Debbie Walters, Administrative Officer
Anja Velemir, Administrative Officer
Tameka Hatcher, Education & Outreach Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Commissioner Hardiman 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.

Attendance was taken and the lack of a quorum noted. As this was known in advance, it was decided that during the Executive Session while a quorum was recorded, any actions requiring a vote of the commissioners would take place at that time. The Minutes of the May Public meeting were approved. A motion recording the vote is included below.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES**MOTION:**

Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hardiman to approve the minutes of the May Commission. With all in favor, the motion carried to approve the minutes. Commissioners in attendance for the vote were Chairman Joel Bolstein, Vice Chair Dr. Raquel Yiengst, Commissioners Michael Hardiman, Curtis Jones, Gerald Robinson, and Adrian Shanker.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Acting Chair Hardiman welcomed guests in attendance and had staff and commissioners introduce themselves to the guests in attendance.

MANAGEMENT UPDATES

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

Directors provided monthly program updates and an overview of upcoming events to the commissioners during the previous session.

ADJUDICATION

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

FBI Presentation on Violent Extremism, Civil Rights and Hate Crimes was presented by Special Agents Carla Durrant and Madisyn Moore and Analysts Ashlyn Fratto and Kelly Dyer. They shared important information on how to recognize the difference between free speech and hate speech, hate groups in Pennsylvania and some of the behavioral indicators to look for. Their presentation also highlighted the importance of community engagement as it strengthens community empowerment for identification reporting and prevention. They shared the phone number for the FBI's Pittsburgh Office 412-432-4000 the phone number for the Erie Resident Agency 814-452-4516 and the website for online tips and public leads www.fbi.gov/tips.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Initially, concern was raised by a few of the guests who attended the meeting that time would run out and they would not get to voice their concerns. In a professional spirit, Executive Director Lassiter assured the guests that each and every one wishing to speak would be heard before the meeting came to a close.

The presentation taking place was ended and transitioned directly to the Public Comment portion of the meeting. Executive Director Lassiter acknowledged that PHRC will plan to do better for the community in this regard.

Community members and partners were in attendance from the Erie School Board Angela Euell-McNair, Erie Human Relations Commission Wayne Harbison and Shawnta Pullium-Brown who provided information and comments to the commissioners regarding current issues and initiatives in their organizations and current issues and concerns in the Erie area.

NEXT SESSION


The July Commission Meeting will be held Monday, July 22, 2019, at 1:30 PM in Reading, PA.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,



Joel Bolstein
Chairman


o/b/o Mayur Patel

Mayur Patel
Secretary