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PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

M I N U T E S

TIME: 3:25 P.M.

Held at
Heritage Rooms
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

April 24, 2023

Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission
April 24, 2023

COMMISSIONERS:

Joel Bolstein, Esquire, Chair
Dr. Raquel O. Yiengst, Vice Chair
Mayur Patel, Esquire, Secretary (via telephone)
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

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

1 ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

2

3 Sheinna Gonzalez

4 Debra Brice

5 Ian Fahnestock

6 Dana Prince

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Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission

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April 24, 2023

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12 MEETING CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING STATEMENT

13 [Joel Bolstein, Esquire, Chair, called the meeting to
14 order at 3:25 p.m.

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

25 After concluding the business portion of the
26 meeting, guests will be invited to introduce

1 COMMISSIONER YIENGST:

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

10 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

11 We have to approve Public Meeting
12 Minutes from four meetings, September
13 20, 2022; a Special Meeting from October
14 6, 2022; the monthly meetings of October
15 24, 2022 and November 28, 2022.

16 Is there a motion to adopt those?

17 COMMISSIONER HARDIMAN:

18 So moved.

19 COMMISSIONER YIENGST:

20 So moved.

21 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

22 So moved and seconded. Is there any

1 discussion? Not hearing any, all those
2 in favor, please say aye? Any opposed?

3 [The motion passed unanimously.]

4 ***

5 ADJUDICATIONS - RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSED FINAL
6 ORDERS

7 [Joel Bolstein, Esquire, Chair, stated, pursuant to
8 PHRC Policy 89-1, the Commission is set to vote on
9 the issue of liability in a complaint which no Answer
10 was filed and no Response made to a Rule to Show
11 Cause. Each Commissioner voting will signify by his
12 or her vote that he or she has reviewed the
13 recommendation of the motion commissioner.

14 Furthermore, the Board is for the Commission as
15 the adjudicative body to determine whether the
16 Respondent has engaged in or is engaging in unlawful
17 discriminatory practice defined by the PHRA.

18 Any finding of probable cause, judgement of
19 liability, and order approved today are so approved
20 only after the Commission itself has determined that
21 all necessary actions have been taken and all
22 determinations have been decided correctly.

1 ***

2 [Tamara Shehadeh-Cope, Hearing Examiner, presented
3 Case No. 201900413, Sheila Koinski vs. The Beautiful
4 Group.

5 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

6 In this case, Sheila Koinski vs. The
7 Beautiful Group, PHRC Case No.
8 201900413, EEOC Case No. 17F202060640,
9 we have a Proposed Order in front of us.
10 Is there a motion to approve the Order?

11 COMMISSIONER YIENGST:

12 So moved.

13 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

14 And a second?

15 COMMISSIONER AGRAWAL:

16 So moved.

17 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

18 It's been moved and seconded to approve
19 the Proposed Order from the Hearing
20 Examiner. Is there any discussion?
21 Hearing none, all those in favor of the
22 motion please say aye? Opposed?

1 [The motion passed unanimously.]

2 ***

3 [Hearing Examiner Shehadeh-Cope presented Case No.
4 202200803, Juan L. Hernandez vs. S&O Auto Sales and
5 Tire Services, LLC.

6 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

7 We have before us a Proposed Order Juan
8 L. Hernandez vs. S&O Auto Sales and Tire
9 Services, LLC, PHRC Case No. 202200803.

10 Is there a motion to approve the
11 order?

12 COMMISSIONER YIENGST:

13 So moved.

14 COMMISSIONER HARDIMAN:

15 So moved.

16 COMMISSIONER AGRAWAL:

17 So moved.

18 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

19 I actually heard a second and a third.
20 It's been moved and seconded that we
21 adopt the Proposed Order of the Hearing
22 Examiner. Is there any discussion? Not

1 hearing any discussion, all in favor of
2 the motion please say aye? Any opposed?

3 [The motion carried unanimously.]

4 ***

5 REQUESTS FOR PRELIMINARY HEARINGS

6 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

7 We have multiple requests for
8 Preliminary Hearings, Item Nos. 5
9 through 8 on the agenda.

10 I need a motion to deny the
11 Request for Preliminary Hearings for
12 Item Nos. 5 through 8. Is there such
13 a motion?

14 COMMISSIONER YIENGST:

15 So moved.

16 COMMISSIONER AGRAWAL:

17 Second.

18 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

19 It's been moved and seconded. Is
20 there any discussion?

21 All those in favor of the
22 motion to deny the requests for

1 preliminary hearing for Item Nos. 5
2 through 8 please say aye. Any
3 opposed?

4 [The motion passed unanimously.]

5 ***

6 [Commissioner Aleena Sorathia exited the meeting at
7 3:36 p.m. for recusal purposes regarding Case Nos. 9
8 and 11.]

9 ***

10 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

11 Now we'll do Item Nos. 9 and 11.

12 Is there a motion to deny the
13 Request for Preliminary Hearings?

14 COMMISSIONER YIENGST:

15 So moved.

16 COMMISSIONER HARDIMAN:

17 Second.

18 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

19 It's been moved and seconded. Any
20 discussion? Not hearing any, all those
21 in favor please say aye? Any opposed?

22 [The motion carried.]

1 ***

2 [Commissioner Aleena Sorathia re-entered the meeting
3 at 3:37 p.m.]

4 ***

5 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

6 Item Nos. 10, 12 through 18.

7 We need a motion to deny the Request
8 for Preliminary Hearing.

9 COMMISSIONER YIENGST:

10 So moved.

11 COMMISSIONER HARDIMAN:

12 Second.

13 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

14 Any discussion? Not hearing any, all
15 those in favor please say aye? Any
16 opposed?

17 [The motion carried unanimously.]

18 ***

19 PROPOSED MEETING DATES

20 [Board members discussed meeting dates for July 2023
21 through December 2024.]

22 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

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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.

1 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

2

3 **MOTION:** At the June 26, 2023, Public Meeting, Commissioner Yiengst made
4 a motion, seconded by Commissioner Agrawal to approve the
5 minutes of the April 22, 2023, Public Meeting. With all in favor,
6 motion carried.

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11 M. Joel Bolstein, Chairman

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on behalf of Commissioner Mayur Patel

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Mayur Patel, Secretary