

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**FEBRUARY 2, 2021**

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The meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 4:32 p.m. via Zoom.

**Members Present**

- Thomas J. Rechen, Esq., **Chair**
- G. Kenneth Bernhard, Esq.
- Honorable William R. Dyson
- Aimee Golbert, LCSW
- Honorable Hillary B. Strackbein
- Honorable Elpedio N. Vitale

**Others Present**

- Christine Perra Rapillo, Chief Public Defender
- John R. Day, Deputy 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 January 5, 2021 meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go into Executive Session at 4:35 p.m. The reason for convening in Executive Session was in accordance with Section 1-210(b)(10) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 4:36 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the following Authorization to Incur Expenses: 2-2021-01.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

The Chief Public Defender updated the Commission on the Division's staffing and budget.

A discussion took place regarding the state's court processes and plans for addressing an expected high volume of future cases and trial dockets.

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: Assistant Public Defender, Hilary Carpenter, Geographical Area 14 (Hartford), expiring on 2/6/2025; Assistant Public Defender, Charity Hemingway, Geographical Area 12 (Manchester), expiring on 2/6/2025; and Chief of Psychiatric Defense Services, Monte P. Radler, Connecticut Valley Hospital, Middletown, expiring on 2/28/2025.

ATTORNEY  
REAPPOINTMENTS

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, Michelle Fredericks, Geographical Area 14 (Hartford), 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

PERMANENT STATUS

Defender, Kim Mendola, Geographical Area 2 (Bridgeport), upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Public Defender, Beth Merkin, New Haven Judicial District.

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE  
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to table the outside employment request of Social Worker I, Chaneil Beckford, Geographical Area 4 (Waterbury).

TABLING OF OUTSIDE  
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

The Chief Public Defender presented the Commission with a drafted **Annual Report Fiscal Year 2019/2020** for the Division.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the **Annual Report Fiscal Year 2019/2020** for the Division.

APPROVAL OF **ANNUAL  
REPORT FISCAL YEAR  
2019/2020**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go back into Executive Session at 5:25 p.m. The reason for convening in Executive Session was in accordance with Section 1-200(6)(A) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 6:09 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Day  
Deputy Chief Public Defender