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**PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

**M I N U T E S**

TIME: 3:14 P.M.

Held at  
Heritage Rooms  
333 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

February 27, 2023

Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission  
February 27, 2023

COMMISSIONERS:

Joel Bolstein, Esquire, Chair  
Dr. Raquel O. Yiengst, Vice Chair  
Mayur Patel, Esquire, Secretary  
Dr. Rad Agrawal (via telephone)  
Michael Hardiman, Esquire  
Curtis Jones - Absent  
Aleena Sorathia (via telephone)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chad Dion Lassiter, MSW

INTERIM CHIEF COUNSEL

Martin Cunningham, Esquire

COMMISSION COUNSEL

Damian DeStefano, Esquire

STAFF

Grace Dunigan, Director of Policy, Intergovernmental  
Affairs and Mediation  
Desiree Chang, Director of Education  
Amanda Brothman, Director of Communications  
Tamara Shehadeh-Cope, Esquire, Hearing Examiner  
Kurt Jung, Esquire, Director of Enforcement  
Robert Lindsey, Regional Office Director, Philadelphia  
Debbie Walters, Administrative Officer  
Heather Roth, Regional Office Director, Harrisburg  
Adrian Garcia, Director of Fair Housing and Commercial  
Property  
Darlene Hemerka, Esquire, Hearing Examiner (via  
telephone)  
Lyle Wood, Regional Office Director, Pittsburgh  
Zulay Rojas, Special Assistant to Executive Director  
(via telephone)

1  
2 ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

3  
4 Kira Bowman, Education Outreach Coordinator  
5 Margaret Trimble

6  
7 \*\*\*

8 Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission

9 February 27, 2023

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11 MEETING CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING STATEMENT

12 [Joel Bolstein, Esquire, Chair, called the meeting to  
13 order at 3:14 p.m.

14 Pursuant to Section 711 (a) of the Sunshine Act,  
15 this Commission meeting may be recorded by attendees.  
16 Voluntary participation in the meeting constitutes  
17 consent to be recorded. This meeting had been  
18 advertised in accordance with the provisions of the  
19 Sunshine Act. Prior to the meeting and in keeping  
20 with the confidentiality requirements of the Sunshine  
21 Act, there was a closed session to discuss compliance  
22 matters, management updates and adjudicative case  
23 deliberations.

24 After concluding with the business portion of the  
25 meeting, if we have any guests, we will invite them

1 to introduce themselves and any organizations that  
2 they represent. Guests will then have an opportunity  
3 to briefly address the Commission. We welcome any  
4 comments about equal opportunity and Civil Rights  
5 issues and problems with discrimination. We value  
6 everyone's partnership in promoting equal  
7 opportunity. We love to hear about the work of any  
8 organizations that are represented. However, the  
9 Commission cannot hear the specifics of any open  
10 investigations or cases the Commission may have to  
11 rule on in the future.

12 I note we have the presence of a quorum and I  
13 call the monthly meeting of the PHRC to order.]

14 \*\*\*

15 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

16 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

17 First item is a motion to approve  
18 the agenda. Is there a motion?

19 COMMISSIONER YIENGST:

20 So moved.

21 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

22 Is there a second?

1 COMMISSIONER HARDIMAN:

2                               Second.

3 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

4                               So moved and seconded. All those in  
5 favor of adopting the agenda, please  
6 say aye. Any opposed?

7 [The motion passed unanimously.]

8   \*\*\*

9 APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Pending transcription

10    \*\*\*

11 ADJUDICATIONS - RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSED FINAL

12 ORDERS - None

13    \*\*\*

14 CONCILIATION AGREEMENTS/CONSENT ORDERS

15 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

16                               We have two Conciliation Agreements  
17 or Consent Orders, Item Nos. 4 and 5  
18 on the agenda, Case Nos. 202101957  
19 and 201902706. Is there a motion to  
20 approve those Conciliation  
21 Agreements and Consent Orders?

22 COMMISSIONER YIENGST:

1 So moved.

2 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

3 Is there a second?

4 COMMISSIONER AGRAWAL:

5 Second.

6 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

7 Any discussion of those Conciliation  
8 Agreements or Consent Orders? Not  
9 hearing any, all those in favor of  
10 the motion, please say aye. Any  
11 opposed?

12 [The motion passed unanimously.]

13 \*\*\*

14 REQUESTS FOR PRELIMINARY HEARINGS

15 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

16 There are several requests for  
17 Preliminary Hearings, Item Nos. 6  
18 through 10 on the agenda. Case Nos.  
19 201902754, 201902929, 201903388,  
20 202001028, 202001164.

21 I need a motion to deny the  
22 Request for Preliminary Hearing. Is

1                   there such a motion?

2 COMMISSIONER HARDIMAN:

3                   So moved.

4 COMMISSIONER YIENGST:

5                   Second.

6 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

7                   It's been moved and seconded. Any  
8                   discussion of the requests for  
9                   preliminary hearings?

10                   All those in favor of the  
11                   motion to deny the requests for  
12                   preliminary hearing, please say aye.

13                   Any opposed?

14 [The motion passed unanimously.]

15   \*\*\*

16 MOTIONS AND OTHER ACTIONS - None

17   \*\*\*

18 INTRODUCTIONS

19 [Introductions were made by Commission members as  
20 well as those in attendance.]

21   \*\*\*

22 PUBLIC COMMENT

1 [Margaret Trimble stated she currently works at the  
2 Center for Employment Opportunities with ex-offenders  
3 and inquired what resources might be available. She  
4 was requested to provide her contact information to  
5 Debbie Walters who could give her information on some  
6 ideas and concepts the Pennsylvania Human Relations  
7 Commission is working on.

8       Commissioner Hardiman explained the role of the  
9 Commission which was founded in 1955. He stated that  
10 generally, its purpose is to examine complaints of  
11 discrimination based upon race, color, sex, national  
12 origin, disability, age, other protected classes in  
13 the areas of employment, housing and with respect to  
14 public accommodations.

15       Offices are located in Harrisburg, Philadelphia  
16 and Pittsburgh and complaints are investigated  
17 throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

18 Commissioner Hardiman offered further explanation  
19 noting that if a complainant believes they have been  
20 treated less favorably due to their protected class  
21 status, the Commission has the authority to convene  
22 public hearings and adjudicate those cases and award

1 damages. Cases are also attempted to be resolved  
2 between the complainant and the named respondent by  
3 way of a settlement agreement and further explanation  
4 was provided with regard to the timeline involved.

5 Mr. Hardiman further noted the opportunities  
6 provided to educate employers and others to make sure  
7 all understand what the anti-discrimination laws are  
8 and the process involved when filing a complaint.]

9 \*\*\*

10 ADJOURNMENT

11 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

12 Is there a motion to adjourn?

13 COMMISSIONER YIENGST:

14 So moved.

15 COMMISSIONER HARDIMAN:

16 Second.

17 [The motion passed unanimously.]

18 \*\*\*

19 [The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.]

20 \*\*\*

21 [Next meeting date: March 27, 2023

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing summary minutes of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, was reduced to writing by me or under my supervision, and that the minutes accurately summarize the substance of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission meeting.



Derek Richmond,  
Minute Clerk  
Sargent's Court Reporting  
Service, Inc.

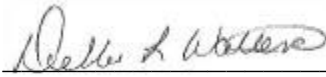
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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** At the May 23, 2023, Public Meeting, Commissioner Yiengst made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Agrawal to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2023, Public Meeting. With all in favor, motion carried.



M. Joel Bolstein, Chairman

 o/b/o Commissioner Mayur Patel

Mayur Patel, Secretary