

PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF PUBLIC COMMISSION MEETING
October 25, 2021

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting convened virtually at 2:04 PM, on Monday, October 25, 2021.

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners:

Joel Bolstein, Chair
Dr. Raquel O. Yiengst, Vice Chair
Mayur Patel, Secretary
Rad Agrawal
George Dawson (absent)
Michael Hardiman
Curtis Jones
Adrian Shanker (absent)
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
Kurt Jung, Director of Enforcement
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

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 Bolstein made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sorathia to approve the minutes of the September Public Meeting. With all in favor, motion carried.

ADJUDICATION

Case #	Case Name
202001827	Perrine v. Lazer Spot, Inc.
201803191	Witmer v. Fesko's Lawnworks, LLC
201704134	Pinti v. Birdsboro Auto Parts, LLC
201901691	Pinti v. Tschudy

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:

Commissioner Agrawal made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sorathia to approve the Recommendation to find liability for charging party in the case 202001827 of Perrine v. Lazer Spot, Inc. With all in favor, motion carried.

MOTION:

Commissioner Agrawal made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bolstein to approve the Recommendation to find liability for charging party in the case of 201803191 of Witmer v. Fesko's Lawnworks, LLC. Commissioner Hardiman abstained, with all remaining in favor, motion carried

MOTION:

Commissioner Agrawal made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bolstein to approve the Recommendation to find liability for charging party in the cases of 201704134 and 201901691 of Pinti v. Birdsboro Auto Parts, LLC and Pinti v. Tschudy. Commissioner Hardiman abstained, with all remaining in favor, motion carried

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Executive Director Lassiter welcomed the staff and opened the monthly meeting.

MANAGEMENT REPORTS

Current highlights of division activities and upcoming outreach events were shared during the Compliance session.

Chief Counsel Rivera noted the updated docketing system to be implemented, Director of Enforcement Jung discussed the upcoming changes to the EEOC computer system and process.

Director of Policy Laureore discussed recent meetings with politicians to discuss issues related to PHRC work and also highlighted the Mediation Program. Director of Communications Argenbright highlighted recent recognition of staff receiving awards and the 2021 graduating class of the MLK Leadership Institute.

Executive Director Lassiter discussed training opportunities that PHRC could provide to Advisory Councils.

Executive Director Lassiter noted the importance of responsiveness to those who contact us and stating that there is not a week that goes by where we are not responding to callers, including a reminder to continue to support positive messaging.

Current project status updates provided on the mailboxes mounted in the lobby of each office and the phone system needs to have a Spanish option for incoming callers.

Executive Director Lassiter noted he is looking forward to January and resuming the in-person monthly meeting schedule.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

NEXT SESSION


The next Public Session will be held Monday, November 22, 2021, at 2:00 PM. The November meetings will be held virtually.

ADJOURNMENT


MOTION:

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

Respectfully submitted,



M. Joel Bolstein
Chairman



o/b/o Mayur Patel
Mayur Patel
Secretary