

**PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING
OF JULY 22, 2019**

The meeting convened at 5:14 PM, Monday, July 22, 2019 in Reading, 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
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
Guerline L. Laurore, Esq., Director of Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs
Lyle Wood, Pittsburgh Regional Office Director
Heather Roth, Harrisburg 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.

Attendance was taken and a quorum noted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION:

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chairman Bolstein apologized for the delay in starting the meeting and asked guests to introduce themselves.

In attendance was Dr. Christina Baumer, PA Department of Education, Karima Archie, Reading Human Relations Commission, Rick Olmos, COO and Vice President of Operations at Centro Hispano and Jami, the Executive Director of Social Services here at the Reading YMCA.

Executive Director Lassiter asked Jamie to share information about the social programs of the YMCA.

Jamie stated she has been with the YMCA for 19 years. They manage a 150 bed housing unit, which houses around 400 persons each year. They charge \$80 per week. They also have a 20 bed transitional housing facility off-site near Berks County designed to help keep the residents clean and sober. Jamie also spoke about the bus program, childcare and the 7th grader free membership program offered by the YMCA.

Commissioner Jones asked what Jamie sees as the top three issues in Reading.

1. Elderly with medical issues need housing,
2. Mental Health issues; and
3. Transient population

Discussion ensued.

Chairman Bolstein announced the meeting's agenda would be limited to public comment due to the late start.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Baumer, from the Department of Education stated she was in attendance to see this facet of her Mentee's job duties. Dr. Baumer explained she and her mentee, Debbie Walters are enrolled in the Commonwealth's Mentorship Program through the Office of Administration.

Ms. Archie of the Reading Commission provided an update on issues relative to the commission.

Mr. Olmos of Centro Hispano spoke about their organization and the work they do for Reading and the surrounding area. Commissioner Jones asked Mr. Olmos what he saw as Centro Hispano's top three issues.

1. Housing,
2. Transportation, and
3. Lack of local Spanish speaking representatives at state offices to assist with filing paperwork. Mr. Olmos expanded upon this noting it is difficult to find translators with sufficient medical knowledge for accurate translation services.

Executive Director Lassiter instructed that within the next 30 days, a meeting is to be scheduled at Centro Hispano to explain PHRC and to help the public with filing complaints. Mr. Olmos stated he would expect approximately 100 people to attend.

NEXT SESSION


The August Commission Meeting will be held Monday, August 26, 2019, at 5:00 PM in Scranton, PA.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,



Joel Bolstein
Chairman


o/b/o Mayur Patel

Mayur Patel
Secretary