

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION
MAY 21, 2024**

The special meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 4:36 p.m. at the Office of Chief Public Defender, Rooms 1008/1011, Hartford, Connecticut.

Members Present

Honorable Richard N. Palmer, **Chair**
Michael Jefferson, Esq.
Honorable Russell Morin
Honorable Sheila M. Prats (via Zoom)
Honorable Elliot N. Solomon
Herman Woodard, Jr., Esq.

Others Present

John R. Day, Acting Chief Public Defender
Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Director, Legal Counsel
Renee Cimino, Director, Delinquency Defense and Child
Protection
Paula Lohr, Acting Director of Human Resources

Commission Chairman, Honorable Richard N. Palmer, made a statement. He stated that the subject matter of today's meeting will be regular Commission business. He also reported that the matter regarding the Chief Public Defender, TaShun Bowden-Lewis, will be addressed at the June 4, 2024 Commission meeting.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2024 meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
APRIL 2, 2024

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2024 special meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
APRIL 16, 2024

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2024 special meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
APRIL 25, 2024

The Commission reviewed the Division's budget summary.

The Acting Chief Public Defender, John R. Day, provided an update on the recruitment and hiring plan for the remainder of the calendar year.

UPDATE ON RECRUITMENT AND
HIRING PLAN

The Acting Chief Public Defender, John R. Day, further provided an update on the upcoming Annual Meeting to be held on June 10, 2024.

UPDATE ON UPCOMING
ANNUAL MEETING

The Acting Chief Public Defender, John R. Day, further provided an update on the planned review and updating of the approval process for case-related expenses.

UPDATE ON REVIEW OF THE
APPROVAL PROCESS FOR
CASE-RELATED EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go into Executive Session at 4:45 p.m. The reason for convening in Executive Session was in accordance with Section 1-200(6)(A) and Section 1-210(b)(10) of the Connecticut General Statutes to discuss the following: Authorizations to Incur Expenses; appointments and ratifications; reclassifications; reappointments and permanent statuses; outside employment requests; and the matter pertaining to Chief Public Defender, TaShun Bowden-Lewis.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to come out of Executive Session at 6:54 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 5-2024-01; 5-2024-02; 5-2024-03; 5-2024-04; 5-2024-05; 5-2024-06; 5-2024-07; 5-2024-08; 5-2024-09; 5-2024-10; 5-2024-11; 5-2024-12; 5-2024-13; 5-2024-14; 5-2024-15; 5-2024-16; 5-2024-17, 5-2024-18, and 5-2024-19.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Christopher Oakley to the position of Assistant Public Defender, Child Protection Parent Defense Unit, Middletown Juvenile Matters.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
CHRISTOPHER OAKLEY

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Emily Jones to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Child Protection Parent Defense Unit, Middletown Juvenile Matters.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
EMILY JONES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Lisa Samuelson to the position of Supervisory Assistant Public Defender, New Haven Juvenile Matters.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
LISA SAMUELSON

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Lindsey Guerrero to the position of Supervisory Assistant Public Defender, Bridgeport Juvenile Matters.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
LINDSEY GUERRERO

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Cynthia Munroe to the

RATIFICATION OF
CYNTHIA MUNROE

position of Systems Specialist, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Nathalia Dorival to the position of Social Worker 1, Geographical Area 4 (Waterbury).

RATIFICATION OF
NATHALIA DORIVAL

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Virginia Knudsen to the position of Investigator II, Hartford Judicial District.

APPOINTMENT OF
VIRGINIA KNUDSEN

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to table an outside employment request for a Division employee until a future meeting to obtain additional information.

TABLING OF OUTSIDE
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Acting Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to reappoint the following attorney to a new four-year term: Public Defender, John Walkley, Milford Judicial District/Geographical Area 22, expiring on 5/13/2028.

ATTORNEY
REAPPOINTMENT

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Acting Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Social Worker I, Shavonne Moore, New Haven Judicial District, upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Acting Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Deputy Assistant

PERMANENT STATUS

Public Defender, Kacey Stone, Geographical Area 4 (Waterbury), upon the successful completion of their probationary period.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Day
Acting Chief Public Defender