

MINUTES OF MEETING
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 5, 2019

The meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 4:30 p.m., in the conference room, at the Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford, Connecticut.

Members Present

Thomas J. Rechen, Esq., **Chair**

G. Kenneth Bernhard, Esq.

Honorable William R. Dyson (**Conference Call**)

Aimee Golbert, LCSW

Attorney Ramona Mercado-Espinoza

Honorable Hillary B. Strackbein (**Conference Call**)

Honorable Elpedio N. Vitale (**Conference Call**)

Others Present

Christine Perra Rapillo, Chief Public Defender

John R. Day, Deputy Chief Public Defender

Diane M. Fitzpatrick, Director of Human Resources

Sanford O. Bruce, III, Acting Supervisory Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 2 (Bridgeport)

Darcy McGraw, Director, Connecticut Innocence Project/Post Conviction Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Rocky Hill

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2019 meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED

ATTORNEY
REAPPOINTMENTS

unanimously to reappoint the following attorneys to a new four-year term: Assistant Public Defender, Johanna Canning, Geographical Area 14 (Hartford), expiring on 11/14/23; Assistant Public Defender, Megan Hill, Geographical Area 12 (Manchester), expiring on 11/15/23; Supervisory Assistant Public Defender, Melanie Frank, Middletown Juvenile Matters, expiring on 11/19/23; and Senior Assistant Public Defender, James Longwell, Geographical Area 18 (Torrington), expiring on 11/19/23.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Public Defender Secretary 1, Nicole Santiago, Geographical Area 2 (Bridgeport), upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Freesia Waldron, Geographical Area 23 (New Haven), upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

The Chief Public Defender discussed the diversity plan for the Division. The goal is for the full plan to be presented to the Commission in early 2020.

The Chief Public Defender further discussed the possibility of a large number of staff retirements in 2022 and the plan to address it.

The Chief Public Defender further discussed the Division's staffing.

The Chief Public Defender further discussed the Division's budget.

The Deputy Chief Public Defender discussed the new veteran's initiative that the Division is undertaking. The Division will work to identify clients' veteran status and assist in improving their outcomes.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go into Executive Session at 4:57 p.m. The reason for convening in Executive Session was in accordance with Section 1-200(6)(A) and Section 1-210(b)(10) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 5:17 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED to approve the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 111901, 111902, and 111903. Honorable Hillary B. Strackbein recused herself regarding Authorization 111901.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Dennis Salzbrunn to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 2 (Bridgeport).

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
DENNIS SALZBRUNN

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Evan Parzych to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Connecticut Innocence Project/Post Conviction Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Rocky Hill.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
EVAN PARZYCH

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Stephanie E. Lopes to the position of Social Worker I, Parole Revocation Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Waterbury.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Day
Deputy Chief Public Defender