



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
WORKERS' COMPENSATION ADVISORY BOARD

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**DRAFT Minutes**

A meeting of the Workers' Compensation Advisory Board was held on April 8, 2019 in the Workers' Compensation Commission's CRB Hearing Room, 21 Oak Street, Hartford, Connecticut. The meeting convened at 10:03 A.M. with the following Board Members present: Chairman Michael Riley, presiding; Rocco Calo, Gregory Nokes, Ross Hollander, Michael Dimenstein, Karen Welch and John Adamson.

Present from the Workers' Compensation Commission was Chairman Stephen Morelli, Michael Petosa, and Richard Eighme.

Also in attendance from the public was, Justin Moulton, Attorney Thomas Porzio, Attorney Ed Dodd, Attorney Neil Ambrose, Attorney Gary Cicchiello, Attorney Melanie Kolek, Laura Lillian Best, Attorney Andy Hern, Attorney John Clifford, Attorney Chris Anderson and Tamara Lanier.

**I. Opening Remarks**

Chairman Riley opened the meeting and thanked everyone for being in attendance. He discussed a letter that had been sent to him, along with a memorandum from Commissioner Thomas J. Mullins. The correspondence, along with Chairman Riley's response, was shared with the board's members prior to the meeting.

**II. Public Comments**

Commissioner Thomas J. Mullins thanked the advisory board for the opportunity to speak and share information he felt supported his renomination. He referenced the memorandum and exhibits that were provided to advisory board members and discussed why he believed he should be renominated to another 5 year term as a Workers' Compensation Commissioner.

Chairman Riley thanked Commissioner Mullins for his comments and asked if anyone who wished to testify would be opposed to following the Legislature's standard of allowing up to three minutes for testimony. There was no opposition.

Thomas Porzio, Ed Dodd, Neil Ambrose, Gary Cicchiello, Melanie Kolek, Laura Lillian Best, Andy Hern, John Clifford, Chris Anderson and Tamara Lanier took turns speaking in support of Commissioner Thomas J. Mullins. They discussed their individual experiences with the Commissioner and recommended his renomination.

During the public comments, Chairman Riley reminded those present that the Advisory Board does not nominate or appoint Commissioners; only the Governor and the Legislature have the authority to take such action.

Commissioner Thomas J. Mullins again thanked the Advisory Board for the opportunity to speak, and asked for the Advisory board's support.

Chairman Riley thanked everyone who spoke for their remarks and with no further comments or questions, concluded the public comments portion of the meeting.

### **III. Chairman's Update**

Chairman Morelli provided an update on the Governor's Budget and HB 7241, which includes language that would reduce the amount of times the advisory board is required to meet. He also discussed HB 6916 and the potential fiscal impact the legislation would have on the Commission.

Chairman Morelli also discussed staff changes, the new computer system, transitioning the website and several initiatives around pain management, injured employees returning to work and medical marijuana.

### **IV. Other Business**

John Adamson requested that the advisory board discuss the recommendation of Thomas J. Mullins to be renominated as a Workers' Compensation Commissioner. Karen Welch agreed and expressed her interest in discussing all of the materials and comments.

Members questioned whether such discussion needed to be done in executive session. Richard Eighme of the Commission reminded the board that the performance evaluation of any Commissioner can only be disclosed to the Governor, the members of the joint standing committee on Judiciary and the respective Commissioner. He recommended that any discussion on evaluations or concerning the appointment or performance of a Commissioner should be done in executive session.

John Adamson made a motion, seconded by Karen Welch to adjourn to executive session, for members to discuss the recommendation on the renomination of Commissioner Mullins. There was no objection and the board adjourned to executive session.

The regular meeting was reconvened at which point Chairman Riley asked if there was any other business.

### **V. Adjournment**

With no other business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:19 P.M.