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**PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

**M I N U T E S**

TIME: 3:16 P.M.

Monthly Meeting

**VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

July 28, 2025

1                    Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission  
2    Monthly Meeting  
3    July 28, 2025

4  
5 COMMISSIONERS:

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

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 Alana Burman, Director of Policy, Intergovernmental  
27     Affairs and Mediation  
28 Desiree Chang, Director of Education  
29 Caroline Griffin, Director of Fair Housing and  
30     Commercial Property  
31 Adrian Garcia, Director of Enforcement  
32 Amber Harris, Regional Office Director, Philadelphia  
33 Darlene Martin, Esquire, Hearing Examiner  
34 Sheryl Meck, Director, Civil Rights Division  
35 La Dawn Robinson, Regional Office Director,  
36 Pittsburgh  
37 Heather Roth, Regional Office Director, Harrisburg  
38 Tamara Shehadeh-Cope, Hearing Examiner  
39 Debbie Walters, Administrative Officer

40  
41 ALSO PRESENT:

42  
43 Morris France  
44 Jorganna Showers, Sargent's Court Reporting Service,  
45     Inc.

1 \*\*\*

2 Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission

3 July 28, 2025

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5 MEETING CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING STATEMENT

6 Joel Bolstein, Chairperson of the Pennsylvania  
7 Human Relations Commission, welcomed all to the  
8 monthly meeting of the Pennsylvania Human Relations  
9 Commission. He stated this public meeting was  
10 advertised in accordance with the provisions of the  
11 Sunshine Act. And prior to the meeting and keeping  
12 with the confidentiality requirements of the Sunshine  
13 Act, a closed session was held to discuss compliance  
14 matters, management updates, and adjudicative case  
15 deliberations.

16 After concluding with the business portion of  
17 the meeting, guests will be invited to introduce  
18 themselves and any organizations they represent.  
19 Guests will have an opportunity briefly to address  
20 the Commission. Public comments are welcomed about  
21 equal opportunity and Civil Rights issues or problems  
22 of discrimination. Any statements expressed during  
23 the Public Session by members of the public represent  
24 the opinions and beliefs of that speaker alone and  
25 not the opinions and beliefs of the Commission.



1 [The motion passed unanimously.]

2 \*\*\*

3 APPROVAL OF PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES - JUNE 23, 2025

4 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

5 We also have to approve the minutes of  
6 the public meeting from June 23, 2025.

7 Is there a motion to approve the  
8 minutes?

9 COMMISSIONER HARDIMAN:

10 So moved.

11 COMMISSIONER AGRAWAL:

12 Second.

13 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

14 I heard it was moved by Commissioner  
15 Hardiman, seconded by Commissioner  
16 Agrawal. Any comments on the minutes  
17 from the June meeting?

18 Not hearing any, all those in  
19 favor of the motion, please say aye.

20 Any opposed?

21 [The motion carried unanimously.]

22 \*\*\*

23 CONCILIATION AGREEMENTS/CONSENT ORDERS

24 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

25 We do have one Conciliation Agreement

1 or Consent Order. It's Item No. 3 on  
2 the Agenda, Case No. 202300209.

3 Is there a motion to approve the  
4 Conciliation Agreement or Consent  
5 Order?

6 COMMISSIONER HARDIMAN:

7 So moved.

8 COMMISSIONER AGRAWAL:

9 Second.

10 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

11 I heard it was moved by Commissioner  
12 Hardiman and seconded by Commissioner  
13 Agrawal. Any discussion about that  
14 Conciliation Agreement or Consent  
15 Order?

16 Not hearing any, all those in  
17 favor of the motion, please say aye.  
18 Any opposed?

19 [The motion passed unanimously.]

20 \*\*\*

21 REQUESTS FOR PRELIMINARY HEARINGS

22 [Michael Hardiman, Esquire, noted a possible typo on  
23 Agenda Item No. 11. The suggestion was made to move  
24 Item No. 11 to the next meeting to provide staff the  
25 time to review the item.]

1 \*\*\*

2 COMMISSIONER BOLSTEIN:

3 The motion is only on Items 4 through  
4 10 and 12 through 17. Item 11 on the  
5 Agenda will be moved to next month's  
6 meeting, giving staff a chance to read  
7 through that response.

8 COMMISSIONER HARDIMAN:

9 So moved.

10 COMMISSIONER AGRAWAL:

11 Second.

12 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

13 All those in favor of the motion,  
14 please say aye. Any opposed?

15 [The motion carried unanimously.]

16 \*\*\*

17 PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

18 [Alana Burman, Director of Policy, Intergovernmental  
19 Affairs and Mediation, reported last month, June  
20 2025, efforts were focused on HB300, legislation,  
21 which would reaffirm PHRA regulations and definitions  
22 around sex and gender. She added public comment was  
23 also collected regarding new HUD regulations on the  
24 federal level.]

25 \*\*\*

## 1 MANAGEMENT REPORTS

2 [Chad Dion Lassiter, MSW, Executive Director, noted  
3 the upcoming PHRC Advisory Council Summit in  
4 Harrisburg. The PHRC Disability conference was  
5 scheduled for July 31, 2025. PHRC Fair Housing  
6 Trainings are ongoing. He noted PHRC continues to  
7 receive training requests from multiple entities,  
8 both internal and external stakeholders.

9 Director Lassiter noted the PHRC predates the  
10 Civil Rights Act by 10 years. The 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
11 of the PHRC is upcoming. He added the celebration  
12 will be at the Harrisburg Hilton. He invited the  
13 public to follow PHRC on all forms of social media.

14 Director Lassiter noted, with regard to social  
15 justice outreach, PHRC continues to receive  
16 complaints regarding public accommodations,  
17 commercial property, housing, employment and  
18 education. He reported, from an HR standpoint, PHRC  
19 has 86 positions filled out of 92 in the three  
20 regional offices.]

21 \*\*\*

22 [Darlene Martin, Esquire, Hearing Examiner, reported  
23 the Office of the Hearing Examiner recently developed  
24 additional resources for unrepresented individuals  
25 entitled *A Guide to the Discovery Process for*

1 *Unrepresented Parties.* She noted the Office also  
2 developed resources to initial pre-hearing  
3 conferences and motions. All information can be  
4 located on the website as well as upcoming public  
5 hearing information.]

6 \*\*\*

7 [Amanda Brothman, Director of Communications, noted  
8 several public events open to the public July 28,  
9 2025, through August 1, 2025. She added all  
10 information for upcoming events in August 2025 is  
11 available on the PHRC website and on social media  
12 accounts.]

13 \*\*\*

14 [Desiree Chang, Director of Education, reported the  
15 bullying and harassment guidance has closed for  
16 public comment. She noted PHRC is in the final draft  
17 and hoped to finalize for the upcoming school year.

18 Director Lassiter asked Director Chang if she  
19 expected an increase in bullying with the gutting of  
20 the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) within the United  
21 States Department of Justice and what it will do to  
22 the PHRC.

23 Director Chang responded, with formalized  
24 complaints, it can sometimes take a bit longer for  
25 the public to become aware of available resources.

1 There was no uptick in complaints by the end of the  
2 last school year; however, she anticipated an  
3 increase in the coming year. She noted the  
4 Philadelphia OCR was completely closed, and the  
5 caseload at that office was divided among the  
6 remaining eight offices, creating a higher volume.  
7 The PHRC will become the main recourse in  
8 Pennsylvania.]

9

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10 [Caroline Griffin, Director of Fair Housing and  
11 Commercial Property, reported the Housing Division is  
12 participating in a nationwide learning cohort on  
13 tenant screening protections.]

14

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15 [Sheryl Meck, Supervisor, Civil Rights Division,  
16 noted the Civil Rights Division would be in Erie on  
17 July 30, 2025, for a community engagement event.]

18

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19 PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE.

20

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21 ADJOURNMENT

22 CHAIR BOLSTEIN:

23 I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

24 Please say aye.

25 [The motion passed unanimously.]

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[The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m. The next meeting date is August 25, 2025 in Harrisburg.]

\*\*\*

## 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.



Jorganna Showers,


Minute Clerk

Sargent's Court Reporting  
Service, Inc.

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M. Joel Bolstein, Chairman



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