

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION
JUNE 16, 2026

The special meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 4:48 p.m., at the Office of Chief Public Defender, Rooms 1008/1011, Hartford, Connecticut.

Members Present

Honorable Richard N. Palmer, **Chair**
Honorable Jane K. Grossman
Michael Jefferson, Esq.
Honorable Elliot N. Solomon
Herman Woodard, Jr., Esq.

Others Present

John R. Day, Chief Public Defender
Bevin O. Salmon, Deputy Chief Public Defender
Erin M. Ryan, Director of Human Resources
John R. DelBarba, Assistant Legal Counsel
Legal and Legislative Affairs Unit
Stephen Hunt, Chief Fiscal Officer
Todd Bussert, Director of Complex Litigation
Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford
Christopher D. Eddy, Public Defender
New Britain Judicial District/Geographical Area 15
Leonie Campbell, Executive Assistant to the Commission

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2026, special meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chief Fiscal Officer, Stephen Hunt, provided a budget update summary for FY 26. There was a brief question-and-answer segment.

BUDGET SUMMARY

The Chief Public Defender presented on his report of the Division.

REPORT OF CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER

There were no Commission Correspondences.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go into Executive Session at 5:08 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, Reclassifications, Reappointments & Permanent Statuses, Outside Employment Requests, Educational Leave Requests, Strategy and Negotiations with Respect to Collective Bargaining, and Litigation Involving the Commission.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Other attendees included the Chief Public Defender, John R. Day; Deputy Chief Public Defender, Bevin O. Salmon; Director of Human Resources, Erin M. Ryan; Assistant Legal Counsel, John R. DelBarba, Legal and Legislative Affairs Unit; Director of Complex Litigation, Todd Bussert, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford; and Public Defender, Christopher D. Eddy, New Britain Judicial District/Geographical Area 15.

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 7:09 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the following Authorizations to Incur

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

Expenses: 6-2026-01; 6-2026-02; 6-2026-03; 6-2026-04; 6-2026-05; 6-2026-06; 6-2026-07; 6-2026-08; 6-2026-09; and 6-2026-10

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to table the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Complex Litigation Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford.

TABLING OF DAPD POSITION,
COMPLEX LITIGATION UNIT

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney William A. Bartinik to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 15 (New Britain).

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
WILLIAM A. BARTINIK

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Michelle M. Rivera to the position of Public Defender Secretary I, Ansonia-Milford Judicial District/Geographical Area 22.

RATIFICATION OF
MICHELLE M. RIVERA

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: Assistant Public Defender, Olivia Haubert, Middletown Judicial District/Geographical Area 9, expiring on 6/17/2030; Senior Assistant Public Defender, Jennifer Donnelly, Connecticut Valley Hospital, expiring on 6/18/2030; Assistant Public Defender, Ashley Richard, Geographical Area 14 (Hartford), expiring on 6/22/2030; Supervisory Assistant Public Defender, Lisa Samuelson, New Haven Juvenile Matters, expiring on 6/23/2030; Assistant Public Defender, Hannah Dean, Parole Revocation Unit, expiring on 7/1/2030; and Assistant Public Defender, Claire Jabbour, Geographical Area 14 (Hartford), expiring on 7/1/2030.

ATTORNEY
REAPPOINTMENTS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Public Defender Secretary I, Timothy Leffingwell, Geographical Area 15 (New Britain), upon the successful completion of his probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Public Defender Secretary I, Alyssa Rodriguez, Geographical Area 7 (Meriden), upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Public Defender Secretary I, Amariliz Torres, Geographical Area 4 (Waterbury), upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Public Defender Secretary II, Jennifer Muriby-Ortega, New London 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 Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Manager of Child Protection and Delinquency Defense, Jaime Dubois-Delarosa, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford, upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Investigator I, Stacey Yuchniuk, Geographical Area 21 (Norwich).

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bevin O. Salmon
Deputy Chief Public Defender