

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION
MAY 26, 2026**

The special meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 5:09 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 (*via Telephone and In-Person*)

Herman Woodard, Jr., Esq.

Others Present

John R. Day, Chief Public Defender

Bevin O. Salmon, Deputy Chief Public Defender

Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Legal Counsel, Director

Erin M. Ryan, Director of Human Resources

Stephen Hunt, Chief Fiscal Officer

Jennifer Lee, Acting Chief Investigator

Claud Chong, Public Defender

Ansonia-Milford Judicial District/Geographical Area 22

Bradford Buchta, Public Defender

Tolland Judicial District/Rockville Geographical Area 19

Leonie Campbell, Executive Assistant to the Commission

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2026, meeting. Honorable Jane K. Grossman abstained from the vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2026, special meeting.

APPROVAL OF
SPECIAL MINUTES

The Commission noted two pieces of Commission Correspondence.

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

BUDGET SUMMARY

The Commission discussed the annual increases for the Division's Exempt staff.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the annual increases for the Division's Exempt staff.

APPROVAL OF ANNUAL
INCREASES FOR THE
DIVISION'S EXEMPT STAFF

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go into Executive Session at 5:22 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; Legal Counsel, Director, Deborah Del Prete Sullivan; Director of Human

Resources, Erin M. Ryan; Acting Chief Investigator, Jennifer Lee; Public Defender, Claud Chong, Ansonia-Milford Judicial District/ Geographical Area 22; and Public Defender, Bradford Buchta, Tolland Judicial District/Rockville Geographical Area 19.

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 9:53 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Rebecca Barnes to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 2 (Bridgeport).

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
REBECCA BARNES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Erica M. Blue to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 4 (Waterbury).

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
ERICA M. BLUE

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Jose A. Serrano to the position of Investigator III, Ansonia-Milford Judicial District/Geographical Area 22.

APPOINTMENT OF
JOSE A. SERRANO

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint George A. Gray, IV to the position of Investigator III, Tolland Judicial District/Rockville Geographical Area 19.

APPOINTMENT OF
GEORGE A. GRAY, IV

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Edith M. Bruce to the position of Paralegal I, Delinquency Defense and Child Protection, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford.

RATIFICATION OF
EDITH M. BRUCE

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to table the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 5-2026-01; and 5-2026-08.

TABLING OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to deny the following Authorization to Incur Expenses: 5-2026-03.

DENIAL OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 5-2026-02 (approved for 20 hours); 5-2026-04; 5-2026-05 (approved for 40 hours); 5-2026-06; 5-2026-07; 5-2026-09; 5-2026-10; and 5-2026-11.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 5-2026-12; 5-2026-13; 5-2026-14; 5-2026-15; 5-2026-16; 5-2026-17; 5-2026-18; and 5-2026-19.

RATIFICATION OF EXPENSES

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: Senior Assistant Public Defender, Linda Babcock, Geographical Area 14 (Hartford), expiring on 5/15/2030; Assistant Public Defender, Christopher Brenes, Geographical Area 12 (Manchester), expiring on 5/20/2030; Assistant Public Defender, Brooklyn Campagna, Geographical Area 2 (Bridgeport), expiring on 6/3/2030; Assistant Public Defender, William Deegan, Geographical Area 15 (New Britain), expiring on 6/3/2030; and Assistant Public Defender, Margaret O'Neil, Geographical Area 15 (New Britain), expiring on 6/3/2030.

ATTORNEY
REAPPOINTMENTS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to table the attorney reappointment of Assistant Public Defender, Hannah Snow, Geographical Area 2 (Bridgeport), for further discussion.

TABLING OF ATTORNEY REAPPOINTMENT

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 Paralegal II, Danielle Johnson, Delinquency Defense and Child Protection, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford, 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, Christine Lang, 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 Investigator I, Tavin Royster, Danbury Judicial District/Geographical Area 3, 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 Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Alyssa DeDominicis, Middletown Judicial District/Geographical Area 9, 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 Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Thomas Kuhlmeier, Geographical Area 14 (Hartford), upon the successful completion of his probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Social Worker II, Lisa Corcoran, New Britain Juvenile Matters.

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

The Commission noted the Report of the Chief Public Defender.

The Commission discussed its decision to post the Chief Social Worker position. Commission Chairman, Honorable Richard N. Palmer would review the job description before it is posted.

DECISION TO POST THE
CHIEF SOCIAL WORKER
POSITION

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bevin O. Salmon
Deputy Chief Public Defender