

**PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING
OF MAY 18, 2020**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting convened virtually at 2:00 PM, on Monday, May 18, 2020.

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners:

Joel Bolstein, Chair
Dr. Raquel O. Yiengst, Vice Chair
Mayur Patel, Secretary
Rad Agrawal
George Dawson (excused)
Michael Hardiman
Curtis Jones (absent)
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
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

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 February Public Meeting. With all in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Bolstein welcomed Samantha Lopez as a member of the public to the meeting. Ms. Lopez is a member of PHRC investigation staff from the Philadelphia Regional Office and had no comment she wished to address at this time.

MANAGEMENT REPORTS

Director of Enforcement, Jinada Rochelle provided an update on the Fair Housing Conference scheduled for October and an update on EEOC contract. The Sexual Harassment Symposium has been postponed to 2021.

Director of Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs, Guerline Laurore provided an update on legislation being followed and partner organizations. Director Laurore also provided an update on the Mediation program.

The Director of Communications Renee Martin reported on transition plans for a new director to come onboard following her retirement scheduled for June 5.

Hearing Examiner, Carl Summerson provided an update on the Advisory Councils. Executive Director Lassiter added that the Councils are the eyes and ears of the commission.

Executive Director Lassiter provided an update on Racial Response noting an increase in transphobia and xenophobia and that the Interagency Taskforce will be working with the attorney general's office on a Hate Crime tip sheet.

PHRC Outreach efforts through virtual town halls are planned for "How to File a Complaint" and "Pandemic of Hate: How to cope from a mental health perspective."

ADJUDICATION:

Hearing Examiner Summerson presented the following cases to the commissioners.

201704134	Pinti v. Birdsboro Auto Parts Inc.
201901691	Pinti v. Tschudy
201704064	Gregory v. Boo-Boo's Barbeque d/b/a Boo-Boo's Barbeque, LLC
201900137	Gregory v. WARE

MOTION:

Commissioner Agrawal made a motion seconded by Commissioner Sorathia to approve the recommendation of the Hearing Examiner on the respondent in the case, Pinti v. Birdsboro Auto Parts Inc. With all in favor, motion carried.

MOTION:

Commissioner Agrawal made a motion seconded by Commissioner Shanker to approve the recommendation of the Hearing Examiner on the respondent in the case, Pinti v. Tschudy. With all in favor, motion carried.

MOTION:

Commissioner Agrawal made a motion seconded by Commissioner Hardiman to approve the recommendation of the Hearing Examiner on the respondent in the case, Gregory v. Boo-Boo's Barbeque d/b/a Boo-Boo's Barbeque, LLC. With all in favor, motion carried.

MOTION:

Commissioner Agrawal made a motion seconded by Commissioner Hardiman to approve the recommendation of the Hearing Examiner on the respondent in the case, Gregory v. WARE. With all in favor, motion carried.

Executive Director Lassiter thanked Ms. Lopez for attending the Public Meeting as an integral part of the Commission, the Commissioners for being on the call and senior staff for all you have contributed knowing there are a number of staff not only teleworking they are also providing care for elderly relatives and homeschooling.

Chairman Bolstein thanked everyone for working so hard, wished Renee well in her retirement and thanked Executive Director Lassiter for the hard work as the director of the commission. Chairman Bolstein also thanked Debbie Walters for her work with setting up and monitoring the virtual meeting.

NEXT SESSION

The next Commission Meeting is scheduled to be held Monday, June 22, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

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

Respectfully submitted,



Joel Bolstein
Interim Chairman


o/b/o Mayur Patel

Mayur Patel
Secretary