

**PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING  
OF FEBRUARY 24, 2020**

The meeting convened at 1:56 PM, Monday, February 24, 2020 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Commissioners:

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

Staff:

Chad Dion Lassiter, Executive Director  
Martin Cunningham, O/B/O Chief Counsel  
Jinada Rochelle, Director of Enforcement  
Carl Summerson, Hearing Examiner  
Guerline L. Laurore, Esq., Director of Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs  
Mary Ellen Balchunis, Director of Education and Community Service  
Lyle Wood, Pittsburgh Regional Office Director  
Heather Roth, Harrisburg Regional Office Director  
Diana Medley, Philadelphia Regional Office Director  
Debbie Walters, Administrative Officer  
Anja Velemir, Special Assistant to Executive Director  
Carrie Simmons, 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.

Attendance was taken and a quorum noted.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Hardiman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sorathia to approve the minutes of the January Public Meeting. With all in favor, motion carried.

**MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

Director of Enforcement, Jinada Rochelle provided an update on the Fair Housing Conference scheduled for October. The speaker will be the author of *The Color of Law*, Gail Williams O'Brien and Angela McIvor has agreed to be the speaker for the Annual Fair Housing Event. A follow-up meeting has been scheduled with Jamie Williamson of EEOC.

Executive Director Lassiter provided the commissioners with updates and highlights of the Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs and Mediation reports on behalf of Director Laureore as she is also attending the Leadership Development Institute today.

The Director of Communications position will be vacated on April 10, as Director Martin plans for retirement. Executive Director Lassiter noted the position will be posted.

Executive Director Lassiter announced that quarterly meetings of advisory councils will be held in Harrisburg and noted the importance of a report being submitted to him following attendance.

**Approval of Membership to Advisory Council**

Resumes were provided to the commissioners in advance of the meeting for their review.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Yiengst made a motion, seconded by Mayur Patel to approve those proposed for membership to the Advisory Council. With all in favor, motion carried.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Sorathia made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to delegate authority for the approval of membership to advisory councils to the Executive Director. With all in favor, motion carried.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Hardiman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Yiengst appoint Local Commission Members Colon as Chair of the Reading and Davis as Chair of the Montgomery County Commissions. With all in favor, motion carried.

Director of Communications, Renee Martin to issue press release on the \$2,500 awards presented to advocates in exposing injustice in LGBT Organizations and four Pittsburgh schools who were selected to receive Social Justice Award of \$2,500 each for young people to do community projects.

Executive Director asked that Regional Director Medley prepare a brief report following the House of Faith Event she plans to attend.

**ADJUDICATION:**

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Hearing Examiner to find liability on the respondent in the case Cammack v. Durham D&M, LLC, d/b/a Durham School Services. With all in favor, motion carried

**NEXT SESSION**

The next Commission Meeting is scheduled to be held Monday, March 23, 2020, at 1:30 PM in Harrisburg, PA.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:**


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

Respectfully submitted,



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Joel Bolstein  
Interim Chairman

  
o/b/o Mayur Patel

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Mayur Patel  
Secretary