

MINUTES OF MEETING
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION
MARCH 10, 2020

The meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 4:41 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. (*Conference Call*)

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

Diane M. Fitzpatrick, Director of Human Resources

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2020 meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go into Executive Session at 4:43 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 5:00 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to table the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses to obtain additional information: 32003 and 32006.

TABLING OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED to approve the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 32001, 32002, 32004 and 32005. Honorable Hillary B. Strackbein recused herself regarding Authorization 32001.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Nia Clemons to the position of Public Defender Secretary I, Geographical Area 23 (New Haven).

RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Caitlin M. Mongillo to the position of Social Worker I, Geographical Area 2 (Bridgeport).

RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT

The Chief Public Defender updated the Commission on the progress of the Division's Annual Report.

The Chief Public Defender discussed the budget for the Division.

The Chief Public Defender further discussed the Division's Leadership Certification Program.

The Chief Public Defender further discussed the Coronavirus endemic.

There were no attorney reappointments to discuss at this meeting.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Public Defender Secretary I, Jahmille Mason, Hartford Judicial District, upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Tiana Hercule, Geographical Area 15 (New Britain), upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Social Worker I, LaQueshia Clemons, Bridgeport Juvenile Matters.

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Perra Rapillo
Chief Public Defender