

MINUTES OF MEETING
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION
OCTOBER 1, 2019

The meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 4:34 p.m., in the conference room, at the Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford, Connecticut.

Members Present

Thomas J. Rechen, Esq., **Chair**
G. Kenneth Bernhard, Esq. (**Conference Call**)
Honorable William R. Dyson (**Conference Call**)
Aimee Golbert, LCSW
Attorney Ramona Mercado-Espinoza
Honorable Hillary B. Strackbein (**Conference Call**)
Honorable Elpedio N. Vitale (**Conference Call**)

Others Present

Christine Perra Rapillo, Chief Public Defender
John R. Day, Deputy Chief Public Defender
Diane M. Fitzpatrick, Director of Human Resources
Stephen A. Hunt, Financial Director
Damian Tucker, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender
Geographical Area 5 (Derby)
Tyler Wright, VISTA Volunteer
Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2019 meeting. Honorable Elpedio N. Vitale abstained from the vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chief Public Defender discussed the VISTA grant program and introduced the volunteer, Tyler Wright, assigned to our Division. Mr. Wright discussed his efforts to create a community engagement plan for the Division.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go into Executive Session at 4:51 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 5:28 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED to approve the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 101902, 101903 and 101905. Honorable Hillary B. Strackbein recused herself regarding Authorization 101903.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED to approve all other Authorizations to Incur Expenses as follows: 101901 and 101904. Honorable Hillary B. Strackbein abstained from the vote.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Carla Rose Droniak to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 5 (Derby).

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
CARLA ROSE DRONIAK

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Miranda Demirjian to the position of Social Worker I, Geographical Area 20 (Norwalk).

APPOINTMENT OF
MIRANDA DEMIRJIAN

Financial Director, Stephen A. Hunt, discussed the budget for the Division.

The Chief Public Defender discussed the hiring plan for the following positions and offices: Assistant Public Defender, Psychiatric Defense Unit, Connecticut Valley Hospital, Middletown for October; (2) Part-Time Investigators (20 hours per week), Milford Judicial District/ Geographical Area 22 and Geographical Area 4 (Waterbury) for November; Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 4 (Waterbury); Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Connecticut Innocence Project/Post Conviction Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Rocky Hill, and Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 15 (New Britain) for December/January, as well as Deputy Assistant Public Defender, unallocated, for January or early 2020.

DISCUSSION OF HIRING PLAN

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the hiring plan for the Division.

APPROVAL OF HIRING PLAN

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, James B. Streeto, Legal Services Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Waterbury, expiring on 10/1/23; Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Anne Marie Kindley, Geographical Area 2 (Bridgeport), expiring on 10/12/23; Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Rosanna Cappetta, Geographical Area 2 (Bridgeport), expiring on 10/16/23; and Senior Assistant Public Defender, Maureen J. Gaffey, Middletown Judicial District/ Geographical Area 9, expiring on 10/29/23.

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 Investigator I, Alexis Angotta, Geographical Area 1 (Stamford), 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, Lida Angier, Danbury Judicial District/Geographical Area 3, 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, Scott Jongebloed, Geographical Area 18 (Torrington), 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, Amy Zurlo, Geographical Area 4 (Waterbury), upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

The Deputy Chief Public Defender discussed the Division's participation in Stand Down 2019.

The Deputy Chief Public Defender further discussed a new veteran's awareness program planned for the Division.

The Deputy Chief Public Defender further discussed a new Authorization to Incur Expenses form for habeas corpus cases.

The Chief Public Defender discussed the amendment to the Public Defender Administrative Manual, Section 4, **Approval and Payment of Expenses**.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the amendment to the Public Defender Administrative Manual, Section 4, **Approval and Payment of Expenses**.

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO SECTION 4 OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL – **APPROVAL AND PAYMENT OF EXPENSES**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Day
Deputy Chief Public Defender