

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

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting convened virtually at 2:12 PM, on Monday, March 22, 2021.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Commissioners:

Joel Bolstein, Chair  
Dr. Raquel O. Yiengst, Vice Chair  
Mayur Patel, Secretary  
Rad Agrawal  
George Dawson  
Michael Hardiman (excused)  
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  
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 Mijocevic, 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 Agrawal made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Yiengst to approve the minutes of the February Public Meeting. Commissioners voted on the motion followed by instruction for a correction to indicate attendance for Commissioner Jones. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Chief Counsel, Samuel Rivera proposed the Commission initiate a motion on whether the Commission wishes to participate in mediation regarding the Cooper v. PHRC matter.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Agrawal made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones for PHRC to not participate in court mediation and for PHRC Chief Counsel Rivera to notify the court of the same. With all in favor, motion carried.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Executive Director Lassiter welcomed the staff and guests to the monthly meeting. Gena Smith, 2021 graduate of the Leadership Lancaster class had attended a Zoom meeting last week and was invited by Director of Housing and Public Accommodation, Adrian Garcia. Judie Senkow-Richards is associated with the Dickson City Human Relations Commission. The Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

**MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

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

Executive Director Lassiter discussed the 12 advisory councils, describing them as the eyes and ears, heart and soul of the Commission and how very helpful they are with the work we do. Also shared was an overview of the Commission committees, commissioner chairs and staff liaisons. Executive Director Lassiter provided an overview of the structure and purpose of each committee.

Commissioner Jones announced that the City of Philadelphia is presenting a citation from the City to Diana Medley, who retired from PHRC at the end of 2020 for her years of service and outreach.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Annually, as outlined within the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, the Commission acted upon motions for the reappointment of the Vice Chair and Secretary positions.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Bolstein made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to reappoint Commissioner Raquel Yiengst to the position of Vice Chair and Commissioner Mayur Patel to the position of Secretary. With all in favor, motion carried.

**NEXT SESSION**

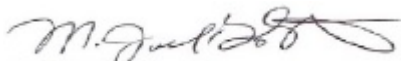
The next Commission Meeting is scheduled to be held virtually on Monday, April 26, 2021.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:**

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

Respectfully submitted,



\_\_\_\_\_  
M. Joel Bolstein  
Chairman

S/Mayur Patel

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayur Patel  
Secretary