

**PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING  
OF JUNE 22, 2020**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting convened virtually at 2:00 PM, on Monday, June 22, 2020.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Commissioners:

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

Staff:

Chad Dion Lassiter, Executive Director  
Leslie Marant, 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 Yiengst to approve the minutes of the May Public Meeting. With all in favor, motion carried.

**MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

Executive Director Lassiter welcomed everyone to the monthly Commission meeting.

Chief Counsel Marant reported that Neshaminy filed a brief in court and reviewed the revised monthly report provided in advance of the meeting.

The mini root in Pittsburgh identified seven cases in the last few weeks and may see an increase in cases for the public hearing docket.

With nearing the end of the HUD contract year on June 30<sup>th</sup>, staff area getting cases reviewed and submitted and looking at how the Housing Division will be structured.

Executive Director Lassiter noted that once able, PHRC will be contracting with three agencies to conduct in-person and phone testing for housing discrimination. This has been placed in abeyance due to COVID-19.

This past Sunday, the Fair Housing show had 48K viewers. The show will air the first and third Sunday of each month. Executive Director received good feedback on the first show.

Due to the new case procedures, we expect to see an increase in cases for EEOC.

Executive Director Lassiter stated that the hiring perspective for the Director of Communications will focus on social media skills. An IT ticket was submitted for changes to the web page and will have training provided to a current staff member to make changes inhouse.

Hearing Examiner Summerson provided the commissioners with an update on the advisory councils.

Executive Director shared the make-up of Commission Committees with each one chaired by a commissioner and PHRC staff members as liaisons to provide their expertise and direction. Committees will be Education Equity, Policy, Police & Community Relations, Diversity, and Programs & Community Outreach. Notification to committee members will be sent out by the Executive Director.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Chairman Bolstein led a discussion on the landmark case on LGBTQ and suggested PHRC take another look at our guidance to see if there are any updates necessary. Chief Counsel Marant shared that she has met with the legal staff and believe guidance does not need any updates.

It was recommended to have an all staff training to ensure HRRs are understanding the decision

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Executive Director Lassiter presented the calendar of upcoming Commission meeting dates proposed for the remainder of 2020 and 2021 for the Commission's approval, noting that the dates have been reviewed for religious and holiday conflicts.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Hardiman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Yiengst to approve the 2020-2021 Meeting Calendar as provided. With all in favor, motion approved.

**ADJUDICATION:**

None

**NEXT SESSION**

The next Commission Meeting is scheduled to be held Monday, July 27, 2020.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:**


Commissioner Dawson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Yiengst 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