

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING**  
**PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION MEETING February 9, 2024**

In person meeting at OCPD Hartford

**Meeting commenced at 4:10 pm**

Members Present

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

Other Agency Staff

TaShun Bowden Lewis, Chief Public Defender  
John Day, Deputy Chief Public Defender  
Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Director, Legal Counsel

MM 2<sup>nd</sup> Unanimous to go into Executive Session at 4:11 pm

MM 2<sup>nd</sup> Unanimous to come out of Executive Session at 5:20 pm

The Chair, Justice Palmer, announced that the Chief Public Defender, TaShun Bowden-Lewis was placed on administrative leave with pay effective immediately. Justice Palmer directed that Attorney Bowden-Lewis have no contact with any agency staff members or clients and that she was to surrender her computer and credentials.

MM 2<sup>nd</sup> Unanimous in support of the above action.

Attorney Bowden-Lewis then left the meeting having been provided with a letter regarding the leave.

5:21 pm - DCPD left the meeting with the CPD (Deborah Del Prete Sullivan taking minutes in the absence of the DCPD)

Justice Palmer indicated that regarding Greg Dion being placed on Administrative Leave, there was no basis for such, it was unjustified and inappropriate, and that the action was reversed and retracted. Paula Lohr would be advised accordingly.

MM 2<sup>nd</sup> Unanimous in support of the above action.

Justice Palmer indicated that in regard to the Letter of Reprimand issued to Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, there was no basis for such, the action was unjustified and inappropriate, and that the action was reversed and retracted. Paula Lohr would be advised accordingly.

MM 2<sup>nd</sup> Unanimous in support of the above action.

Justice Palmer read from a document and directed that the document be made a part of the recorded minutes (attached).

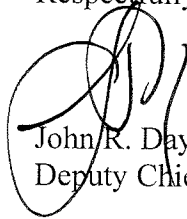
Justice Palmer indicated that the Deputy Chief Public Defender, John Day, will now be the Acting Chief Public Defender and discharge the duties accordingly.

MM 2<sup>nd</sup> Unanimous to appoint John Day as the Acting Chief Public Defender.

Judge Shiela Prats commented that she has known Attorney Bowden-Lewis since she was in Waterbury and that it was with a heavy heart that she voted today to place her on Administrative Leave, but that it was the right decision to make.

MM 2<sup>nd</sup> to adjourn at 5:31 pm

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. R. Day', written over a circular stamp or seal.

John R. Day  
Deputy Chief Public Defender

## **Greg Dion**

To be reflected in the Commission's minutes for February 9, 2024:

Having reviewed the matter of the placement of Greg Dion on administrative leave with pay on February 7, 2024, the Commission finds and concludes that there was no basis in fact or law for that action and, therefore, his placement on administrative leave with pay was unjustified and inappropriate.

Accordingly, the action placing Mr. Dion on administrative leave with pay is hereby reversed and retracted, and any document, including any document maintained electronically, including but not limited to documents pertaining to attendance, reflecting Mr. Dion's placement on administrative leave with pay shall be expunged from and physically removed from his personnel file and from any other file, including electronic files, maintained by the Division of Public Defender Services.

In addition, any and all persons employed by the Division of Public Defender Services, including but not limited to any and all persons responsible for or involved in Mr. Dion's placement on administrative leave with pay, are hereby directed to remove any document reflecting such placement from any file, including electronic files, within their possession and return all copies and records pertaining to such placement to the Public Defender Services Commission.

## **Deborah Del Prete Sullivan**

To be reflected in the Commission's minutes for February 9, 2024:

Having reviewed the matter of the Letter of Reprimand issued to Deborah Del Prete Sullivan on February 8, 2024, the Commission finds and concludes that there was no basis in fact or law for that action and, therefore, the issuance of that Letter of Reprimand was unjustified and inappropriate.

Accordingly, the Letter of Reprimand is hereby retracted, and any document, including any document electronically recorded, reflecting the issuance of the Letter of Reprimand shall be expunged from and physically removed from Attorney Sullivan's personnel file and any other file, including any electronic file, maintained by the Division of Public Defender Services.

In addition, any and all persons employed by the Division of Public Defender Services, including but not limited to any and all persons responsible for or involved in the issuance of the Letter of Reprimand, are hereby directed to remove any document reflecting the issuance of the Letter of Reprimand from any file, including electronic files, within their possession and return all copies and records pertaining to the Letter of Reprimand to the Public Defender Services Commission.