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PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

M I N U T E S

TIME: 3:23 P.M.

Held via Microsoft Teams

July 24, 2023

Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission
July 24, 2023

COMMISSIONERS:

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chad Dion Lassiter, MSW

CHIEF COUNSEL

Meredith Millard, Esquire

COMMISSION COUNSEL

Damian DeStefano, Esquire - Absent

STAFF PRESENT:

Amanda Brothman, Director of Communications
Desiree Chang, Director of Education
Lauren Daman, Director of Human Resources
Adrian Garcia, Director of Fair Housing and Commercial
Property
Darlene Hemerka, Esquire, Hearing Examiner
Kurt Jung, Esquire, Director of Enforcement
Robert Lindsey, Regional Office Director, Philadelphia
Heather Roth, Regional Office Director, Harrisburg
Tamara Shehadeh-Cope, Hearing Examiner
Ashley Walkowiak, Director of Policy,
Intergovernmental Affairs and Mediation
Debbie Walters, Administrative Officer

GUEST(S):

Corbett Anderson, Chief of Civil Rights Enforcement,
Office of Attorney General

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2 Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission

3 July 24, 2023

4 ***

5 MEETING CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING STATEMENT

6 [Joel Bolstein, Esquire, Chair, called the meeting to
7 order at 3:23 p.m.

8 Pursuant to Section 711 (a) of the Sunshine Act,
9 65 P.S. Section 711(a), this Commission meeting may
10 be recorded by attendees. Voluntary participation in
11 the meeting constitutes consent to be recorded.

12 The meeting was advertised in accordance with the
13 provisions of the Sunshine Act. Prior to the meeting
14 and in keeping with the confidentiality requirements
15 of the Sunshine Act, a closed session was held to
16 discuss compliance matters, management updates and
17 adjudicative case deliberations.

18 After concluding the business portion of the
19 meeting, if any guests are present, they will be
20 invited to introduce themselves and any organizations
21 that they represent. Guests will have an opportunity
22 to briefly address the Commission. All comments are
23 welcomed about equal opportunity and Civil Rights
24 issues and problems with discrimination. Everyone's
25 partnership in promoting equal opportunity is valued.

1 The Commission wants to hear about the work of any
2 organizations that are represented; however, the
3 Commission cannot hear any specifics about any open
4 investigations or cases that the Commission may have
5 to rule on in the future.

6 Chair Bolstein convened the monthly meeting of
7 the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission and noted
8 the presence of a quorum.]

9 ***

10 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

11 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

12 First item of business is to adopt
13 the agenda. I'm going to call on
14 Dr. Agrawal, could you make a
15 motion?

16 COMMISSIONER AGRAWAL:

17 So moved.

18 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

19 Is there a second, Commissioner
20 Patel?

21 COMMISSIONER PATEL:

22 Second.

23 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

24 It's been moved and seconded. All
25 those in favor of adopting the

1 agenda please say aye. Any opposed?

2 [The motion passed unanimously.]

3 ***

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES - NONE

5 ***

6 ADJUDICATION - RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSED FINAL

7 ORDERS - NONE

8 ***

9 CONCILIATION AGREEMENTS/CONSENT ORDERS

10 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

11 We have three Conciliation Agreements or
12 Consent Orders, Items 3, 4, 5 on the
13 agenda, Case Nos. 201904166, 201904167
14 and 201904168. I need a motion to
15 approve the Conciliation Agreements or
16 Consent Orders. Commissioner Agrawal,
17 can I have a motion?

18 COMMISSIONER AGRAWAL:

19 So moved.

20 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

21 And a second from Commissioner Patel?

22 COMMISSIONER PATEL:

23 Second.

24 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

25 Is there any discussion about any of the

1 Conciliation Agreements or Consent
2 Orders? Not hearing any, all those in
3 favor, please say aye. Any opposed?

4 [The motion passed unanimously.]

5 ***

6 REQUESTS FOR PRELIMINARY HEARINGS

7 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

8 We also have 15 requests for Preliminary
9 Hearing on the agenda as Item Nos. 6
10 through 20, Case Nos. 201601464,
11 201702053, 201900193, 202001043,
12 202001051, 202001897, 202101480,
13 202101704, 202101754, 202200130,
14 202200139, 202200809, 202201113,
15 202201156, 202201594. I need a motion to
16 accept the recommendation from the staff
17 which is to deny the Requests for a
18 Preliminary Hearing. Dr. Agrawal, is
19 there a motion?

20 COMMISSIONER AGRAWAL:

21 So moved.

22 COMMISSIONER YIENGST:

23 Second.

24 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

25 It's been moved and seconded. Is

1 of his professional background. He noted his goal
2 since joining the Attorney General's Office was to
3 redevelop the AG's Civil Rights function and to help
4 advance the mission of the PHRC as well.

5 The Executive Director indicated that several
6 Commission members will be leaving the meeting to
7 attend the EEOC conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

8 Mr. Corbett was invited to follow up with the
9 Commission regarding any questions he might have. He
10 did state that he was curious about three
11 Conciliation Orders on the agenda which were items
12 that the AG's office had pursued.

13 Executive Director Lassiter noted that the August
14 meeting will be held in person.

15 Chair Bolstein was hopeful that staff attending
16 the conference in Baltimore would come back with some
17 ideas. He thanked Mr. Anderson for his attendance
18 and for being such a friend and ally to PHRC. Chair
19 Bolstein indicated the Regulatory Package had been
20 published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin in June 2023.
21 Sixty (60) days later, the regulations would become
22 effective. He invited Mr. Anderson to refer
23 complainants to the PHRC to assist with the complaint
24 process. Staff was commended for their
25 professionalism and the high quality of work being

1 done.]

2 ***

3 OLD BUSINESS - NONE

4 ***

5 NEW BUSINESS - NONE

6 ***

7 ADJOURNMENT

8 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

9 I'll entertain a motion to adjourn
10 the public session.

11 COMMISSIONER HARDIMAN:

12 So moved. There was no second to the
13 motion.

14 ***

15 [The meeting adjourned at 3:33 p.m.]

16 ***

17 [The next meeting is scheduled for August 28, 2023,
18 in person.]

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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 November 27, 2023, Public Meeting, Commissioner
4 Hardiman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Yiengst to approve the
5 minutes of the July 24, 2023, Public Meeting. With all in favor, motion carried.

6

7



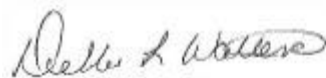
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10 M. Joel Bolstein, Chairman

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 o/b/o Commissioner Mayur Patel

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15 Mayur Patel, Secretary

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