

PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

M I N U T E S

TIME: 3:12 P.M.

Monthly Meeting

Held at

PHRC Central Office

555 Walnut Street, Suite 808

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, 17101

and

VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

May 18, 2026

Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission
Monthly Meeting
May 18, 2026

COMMISSIONERS:

Curtis Jones, Chair
Dr. Rad Agrawal
Michael Hardiman, Esquire
Aleena Sorathia, Esquire - Absent

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chad Dion Lassiter, MSW - Absent

CHIEF COUNSEL

Stephanie Chapman, Esquire, Interim Chief Counsel

COMMISSION COUNSEL

Melissa Lovett, Esquire - Absent

STAFF PRESENT:

Amanda Brothman, Director of Communications
Alana Burman, Director of Policy, Intergovernmental
Affairs and Mediation
Fatim Byrd, Director of Education
Desiree Chang, Deputy Director for Enforcement,
Policy and Compliance
Caroline Griffin, Director of Rural and Civic
Engagement
Amber Harris, Regional Office Director, Philadelphia
Darlene Martin, Esquire, Hearing Examiner
Sheryl Meck, Director, Civil Rights Division
La Dawn Robinson, Regional Office Director,
Pittsburgh
Heather Roth, Regional Office Director, Harrisburg
Debbie Walters, Administrative Officer

ALSO PRESENT:

Sherwood Goodenough, PHRC Director of Enforcement
Steve Feldman, Executive Director, Philadelphia
Chapter, Zionist Organization of America
Laurie Elliott, Sargent's Court Reporting Service,
Inc.

Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission

May 18, 2026

MEETING CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING STATEMENT

Curtis Jones, Chair of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, welcomed all to the monthly meeting of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission.

Debbie Walters, Administrative Officer, stated this public meeting was advertised in accordance with the provisions of the Sunshine Act. Prior to the meeting and keeping with the confidentiality requirements of the Sunshine Act, a closed session was held to discuss compliance matters, management updates, and adjudicative case deliberations.

After concluding with the business portion of the meeting, guests will be invited to introduce themselves and any organizations they represent. Guests will have an opportunity briefly to address the Commission. Public comments are welcomed about equal opportunity and Civil Rights issues or problems of discrimination. Any statements expressed during the Public Session by members of the public represent the opinions and beliefs of that speaker alone and

1 are not the opinions and beliefs of the Commission.

2 The Commission values the public partnership in
3 promoting equal opportunity and would love to hear
4 about the work of any organization represented. The
5 Commission cannot hear specifics of any open
6 investigation or case that it may have to rule on in
7 the future.

8 Ms. Walters noted there was not presently a
9 quorum present. One more Commissioner would need to
10 join the meeting; therefore, voting on commission
11 actions would need to be postponed, until quorum has
12 been reached.

13 ***

14 MANAGEMENT REPORTS - Executive Director - No Report

15 ***

16 MANAGEMENT REPORTS - Chief Counsel - No Report

17 ***

18 MANAGMENT REPORTS - Hearing Examiners

19 [Darlene Martin, Esquire, Hearing Examiner, reported
20 on an upcoming public hearing on June 4, 2026, in
21 Montgomery County. She noted hearings are open to
22 the public, and information is available on the
23 website.]

24 ***

25 MANAGEMENT REPORTS - Pittsburgh Regional Office -

1 MANAGEMENT REPORTS - Policy & Intergovernmental
2 Affairs - No Report

3 ***

4 MANAGEMENT REPORTS - Fair Housing and Commercial
5 Property

6 [Desiree Chang, Deputy Director for Enforcement,
7 Policy and Compliance, commented Fair Housing Month
8 had concluded and considered to be successful.]

9 ***

10 MANAGEMENT REPORTS - Rural and Civic Engagement -
11 No Report

12 ***

13 MANAGEMENT REPORTS - Enforcement and Compliance -
14 No Report

15 ***

16 MANAGEMENT REPORTS - Civil Rights and Outreach

17 [Sheryl Meck, Director, Civil Rights Division,
18 reported her division continues to offer training.
19 The training catalog is available on the website.]

20 ***

21 [Michael Hardiman, Esquire, entered the meeting at
22 3:19 p.m.]

23 ***

24 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

25 MS. WALTERS:

1 First item on the Agenda for action is
2 the Adoption of the Agenda.

3 CHAIR JONES:

4 Can I get a motion?

5 COMMISSIONER HARDIMAN:

6 So moved.

7 CHAIR JONES:

8 Is there a second?

9 COMMISSIONER AGRAWAL:

10 Second.

11 CHAIR JONES:

12 It is properly moved and seconded. All
13 those in favor, signify by saying aye.
14 All those opposed?

15 [The motion carried unanimously.]

16 ***

17 APPROVAL OF PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

18 MS. WALTERS:

19 Approval of public meeting Minutes.
20 The meeting Minutes for the April 27,
21 2026 meeting.

22 CHAIR JONES:

23 Can I get a motion to approve the April
24 meeting minutes?

25 COMMISSIONER HARDIMAN:

1 So moved.

2 CHAIR JONES:

3 Is there a second?

4 COMMISSIONER AGRAWAL:

5 Second.

6 CHAIR JONES:

7 It has been moved and properly
8 seconded. All those in favor will say
9 aye. All those opposed?

10 [The motion carried unanimously.]

11 ***

12 CONCILIATION AGREEMENTS/CONSENT ORDERS

13 MS. WALTERS:

14 Item No. 3 is Conciliation Agreement
15 that was provided to the Commissioners.
16 Motion to approve the Conciliation
17 Agreement.

18 CHAIR JONES:

19 So is there a motion to approve the
20 Conciliation Agreement?

21 COMMISSIONER AGRAWAL:

22 So moved.

23 CHAIR JONES:

24 Second?

25 COMMISSIONER HARDIMAN:

1 Second.

2 CHAIR JONES:

3 All those in favor of approving the
4 conciliation agreement signify by
5 saying aye. All those opposed?

6 [The motion carried unanimously.]

7 ***

8 REQUESTS FOR PRELIMINARY HEARINGS

9 MS. WALTERS:

10 Request for preliminary hearings, call
11 for a motion to deny the requests for
12 the following cases: 202401000,
13 202402111, 202402402, 202402462.

14 COMMISSIONER AGRAWAL:

15 So moved.

16 CHAIR JONES:

17 So all of them have been so moved. Is
18 there a second?

19 COMMISSIONER HARDIMAN:

20 Second.

21 CHAIR JONES:

22 They have been moved and properly
23 seconded to deny the requests for
24 preliminary hearing. All those in
25 favor of denial, signify by saying aye.

1 All those opposed, nay.

2 [The motion carried unanimously.]

3 ***

4 OLD BUSINESS - NONE

5 ***

6 NEW BUSINESS

7 MS. WALTERS:

8 The next item for the Commissioners is
9 the nomination of Election of Officers.
10 The first office to nominate for would
11 be Vice Chair.

12 CHAIR JONES:

13 I move that Commissioner Hardiman be
14 our Vice Chair. Is there a second?

15 COMMISSIONER AGRAWAL:

16 Second.

17 INTERIM CHAIR JONES:

18 All right. It has been moved and
19 properly seconded. All those in favor
20 will say aye. All those opposed?

21 [The motion carried unanimously.]

22 ***

23 MS. WALTERS:

24 Nomination for Secretary.

25 CHAIR JONES:

1 Is there a motion for Commissioner
2 Agrawal to be our Secretary? Can I get
3 a motion?

4 COMMISSIONER HARDIMAN:

5 So moved.

6 CHAIR JONES:

7 Second.

8 CHAIR JONES:

9 All those in favor for our Secretary,
10 signify by saying aye. All those
11 opposed?

12 [The motion carried unanimously.]

13 ***

14 MS. WALTERS:

15 Item No. 22 is the adoption of the
16 2026-27 Public Meeting Schedule. We
17 need a motion to approve the schedule.

18 CHAIR JONES:

19 Has everyone received the schedule? It
20 was included in your packet.

21 Hearing no objections, can I get a
22 motion to approve the schedule for the
23 26-27 year?

24 COMMISSIONER AGRAWAL:

25 So moved.

1

2 CHAIR JONES:

3

Is there a second?

4

COMMISSIONER HARDIMAN:

5

Second.

6

CHAIR JONES:

7

All those in favor of this schedule

8

signify by saying aye. All those

9

opposed?

10 [The motion carried unanimously.]

11

12

PUBLIC COMMENT

13

[Steve Feldman, Executive Director, Philadelphia

14

Chapter, Zionist Organization of America, expressed

15

concerns regarding a webinar originally planned for

16

later in May 2026 but was cancelled. He noted,

17

despite being cancelled, he was appalled that someone

18

at PHRC thought there was a relationship to be made

19

between anti-Jewish activity and anti-Islam activity.

20

He noted there was a lot of anti-Jewish activity

21

in Pennsylvania, particularly in public schools. He

22

stated the activity was discriminatory, and because

23

children are compelled to go to school, the activity

24

will lead to future discrimination against Jews. He

25

stated there was a terrible misunderstanding,

1 possibly deliberately, about Israel, Zionism and the
2 Jewish history. He implored PHRC to investigate what
3 was happening in schools. He noted there were
4 Palestinian flags in schools in addition to books and
5 materials being presented as fact when he stated were
6 not facts.

7 Chair Jones thanked Mr. Feldman for his comments
8 and noted PHRC appreciated his coming forward and
9 presenting. He stated PHRC deals with visceral
10 comments, regarding both anti-Semitism and
11 Islamophobia. He noted he is a Philadelphia City
12 Councilman, and there was a recent incident at a
13 local school where there was anti-Semitic, anti-
14 Islam, and anti-Black graffiti which was handled. He
15 noted there was another current investigation by
16 PHRC, which he was not permitted to comment on.

17 Mr. Feldman stated, while graffiti was terrible,
18 he was concerned about what happens in a classroom
19 where a student is forced to attend. He shared an
20 alleged incident in which a student expressed anti-
21 Semitic hate speech in a classroom. He stated the
22 Palestinian flag represented the persecution of Jews
23 by a terrorist organization. He added graffiti could
24 be washed away, but what happens in a classroom
25 cannot.

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.



Laurie Elliott,

Minute Clerk

Sargent's Court Reporting
Service, Inc.*S/Curtis Jone, Jr.*Curtis Jones, Jr, Interim Chair*S/Rad Agrawal*Rad Agrawal, MD, Secretary