

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING December 5, 2023

In person meeting at OCPD Hartford, CT

Meeting commenced at 4:42 p.m.

Members Present

Hon Richard Palmer (Chair)
Hon Elliot Solomon
Attorney Michael Jefferson
Hon Shelia Pratts
Hon Russell Morin

Other Agency Staff

TaShun Bowden Lewis, Chief Public Defender
John Day, Deputy Chief Public Defender
Steve Hunt, Financial Director
Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Director, Legal Counsel
John Cizik, Training
Andrew O'Shea, Training Director
Alix Walmsley, Director of Assigned Counsel
Katherine Farrell, Chief Social Worker
Paula Lohr, Acting Director of Human Resources

Opening comments by Hon Richard Palmer, Commission Chair, regarding the scheduling of the agenda for the meeting

MM 2nd – Unanimous to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2023, Commission Meeting
MM 2nd – Unanimous to approve the Commission meeting dates for the 2024 calendar year

Comments by Hon Richard Palmer, Commission Chair, tabling the discussion of possible future presentations for a future Commission meeting.

Comments by the CPD regarding the proposed presentations

Presentation by Andrew O'Shea and John Cizik regarding the proposed 2024 agency annual meeting and the options being considered.

Q&A by Commission members followed, and a request was made to provide a comparison of similar events held by other state agencies.

Comments by Hon Richard Palmer, Commission Chair, tabling a discussion of Commission policies for a future Commission meeting.

Hon William Dyson announced the conclusion of his term as commission member and addressed the attendees regarding his tenure as member and service to the agency.

Comments regarding his distinguished service to the agency were provided by the following:

- Hon Richard Palmer (Chair)
- TaShun Bowden Lewis, Chief Public Defender
- Hon Elliot Solomon
- Attorney Michael Jefferson
- Katherine Farrell, Chief Social Worker
- Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Director, Legal Counsel

Comments by Hon Richard Palmer, Commission Chair, tabling commission correspondence for a future Commission meeting

MM 2nd – Unanimous INTO **EXECUTIVE SESSION 5:16 p.m.**

Pursuant to C.G.S 1-200 (6) A, B and E

OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:43 p.m.

A period of public Commentary was provided regarding Daryl McGraw, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:

Public Comment 12/5/2023 –

- 1) John Stawicki, Senior Assistant Public Defender, Hartford J.D. – Spoke in support of Daryl McGraw.
- 2) Taj Amir Abdur Rahman – Spoke in support of Daryl McGraw.
Luis Mattei, Jr. – Spoke in support of Daryl McGraw.
- 3) Darren Crosby – Spoke in support of Daryl McGraw.
- 4) Adam Carmon – Spoke in support of Daryl McGraw.
- 5) Deborah Martinez – Spoke in support of Daryl McGraw.
- 6) Daisy – Spoke in support of Daryl McGraw.
- 7) Ebony Duncan – Spoke in support of Daryl McGraw.
- 8) J Sheim Perry – Spoke in support of Daryl McGraw.
- 9) Jennifer Smith, Assistant Public Defender, Legal Services – Spoke with concerns about Daryl McGraw.
- 10) Antoine Jones – Spoke in support of Daryl McGraw.
- 11) Herb Boyd – Spoke in support of Daryl McGraw.

- 12) Maureen Murphy, Assistant Public Defender, G.A. 23 – Spoke with concerns about Daryl McGraw.
- 13) Sarah Piotti – Spoke in support of Daryl McGraw.
- 14) Stephanie Cooper – Spoke in support of Daryl McGraw.
- 15) Melissa Curry – Spoke in support of Daryl McGraw.
- 16) Gregory Spear – Spoke in support of Daryl McGraw.
- 17) Calvin King – Spoke in support of Daryl McGraw.
- 18) Filomena Aresco, Investigator III, New London J.D. – Spoke in support of Daryl McGraw.
- 19) Edward Andrews – Spoke in support of Daryl McGraw.
- 20) Attorney Matthew Dyer, Furey, Donovan, Cooney & Dyer, PC, addressed the Commission members as counsel retained by Mr. McGraw with his position regarding the legality and authority of the Commission to take disciplinary action against Mr. McGraw.
- 21) Meredith Martin, Investigator III, Middletown J.D./G.A. 9 – Spoke with concerns about Daryl McGraw.
- 22) Dawn Crimmins, Social Worker III, Waterbury/Torrington Juvenile Matters – Spoke in support of Daryl McGraw.

MM 2nd – Unanimous INTO **EXECUTIVE SESSION 8:17 p.m.**

OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION 10:26 p.m.

MM 2nd Unanimous to approve the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses

- 1205001
- 1205002
- 1205003
- 1205004 (tabled for additional information)

MM 2nd to ratify the following appointment:

- DaShayla Miller Social Worker II GA #7

MM 2nd Unanimous to approve the following reappointment and permanent status:

Permanent Status

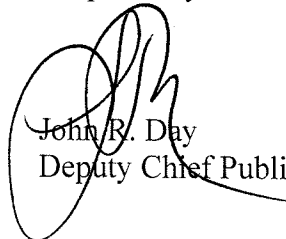
- Shannon Lozier GA#11
- Mikala Guyton OCPD
- Tracey Gordon OCPD

Reappointment

- Laila Haswell LSU
- Evan Parzych CTIP
- Alfonzo Sirica PRU
- Shalu Gulash GA #2
- Jared Millbrandt Stamford/Norwalk GA/JD
- Russell Williams GA #14
- Joseph Lopez Complex Litigation Unit

MM 2nd Unanimous to Adjourn at 10:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



John R. Day
Deputy Chief Public Defender