

**PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF PUBLIC COMMISSION MEETING  
January 25, 2021**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting convened virtually at 2:10 PM, on Monday, January 25, 2021

**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  
Aleena Sorathia

Staff:

Chad Dion Lassiter, Executive Director  
Samuel Rivera, Chief Counsel  
Morgan Williams, Deputy Chief Counsel  
Carl Summerson, Hearing Examiner  
Guerline Laurore, Esq., Director of Policy & Intergovernmental Affairs (absent)  
Adrian Garcia, Director of Fair Housing and Commercial Property  
Laura Argenbright, Director of Communications  
Lyle Wood, Pittsburgh Regional Office Director  
Heather Roth, Harrisburg Regional Office Director  
Debbie Walters, Administrative Officer  
Anja Velemir, Special Assistant to Executive Director (absent)

**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 Agrawal to approve the minutes of the December Public Meeting. With all in favor, the motion carried.

**ADJUDICATION:**

Case #	Case Name	Type
201902964	Gray v. Joe Darrah Inc., d/b/a J&K Salvage	Proposed Order of Liability
201903148	Gray v. Joe Darrah	Proposed Order of Liability
202000391	Gray v. Cody Darrah	Proposed Order of Liability

Chairman Bolstein announced his need to recuse himself from the votes regarding the adjudication cases. Chairman Bolstein then transferred the gavel to the Vice Chair, Commissioner Yiengst.

Motions Examiner Summerson provided the background of the cases and his recommendation to the commission.

Vice Chair Yiengst called for motions.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Patel made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dawson to approve the proposed Order of Liability in case 201902964. With all in favor, motion carried. Chairman Bolstein recused himself from voting on this motion.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Patel made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sorathia to approve the proposed Order of Liability in case 201903148. With all in favor, motion carried. Chairman Bolstein recused himself from voting on this motion.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Patel made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dawson to approve the proposed Order of Liability in case 202000391. With all in favor, motion carried. Chairman Bolstein recused himself from voting on this motion.

**SETTLEMENT**

Chairman Bolstein announced the proposal of settlement in the case Edwards v. PHRC. A roll call vote was taken to determine the Commission's decision on acceptance of the proposed settlement. Commissioners Bolstein, Dawson, Hardiman, Patel, and Yiengst voted to reject; Commissioners Shanker and Sorathia voted to approve; the proposed settlement agreement. Commissioner Agrawal was present; however, his vote was not audible due to technical difficulties.

Commissioner Jones was not present to vote on this matter. By majority decision of Commissioners voting, the proposed settlement was rejected. Chief Counsel Rivera was instructed to notify the Attorney General and magistrate of the Commission's decision to reject the proposed settlement.

Chairman Bolstein opened the floor to the commissioners to introduce themselves and Executive Director Lassiter opened the floor to Commission staff to introduce themselves those in attendance.

Presenters from the Leadership Development Institute Alumni Association, Claire Osborne, Kirsten Shontz and Lynndell Perry presented a training to Commissioners and Commission staff on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. The training touched on the Change Management Process followed by a questions and answers session.

It was noted that Commissioner Patel, and staff liaison Samuel Rivera of the PHRC Diversity Committee will be reaching out to Kirsten as President of the LDI Alumni Association. Beth Andrioli, OPE has program information that will be shared.

Executive Director Lassiter expressed his appreciation to everyone on the panel and thanked them for the work they are doing.

#### **MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

None

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **NEXT SESSION**

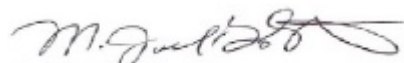
The next Commission Meeting is scheduled to be held virtually on Monday, February 22, 2021.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

##### **MOTION:**

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

Respectfully submitted,



M. Joel Bolstein  
Chairman

s/ Mayur Patel

Mayur Patel  
Secretary