

1 Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission

2 Monthly Meeting

3 November 25, 2024

4
5 COMMISSIONERS:

6
7 Joel Bolstein, Esquire, Chair
8 Dr. Raquel O. Yiengst, Vice Chair
9 Mayur Patel, Esquire, Secretary - Absent
10 Dr. Rad Agrawal - Excused
11 Michael Hardiman, Esquire
12 Curtis Jones - Absent
13 Aleena Sorathia

14
15 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

16
17 Chad Dion Lassiter, MSW

18
19 DEPUTY CHIEF COUNSEL

20
21 Morgan Williams, Esquire

22
23 STAFF PRESENT:

24
25 Amanda Brothman, Director of Communications
26 Desiree Chang, Director of Education
27 Adrian Garcia, Director of Enforcement
28 Caroline Eister, Director of Fair Housing and
29 Commercial Property
30 Amanda Martin, Clerical Assistant III
31 Darlene Martin, Esquire, Hearing Examiner
32 Sheryl Meck, Supervisor, Civil Rights Division
33 Heather Roth, Regional Office Director, Harrisburg
34 Tamara Shehadeh-Cope, Hearing Examiner
35 Debbie Walters, Administrative Officer
36 Vacant, Regional Office Director, Philadelphia
37 Vacant, Director of Policy, Intergovernmental Affairs
38 and Mediation

1 ***

2 Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission

3 November 25, 2024

4 ***

5 MEETING CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING STATEMENT

6 The time is now 3:01 p.m.

7 Joel Bolstein, Chairperson of the Pennsylvania
8 Human Relations Commission, welcomed all to the
9 monthly meeting of the Pennsylvania Human Relations
10 Commission. He noted an Executive Session and a
11 Compliance Session were held earlier in the day and
12 now the public meeting.

13 Pursuant to Section 711 (a) of the Sunshine Act,
14 65 P.S. § 711(a), this Commission meeting may be
15 recorded by attendees. Voluntary participation in
16 the meeting constituted consent to be recorded.

17 The meeting was advertised in accordance with the
18 provisions of the Sunshine Act. There had been a
19 closed session to discuss compliance matters,
20 management updates and adjudicative case
21 deliberations.

22 At the beginning of the meeting, there will be a

1 brief business portion and then guests will be
2 invited to introduce themselves and any organizations
3 they represent. The Commission welcomed comments
4 from the audience. The Commission has jurisdiction
5 over discrimination in employment, housing, education
6 and public accommodations.

7 The Commission welcomed public comments about
8 equal opportunity and civil rights issues and any
9 problems of discrimination being encountered. Any
10 statements expressed during the public session by
11 members of the public represent opinions and beliefs
12 of the speaker and not the opinions and beliefs of
13 the Commission.

14 The Commission values everybody's public
15 partnership in promoting equal opportunity and wanted
16 to hear about the work that any of the different
17 organizations have been working on. The Commission
18 cannot hear specifics of any open investigations or
19 cases that it might have to rule on in the future.

20 Joel Bolstein, Chairperson, convened the monthly
21 meeting of the Pennsylvania Human Relations
22 Commission. A quorum was present. The meeting was

1 called to order.

2 ***

3 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

4 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

5 Is there a motion to adopt the agenda?

6 COMMISSIONER YIENGST:

7 So moved.

8 COMMISSIONER SORATHIA:

9 Second.

10 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

11 It's been moved by Commissioner Yiengst

12 and seconded by Commissioner Sorathia.

13 All in favor of the motion please say

14 aye?

15 [The motion passed unanimously.]

16 ***

17 MINUTES

18 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

19 Second item is the approval of the

20 public meeting minutes from September

21 23, 2024. Is there a motion?

22 COMMISSIONER YIENGST:

1 So moved.

2 COMMISSIONER HARDIMAN:

3 Second.

4 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

5 Moved by Commissioner Yiengst, seconded
6 by Commissioner Hardiman.

7 Is there any discussion, any changes
8 that need to be made, any revisions?

9 Not hearing any all those in favor of
10 the motion to approve the Minutes,
11 please say aye?

12 [The motion passed unanimously.]

13 ***

14 ADJUDICATION-RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSED FINAL ORDER

15 [Chair Bolstein stated there were two case numbers to
16 be discussed, Singh versus Tommy Gun, Inc., d/b/a
17 Targetmaster, PHRC Case Number 202101691; and Myeshia
18 Martin versus Tommy Gun, d/b/a Targetmaster, PHRC
19 Case Number 202300175.]

20 RECOMMENDATION

21 [Darlene Martin, Esquire, Hearing Examiner, noted the
22 Commission would be voting on an Amended Order in the

1 referenced matters. She noted this Order was
2 approved by the Commission at its October 2024
3 meeting, and after it was approved, the regional
4 office reached out to the Office of Adjudication and
5 notified them of a typographical error in the Final
6 Order.

7 The Order initially approved stated the final
8 amount was \$63,098.55; however, adding the components
9 in the Recommendation, the total was \$64,098.55.

10 The Hearing Examiner stated the error has been
11 corrected and included in the attached Final Order
12 provided for this month's meeting. That amount was
13 not listed in the Recommendation, so nothing has
14 changed with the Recommendation, just the Final
15 Order. And the Final Order also now includes
16 language stating that this new Order would supersede
17 the prior one. The Office of Adjudication has also
18 reached out to all parties notifying them that this
19 issue would be raised at this meeting.]

20 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

21 Is there a motion to approve the Amended
22 Order in the two cases?

1 COMMISSIONER YIENGST:

2 So moved.

3 COMMISSIONER SORATHIA:

4 Second.

5 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

6 It's been moved by Commissioner Yiengst
7 and seconded by Commissioner Sorathia.

8 Is there any discussion? Not
9 hearing any, all those in favor of the
10 motion please say aye?

11 [The motion passed unanimously.]

12 ***

13 CONCILIATION AGREEMENT/CONSENT ORDER

14 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

15 We have one Conciliation
16 Agreement/Consent Order in the case of
17 Emma Gonzalez vs. 1952 Allegheny
18 Associates, LP, PHRC Case No. 202101248.

19 Is there a motion to approve that
20 Consent Order?

21 COMMISSIONER YIENGST:

22 So moved.

1 CHIEF COUNSEL

2 [Morgan Williams, Esquire, Deputy Chief Counsel,
3 reported the Office of Chief Counsel had no updates
4 for the public at this time.

5 ***

6 HEARING EXAMINERS

7 [Hearing Examiner Martin noted that upcoming public
8 hearings can be found on the Commission website with
9 regards to the county in which they will occur. The
10 hearings are open to the public and further
11 information can be found on the website.]

12 ***

13 REGIONAL DIRECTOR - PITTSBURGH REGIONAL OFFICE

14 [Executive Director Lassiter noted the Pittsburgh
15 Regional Director is on a much-needed vacation but
16 her office continues to pursue justice.]

17 ***

18 REGIONAL DIRECTOR - HARRISBURG REGIONAL OFFICE

19 [Heather Roth, Harrisburg Regional Director, had no
20 updates but that the Harrisburg and Pittsburgh
21 offices continue to run to serve the interest of the
22 public.]

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DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

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[Amanda Brothman, Director of Communications, noted

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several upcoming events and referred to the

5

Commission website for a list of those events.]

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DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

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[Desiree Chang, Director of Education, reported the

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Education Division continues to work on bullying and

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harassment guidance that was put forth in August for

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initial comment. She stated a second public meeting

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was held last Thursday, November 21, 2024, to obtain

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additional comments related to the liability

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standard. Ms. Chang noted the Education Division

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continues to conduct outreach to both K through 12 as

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well as higher educational institutions for

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collaboration and support of their efforts for their

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student population.]

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DIRECTOR OF FAIR HOUSING AND COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

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[Caroline Eister, Director of Fair Housing and

22

Commercial Property, indicated that December 1st,

1 2024, will start the sixth season of PHRC Speaks.
2 Beginning on that date at 3:00 p.m. Fair Housing
3 Forward. And she noted that Hearing Examiner Cope
4 will be the featured guest at that time for
5 discussion of Advancing Safe Homes and Securing
6 Futures.

7 Ms. Eister noted the winter schedule of Fair
8 Housing and Power Hours has been released and more
9 information is available on the website and social
10 media platforms.]

11 ***

12 DIRECTOR OF ENFORCEMENT

13 [Adrian Garcia had no update.]

14 ***

15 DIRECTOR OF CIVIL RIGHTS

16 [Executive Director Lassiter noted this new position
17 will be added to the public agenda moving forward.]

18 ***

19 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

20 [Executive Director Lassiter noted at the present
21 time that 87 of 92 positions have been filled at the
22 PHRC, and an offer will be made to a Chief Counsel.

1 Outreach continues as well as Inreach, which includes
2 staff trainings. He stated PHRC continues to work in
3 the social justice milieu as a nonpartisan agency on
4 all sides including the Republican, Democratic,
5 Independent and Libertarian sides.

6 PHRC continues to put forth the LGBTQ+
7 regulations. Advisory councils and social justice
8 ambassadors are encouraged to call upon the PHRC for
9 training. PHRC can be followed on X, Instagram,
10 Facebook as well as LinkedIn.]

11 ***

12 OLD BUSINESS - None

13 ***

14 NEW BUSINESS - None

15 ***

16 PUBLIC COMMENT - None

17 ***

18 ADJOURNMENT

19 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

20 I'd ask the Commissioners for a motion
21 to adjourn.

22 COMMISSIONER YIENGST:

1 So moved.

2 COMMISSIONER SORATHIA:

3 Second.

4 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

5 All in favor please say aye?

6 [The motion passed unanimously.]

7 ***

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

9 ***

10 [The next meeting is scheduled for December 23, 2024,

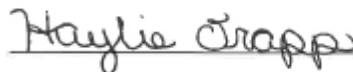
11 and will be held virtually.]

12 ***

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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.



Haylie Trapp,
Minute Clerk
Sargent's Court Reporting
Service, Inc.



M. Joel Bolstein, Chairman



o/b/o Commissioner Mayur Patel
Mayur Patel, Secretary