

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

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The meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 4:34 p.m. via Zoom.

**Members Present**

Thomas J. Rechen, Esq., **Chair**  
G. Kenneth Bernhard, Esq.  
Honorable William R. Dyson  
Aimee Golbert, LCSW  
Attorney Ramona Mercado-Espinoza  
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  
Angela C. Anastasi, Senior Assistant Public Defender  
Middletown Judicial District/Geographical Area 9  
Bradford Buchta, Assistant Public Defender  
Fairfield Judicial District  
Claud Chong, Senior Assistant Public Defender  
Hartford Judicial District  
John Lozada, Director of Diversity and Inclusion  
Committee for Public Counsel Services  
State of Massachusetts  
Jared J. Millbrandt, Assistant Public Defender  
Fairfield Judicial District

Patrick Orciani, Director of Diversity and Inclusion  
Office of Public Defender, State of Maryland

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2021 meeting. Commission member, Attorney Ramona Mercado-Espinoza, recused herself from the vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go into Executive Session at 4:37 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 4:48 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the following Authorization to Incur Expenses at a reduced rate of \$250 per hour for 14 hours: 3-2021-02.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED to approve the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 3-2021-01, 3-2021-04, 3-2021-05, 3-2021-06, 3-2021-07 and 3-2021-08. Honorable Elpedio N. Vitale recused himself in Authorization 3-2021-06 and 3-2021-08.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to table the following Authorization to Incur Expenses: 3-2021-03.

TABLING OF EXPENSES

The Chief Public Defender discussed the Division's budget.

The Chief Public Defender further discussed the Division's **Proposed Hiring Plan FY 2020/21**.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the Division's **Proposed Hiring Plan FY 2020/21**.

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED  
HIRING PLAN FY 2020/21

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: Senior Assistant Public Defender, Dawn Bradanini, Windham Judicial District/Geographical Area 11, expiring on 3/18/2025; Assistant Public Defender, Sanford Bruce, III, Geographical Area 23 (New Haven), expiring on 3/18/2025; and Senior Assistant Public Defender, Christine Schwartzstein, Geographical Area 2 (Bridgeport), expiring on 3/24/2025.

ATTORNEY  
REAPPOINTMENTS

There were no permanent statuses to discuss at this meeting.

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

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE  
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Public Defender Secretary II, Patricia Black, Milford Judicial District/Geographical Area 22.

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE  
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Public

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE  
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Defender, Barry A. Butler, Stamford Judicial District/Geographical Area 1.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Investigator I, Milton Calderon, Milford Judicial District/Geographical Area 22.

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Assistant Public Defender, Toni Esposito, Geographical Area 7 (Meriden).

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Senior Assistant Public Defender, Jeffrey P. Magut, Bridgeport Juvenile Matters.

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Investigator I, Madelyn Montalvan, Geographical Area 2 (Bridgeport).

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Investigator II, Ronald Onofrio, Geographical Area 7 (Meriden).

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Investigator II, Norberto Rodriguez, Jr., Geographical Area 4 (Waterbury).

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Assistant Public Defender, Maya Sparks, Geographical Area 1 (Stamford).

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE  
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Public Defender Secretary II, Theresa A. Williams, Geographical Area 1 (Stamford).

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE  
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Assistant Public Defender, Keith Zackowitz, Geographical Area 23 (New Haven).

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE  
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Rachel E. Sponzo to the position of Social Worker I, Windham Judicial District/Geographical Area 11.

RATIFICATION OF  
RACHEL E. SPONZO

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Sebastian M. Rengifo Amblodegui to the position of Investigator I, Geographical Area 12 (Manchester).

RATIFICATION OF  
SEBASTIAN M. RENGIFO  
AMBLODEGUI

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go back into Executive Session at 5:14 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 5:33 p.m.

Director of Diversity and Inclusion, John Lozada, Committee for Public Counsel Services, State of Massachusetts, presented on the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion position in his state.

PRESENTATION ON DIVERSITY,  
EQUITY AND INCLUSION  
POSITION

Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Patrick Orciani, Office of Public Defender, State of Maryland, presented on the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion position in his state.

PRESENTATION ON DIVERSITY,  
EQUITY AND INCLUSION  
POSITION

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go back into Executive Session at 6:20 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 7:38 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Angela C. Anastasi to the position of Public Defender, Middletown Judicial District/Geographical Area 9.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.  
ANGELA C. ANASTASI

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Day  
Deputy Chief Public Defender