

PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF PUBLIC COMMISSION MEETING
August 23, 2021

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting convened virtually at 2:03 PM, on Monday, August 23, 2021.

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners:

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

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
Kurt Jung, Director of Enforcement
Laura Argenbright, Director of Communications
Lyle Wood, Pittsburgh Regional Office Director
Heather Roth, Harrisburg Regional Office Director (absent)
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 was noted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES**MOTION:**

Commissioner Yiengst made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Agrawal to approve the minutes of the July Public Meeting. With all in favor, motion carried.

ADJUDICATION

Case #	Case Name
1. 201900271	Nash v. Pandemonium Inc., d/b/a Pandemonium Bar & Grill
2. 202002152	Rodin v. Wilkes Barre Chicken, LLC

Hearing Examiner Summerson presented to the commissioners, the cases listed above. Each commissioner voting signifies by their vote that they have reviewed the record in these matters to determine whether the recommended findings are supported by substantial evidence. Furthermore, because it is for the commission, as the adjudicative body to determine whether the respondent has engaged in or is engaging in an unlawful discriminatory practice as defined by the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, any findings, conclusions, and order approved today are so approved only after the commission itself has determined that the evidence upon which it is based has been resolved correctly; and that any credibility determinations have been decided correctly.

MOTION Case #1:

Commissioner Yiengst made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Agrawal to approve the Recommendation to find liability for charging party in the case 201900271 of Nash v. Pandemonium Inc., d/b/a Pandemonium Bar & Grill. With all in favor, motion carried.

MOTION Case #2:

Commissioner Agrawal made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dawson to approve the Recommendation to find liability for charging party in the case of 202002152 of Rodin v. Wilkes Barre Chicken, LLC. With all in favor, motion carried

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Executive Director Lassiter welcomed the staff and guests to the monthly meeting. Guests this month included David Sanders, Director of Health Equity with the PA Department of Health and Human Services.

Executive Director Lassiter introduced staff and commissioners.

Director Sanders provided a presentation on Health Equity to staff and commissioners.

MANAGEMENT REPORTS

Current highlights of division activities and upcoming outreach events were shared for the benefit of meeting guests.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

NEXT SESSION

The next Public Session will be held Monday, September 20, 2021, at 2:00 PM. The September meetings will be held in-person at the Harrisburg Office location. The Public Session will not be open to the public; however, guests interested in attending may join by phone.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

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

Respectfully submitted,



M. Joel Bolstein
Chairman

s/Mayur Patel

Mayur Patel
Secretary