

**PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF PUBLIC COMMISSION MEETING  
February 22, 2021**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting convened virtually at 2:03 PM, on Monday, February 22, 2021

**ATTENDANCE:**

Commissioners:

Joel Bolstein, Chair  
Dr. Raquel O. Yiengst, Vice Chair  
Mayur Patel, Secretary  
Rad Agrawal  
George Dawson  
Michael Hardiman  
Curtis Jones  
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 (absent)  
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 Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Agrawal to approve the minutes of the January Public Meeting. With all in favor, the motion carried.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Executive Director Lassiter welcomed and introduced Jalila Parker, Executive Director of the Governor's Advisory Commission on African American Affairs, as a special guest to today's meeting followed by introductions of commissioners and staff.

Executive Director Parker provided the commission with an overview on the current activities of the commission, reflections and renewal of the African American people.

Ms. Parker explained that the commission is one of five Affinity Commissions out of the Governor's office with 20 members. Their mission is to advise the Governor's office of impacts on the Black community. Their priorities are to address the foreseeable needs of the community and heal wounds.

Director of Communications Laura Argenbright thanked Ms. Parker for providing a better understanding on how the commission works.

Chairman Bolstein noted that all the issues Ms. Parker spoke of are also important to the PHRC, especially education and disparities in the poorer communities. It is Chairman Bolstein's wish to partner with the commission to effect change.

Commissioner Yiengst expressed her feeling that in the spirit of cooperation, PHRC should partner with all the Affinity commissions. It was noted that all the commissions meet monthly as a group.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dr. Abid Kazi, of Hershey PA, joined the meeting to learn about what PHRC does. Executive Director Lassiter thanked him for his interest and for joining the meeting today. Dr. Kazi expressed his interest in participating in a local commission or advisory council.

**MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

Current highlights of division activities and events were shared for the benefit of meeting guests. Executive Director Lassiter provided a list of upcoming outreach events.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

The resume of Jesse Barlow was presented for approval for membership to the Centre County Advisory Council.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Yiengst made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sorathia to approve the membership proposal. With all in favor, motion carried.

**NEXT SESSION**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:**

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

Respectfully submitted,



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M. Joel Bolstein  
Chairman

s/Mayur Patel

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Mayur Patel  
Secretary