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PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

M I N U T E S

TIME: 3:12 P.M.

Held at
Heritage Rooms
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

August 28, 2023

Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission
August 28, 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

CHIEF COUNSEL

Meredith Millard, Esquire

COMMISSION COUNSEL

Vacant

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
Robert Lindsey, Regional Office Director, Philadelphia
Zulay Rojas, Special Assistant to Executive Director
(via telephone)
Heather Roth, Regional Office Director, Harrisburg
Tamara Shehadeh-Cope, Esquire, Hearing Examiner
Ashley Walkowiak, Director of Policy,
Intergovernmental Affairs and Mediation
Debbie Walters, Administrative Officer

1 ***

2 Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission

3 August 28, 2023

4 ***

5 MEETING CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING STATEMENT

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

8 Pursuant to Section 711 (a) of the Sunshine Act,
9 this Commission meeting may be recorded by attendees.
10 Voluntary participation in the meeting constitutes
11 consent to be recorded. The meeting was advertised
12 in accordance with the provisions of the Sunshine
13 Act. Prior to the meeting and in keeping with the
14 confidentiality requirements of the Sunshine Act, a
15 closed session was held to discuss compliance
16 matters, management updates, and adjudicative case
17 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 Mr. Bolstein convened the monthly meeting of the
7 Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission and noted the
8 presence of a quorum.]

9 ***

10 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

11 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

12 First item of business is to adopt
13 the agenda. Is there a motion?

14 COMMISSIONER HARDIMAN:

15 So moved.

16 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

17 Is there a second?

18 COMMISSIONER YIENGST:

19 Second.

20 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

21 It's been moved and seconded. Any
22 comments? All those in favor of the
23 motion please say aye? Any opposed?

24 [The motion passed unanimously.]

25 ***

1 The Commission is scheduled to vote
2 on the issue of liability and
3 complaint for which no Answer was
4 filed and no response was made to
5 the Rule to Show Cause. Each
6 Commissioner voting today signifies
7 by his or her vote that he or she
8 has reviewed the recommendation of
9 the motions Commissioner.

10 Furthermore, because it was for
11 the Commission as the adjudicative
12 body to determine whether Respondent
13 has engaged in or is engaging in
14 unlawful discriminatory practices as
15 defined by the PHRA, any finding of
16 probable cause, judgement or
17 liability and order approved today
18 are so approved only after the
19 Commission itself has determined
20 that all necessary actions have been
21 taken and all determinations have
22 been decided correctly.

23 RECOMMENDATION

24 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

25 We have a recommendation of the motions

1 [Chair Bolstein noted Item No. 4 on the agenda, Case
2 No. 202102052 will be held over until next month.]

3 ***

4 CONCILIATION AGREEMENTS/CONSENT ORDERS

5 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

6 We have three Conciliation Agreements
7 and Consent Orders, Items 5, 6 and 7 on
8 the agenda, Case Nos. 202102439,
9 201902193 and 202000658. Is there a
10 motion to approve those
11 agreements/consent orders?

12 COMMISSIONER HARDIMAN:

13 So moved.

14 COMMISSIONER YIENGST:

15 Second.

16 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

17 It's been moved and seconded that we
18 approve the Conciliation Agreements and
19 Consent Orders that are Items 5, 6 and 7
20 on the agenda. Any discussion? Not
21 hearing any, all those in favor of the
22 motion please say aye. Any opposed?

23 [The motion passed unanimously.]

24 ***

25 REQUESTS FOR PRELIMINARY HEARINGS

1 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

2 We also have 12 requests for Preliminary
3 Hearings on the agenda as Item Nos. 8
4 through 17, Case Nos. 202001256,
5 202002190, 202002851, 202100986,
6 202101463, 202102188, 202200439,
7 202201069, 202201172, 202201260.

8 I need a motion to deny the requests
9 for preliminary hearing.

10 ***

11 COMMISSIONER YIENGST:

12 So moved.

13 COMMISSIONER HARDIMAN:

14 Second.

15 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

16 It's been moved and seconded that we
17 deny the Requests for Preliminary
18 Hearings, Items 8 through 17. Any
19 discussion on any of those? Not
20 hearing any, all those in favor of
21 the motion please say aye. Any
22 opposed?

23 [The motion passed unanimously.]

24 ***

25 MOTIONS AND OTHER ACTIONS - NONE

1 ***

2 APPROVED FOR PUBLIC HEARING DOCKET

3 [Chair Bolstein noted one case for notification

4 purposes only, Case No. 201900413.]

5 ***

6 REGULATION UPDATE - NONE

7 ***

8 MANAGEMENT REPORTS - NONE

9 ***

10 OLD BUSINESS - NONE

11 ***

12 NEW BUSINESS - NONE

13 ***

14 ADJOURNMENT

15 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

16 Is there a motion to adjourn the

17 public session?

18 COMMISSIONER HARDIMAN:

19 So moved.

20 COMMISSIONER YIENGST:

21 Second.

22 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

23 All in favor please say aye.

24 [The motion passed unanimously.]

25 ***

1 [The meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.]

2 ***

3 [The next meeting is scheduled for September 18,
4 2023.]

5 ***

6

7

8

CERTIFICATE

9

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

16

17



18

Devin Nunemaker,

19

Minute Clerk

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Sargent's Court Reporting

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Service, Inc.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: At the November 27, 2023, Public Meeting, Commissioner Hardiman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Yiengst to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2023, Public Meeting. With all in favor, motion carried.



M. Joel Bolstein, Chairman



o/b/o Commissioner Mayur Patel

Mayur Patel, Secretary