

MINUTES OF MEETING
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION
JANUARY 7, 2025

The meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 4:40 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

Honorable Elliot N. Solomon

Herman Woodard, Jr., Esq.

Others Present

John R. Day, Acting Chief Public Defender

Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Director, Legal Counsel

Erin M. Ryan, Director of Human Resources

Stephen Hunt, Chief Fiscal Officer

Leonie Campbell, Executive Assistant to the Commission

James B. McCarthy, Esq.

Daryl McGraw

Michael Dyer, Esq., Attorney for Daryl McGraw

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2024, meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chief Fiscal Officer, Stephen Hunt, provided a budget summary for FY 25. There was a brief question-and-answer segment.

BUDGET SUMMARY

The Acting Chief Public Defender, John R. Day, provided an update on the Division's staffing and hiring and the conclusion of the 2024 Fellowship program.

REPORT OF ACTING CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER

The Acting Chief Public Defender, John R. Day, further provided an update on the progress of additional office space in some court locations.

REPORT OF ACTING CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER

The Acting Chief Public Defender, John R. Day, further provided an update on the upcoming Attorney's Union negotiations.

REPORT OF ACTING CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER

The Acting Chief Public Defender, John R. Day, further provided an update on the Division's caseloads.

REPORT OF ACTING CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER

The Acting Chief Public Defender, John R. Day, further provided a copy of the Division's 2024 Annual Report for Commission approval.

REPORT OF ACTING CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER

The Acting Chief Public Defender, John R. Day, further provided an update on the ongoing integration of the Justice Text program.

REPORT OF ACTING CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER

The Acting Chief Public Defender, John R. Day, further provided an update on the Division's staff transfers and retirements for December.

REPORT OF ACTING CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER

Commission Chairman, Justice Palmer, provided a statement regarding Mr. Daryl McGraw's decision to have any matters pertaining to him discussed in the public session of the meeting.

STATEMENT BY
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN,
JUSTICE PALMER

The Acting Chief Public Defender provided a brief report to the Commission regarding the outcome of the disciplinary matter of Mr. Daryl McGraw. Mr. McGraw is demoted to the position of Administrative Assistant, reporting directly to the Acting Chief Public Defender, commencing on Friday, January 10, 2025.

REPORT OF ACTING CHIEF
PUBLIC DEFENDER
REGARDING MR. DARYL
MCGRAW

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go into Executive Session at 4:55 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, and Litigation Involving the Commission.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Other attendees included the Acting Chief Public Defender, John R. Day; Director, Legal Counsel, Deborah Del Prete Sullivan; and Attorney James B. McCarthy.

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 6:35 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 1-2025-01; 1-2025-02; 1-2025-03; 1-2025-04; 1-2025-05; and 1-2025-06.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Attorney Emily Leen to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, New Haven Juvenile Matters.

RATIFICATION OF ATTY.
EMILY LEEN

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Katrina Wilson to the position of Human Resources Officer, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford.

RATIFICATION OF
KATRINA WILSON

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Cara Rich to the position of Social Worker I, Waterford/Willimantic Juvenile Matters.

RATIFICATION OF
CARA RICH

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Laura Speller to the position of Social Worker I, Waterford/Willimantic Juvenile Matters.

RATIFICATION OF
LAURA SPELLER

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Samuel L. Broome to the position of Investigator I, Geographical Area 14 (Hartford).

RATIFICATION OF
SAMUEL L. BROOME

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

RATIFICATION OF
PERLA CAMPOS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Keyshia Rios-Gonzalez to the position of Public Defender Secretary I, Geographical Area 7 (Meriden).

RATIFICATION OF
KEYSHIA RIOS-GONZALEZ

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Amanda Wagman to the position of Public Defender Secretary I, Geographical Area 10 (New London).

RATIFICATION OF
AMANDA WAGMAN

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the Division's 2024 Annual Report.

APPROVAL OF 2024
ANNUAL REPORT

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the posting for the Executive Assistant Public Defender position in the Legal Counsel Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford.

APPROVAL OF POSTING FOR
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
PUBLIC DEFENDER, LEGAL
COUNSEL UNIT

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 attorneys to a new four-year term: Senior Assistant Public Defender, Brian Pear, Hartford Judicial District, expiring on 1/07/2029; Assistant Public Defender, Kelly Billings, Fairfield Judicial District, expiring on 1/10/2029; Assistant Public Defender, Nicholas Hopkins, Waterford/Willimantic Juvenile Matters, expiring on 1/15/2029; and Public Defender, James Pastore, Fairfield Judicial District, expiring on 1/23/2029.

ATTORNEY
REAPPOINTMENTS

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 Public Defender, John Crosby, Geographical Area 2 (Bridgeport), upon the successful completion of his 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 Public Defender, Katherine Doyle, 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 Acting Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Assistant Public Defender, Dawn Gorgone, Geographical Area 21 (Norwich), 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 Public Defender, Claudia Lynch, Geographical Area 14 (Hartford), 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 Public Defender, Marina Siegel, Ansonia-Milford Judicial District/ Geographical Area 22, 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 Public Defender, Jennifer Bourn, Legal Services Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford.

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Senior Assistant Public Defender, Dawn M. Bradanini, Windham Judicial District/Geographical Area 11.

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Assistant Public Defender, Rosanna L. Cappetta, Bridgeport Juvenile Matters.

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Assistant Public Defender, Toni Esposito, Geographical Area 7 (Meriden).

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Senior Assistant Public Defender, Keith Zackowitz, Geographical Area 23 (New Haven).

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the 2025 Commission Meeting Dates.

APPROVAL OF 2025
COMMISSION MEETING
DATES

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Day
Acting Chief Public Defender