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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION September 12, 2023

The meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 4:41 p.m. in conference room 1011 at the Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford, Connecticut.

Members Present

Honorable Richard N. Palmer, **Chair**

Honorable William R. Dyson (Via Telephone)

Michael Jefferson, Esq.

Honorable Russell Morin

Honorable Sheila M. Prats

Honorable Elliot N. Solomon

Others Present

TaShun Bowden-Lewis, Chief Public Defender

John R. Day, Deputy Chief Public Defender

Steve Hunt, Financial Director

Paula Lohr, Acting Director of Human Resources

Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Legal Counsel, Director

Amy Baez, Financial Officer

Isaias Pedraza, Assistant Public Defender

Damian Tucker, Public Defender

Amber Storey, Investigator I

Public Comment

Attorney Laila Haswell, Union President, Local 381

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go into Executive Session at 4:42 p.m. The reason for convening in Executive Session was in accordance with

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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Sections 1-200 (6) (A), (B) and (E) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 6:14 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2023, and September 6, 2023, Commission meetings.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chief Public Defender TaShun Bowden-Lewis provided information to the Commission regarding proposals received from Thought Partner Solutions and Logan Consulting and Therapeutic Services.

Chief Public Defender TaShun Bowden-Lewis offered words of recognition for Susan Hamilton, who recently resigned her position as Director of Delinquency Defense and Child Protection.

Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Legal Counsel, Director, requested approval of the receipt of additional funds from the bequest made to the CT Innocence Project.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve receipt of the additional bequeathed funds.

BEQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Zoltan Simon to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Stamford/Norwalk J.D./G.A. 1.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
ZOLTAN SIMON

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Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Nathalie Cuevas to the position of Secretary I, G.A. 7 (Meriden).

RATIFICATION OF
NATHALIE CUEVAS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Sarah Stroud to the position of Secretary I, G.A. 23 (New Haven).

RATIFICATION OF
SARAH STROUD

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Samantha Collins to the position of Secretary II, Tolland J.D./G.A. 19.

RATIFICATION OF
SAMANTHA COLLINS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Lori Martinez to the position of Administrative Assistant, Delinquency Defense and Child Protection Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender (Hartford).

RATIFICATION OF
LORI MARTINEZ

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Nancy Galarza to the position of Administrative Assistant, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender (Hartford).

RATIFICATION OF
NANCY GALARZA

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 09-2023-01, 09-2023-02, 09-2023-03, and 09-2023-04.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to reappoint the following attorneys to a new four-year term: Angela Morizio, Middletown J.D./G.A. 9, expiring on 7/01/2027; Jeffrey LaPierre, Milford J.D./G.A. 22, expiring on 8/15/2027; Joshua Perldeiner, New Britain J.D./G.A. 15, expiring

ATTORNEY
REAPPOINTMENTS

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on 9/13/2027; Charles Green, Waterbury J.D., expiring on 9/14/2027; David Warner, G.A. 14 (Hartford), expiring on 9/14/2027; Lisa Stevens, G.A. 1 (Stamford), expiring on 9/25/2027; James Lamontagne, Danbury J.D./G.A. 3, expiring on 9/26/2027; Aimee Starita, New London J.D., expiring on 9/26/2027; George Flores, Windham J.D./G.A. 11, expiring on 9/30/2027; Judith Machuga, G.A. 4 (Waterbury), expiring on 9/30/2027; Thomas J. Paoletta, G.A. 2 (Bridgeport), expiring on 9/30/2027; Matthew Ramia, G.A. 4 (Waterbury), expiring on 9/30/2027; and Michael Wagner, G.A. 14 (Hartford), expiring on 9/30/2027.

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 Yomayra Cavanaugh, Secretary I, G.A. 2 (Bridgeport), upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS
YOMAYRA CAVANAUGH

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 Meghan Kennedy, Investigator II, G.A. 14 (Hartford) upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS
MEGHAN KENNEDY

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 Michael Richards, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender, G.A. 4 (Waterbury) upon the successful completion of his probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS
MICHAEL RICHARDS

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

PERMANENT STATUS
TRAVIS CORMIER

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unanimously to grant permanent status to Travis Cormier, Fiscal Administrative Assistant II, Office of Chief Public Defender (Hartford), upon the successful completion of his probationary period.

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 Carla Droniak, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender, G.A. 5 (Derby), upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS
CARLA DRONIAK

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 Trudy Condio, Assistant Public Defender, Hartford Juvenile, upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS
TRUDY CONDIO

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 Melissa Ruot, Social Worker II, Connecticut Valley Hospital, upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS
MELISSA RUOT

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 Elizabeth Carlson, Deputy Assistant Public Defender, New Haven Juvenile, upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS
ELIZABETH CARLSON

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Dawn Bradanini, Senior Assistant Public Defender, Windham J.D./G.A.

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

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Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve two outside employment requests of Daniel Lage, Assistant Public Defender, G.A. 23 (New Haven).

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT REQUESTS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Thomas Leaf, Assistant Public Defender, Danbury J.D./G.A. 3.

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Ellen Morgan, Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Bridgeport Juvenile.

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to deny the paid educational leave request of Amy Baez, Financial Officer, Office of Chief Public Defender (Hartford).

EDUCATIONAL LEAVE REQUEST

The Commission provided a period for public comments.

Attorney Laila Haswell of Local 381 spoke on behalf of the union membership regarding attorney salaries, followed by a Q & A with members of the Commission.

The Commission requested that Financial Director Stephen Hunt provide a cost breakdown for achieving salary parity with the State's Attorneys' union. The Commission requested that, if possible, the Union and Office of Chief Public Defender endeavor to reach an agreement and access an RSA account appropriation to fund salary adjustments in advance of January 2024.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go into Executive Session at 6:41 p.m. The reason for convening in Executive Session was in accordance with

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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Sections 1-200 (6) (A), (B) and (E) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 8:01 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the ADJOURNMENT Commission, upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Day, Deputy Chief Public Defender