

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION
MARCH 25, 2021**

The special meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 3 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

Others Present

Christine Perra Rapillo, Chief Public Defender

John R. Day, Deputy Chief Public Defender

Diane M. Fitzpatrick, Director of Human Resources

Amy Baez, Co-Chair, Racial Justice and Cultural Competency
Committee, Office of Chief Public Defender

TaShun Bowden-Lewis, Co-Chair, Racial Justice and Cultural
Competency Committee, Office of Chief Public Defender

Jassette Henry, Co-Chair, Racial Justice and Cultural
Competency Committee, Office of Chief Public Defender

John Lozada, Director of Diversity and Inclusion
Committee for Public Counsel Services

State of Massachusetts

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

An introduction took place regarding the participants of the meeting.

Jassette Henry, Co-Chair, Racial Justice and Cultural Competency Committee, Office of Chief Public Defender, discussed the Committee's vision of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion position being considered by the Commission. The discussion also included input from Co-Chairs, Amy Baez and TaShun Bowden-Lewis of the Racial Justice and Cultural Competency Committee.

DISCUSSION OF DIVERSITY,
EQUITY AND INCLUSION
POSITION

The Commission engaged in a discussion with participants of the meeting. Following the discussion, the Directors of Diversity and Inclusion, John Lozada and Patrick Orciani exited the meeting.

Chairman, Thomas J. Rechen, Esq., discussed what the Commission will need going forward as follows:

1. A proposed job description for the position of Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Office of Chief Public Defender.
2. Where this position sits as a part of the Office of Chief Public Defender management team.
3. Should the position be an attorney or other professional?

A job description will be drafted by the Chief Public Defender, Deputy Chief Public Defender, Director of Human Resources and the Racial Justice and Cultural Competency Committee.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Day
Deputy Chief Public Defender