

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TELEPHONIC COMMISSION MEETING OF THE
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2007, 12:00 P.M.
21 GRAND STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Andrew Norton, Chairperson
Cheryl Lynn Clarke
Larry Conaway
Jimmie L. Griffin
George A. Marshall

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Lillian Brown
John Lobon
Edward Mambruno
Gloria Mengual

STAFF PRESENT

Raymond P. Pech, Executive Director
Robert J. Brothers, Jr., Managing Director and Commission Attorney
David Teed, Assistant Attorney General
Linda Civitillo, Executive Secretary

GUESTS PRESENT

Gareth D. Bye, Director of Legal Affairs
Office of Policy and Management

I. CHAIRPERSON

A. Convene Meeting

Chairperson Andrew Norton convened the September 28, 2007 Special Telephonic meeting of the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities at 12:07 p.m.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration of a Request for a Specific Contract Compliance Exemption from the Office of Policy and Management

By letter dated September 26, 2007, the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) requested an exemption from certain contract compliance requirements with respect to a proposed agreement between OPM and the United States Department of the Interior. Executive Director Raymond Pech provided background information for the Commissioners regarding the substance of the request. The Office of Policy and Management would be the recipient of a grant in the amount of \$40,000, which would provide technical assistance to the

Connecticut Geospatial Information Systems Council. Executive Director Pech recommended the exemption be granted. Attorney Gareth Bye, Director of Legal Affairs for the Office of Policy and Management, attended the meeting and provided additional informational regarding the request and was available to respond to questions from the Commissioners. A motion was made by Commissioner Marshall and seconded by Commissioner Clarke to grant the requested contract compliance exemption between the Office of Policy and Management and the United States Department of the Interior. The motion carried unanimously with the exception of the Chairperson who did not vote.

B. Consideration of a Request for a Blanket Contract Compliance Exemption from the Office of Policy and Management Involving Any Contract Between the State of Connecticut and the Federal Government

By letter dated September 12, 2007, the Office of Policy and Management requested a blanket exemption from certain contract compliance requirements when the state of Connecticut enters into any agreement with any other governmental entity. Executive Director Pech expressed reservations about having an exemption for contracts between the state and all governmental entities. He did state that an exemption for contracts with the federal government likely had merit. Chairperson Norton expressed some concern granting a blanket exemption at a Special Commission meeting, rather than a regular meeting of the Commission, and without sufficient background information before the Commissioners. He suggested the Commissioners consider granting the request for a specific duration. A motion was made by Commissioner Conaway to grant a temporary blanket contract compliance exemption, through January 1, 2008, for any contract in which the contractor is the U.S. Government. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Marshall and carried unanimously. The Chairperson did not vote. Chairperson Norton requested the Office of Policy and Management supply the Commission with a status report of the contracts entered into during the period of time this exemption is in place. Attorney Bye agreed to do so. In addition, Chairperson Norton requested the staff provide the Commissioners with more detailed information regarding this particular request at one of the next regular meetings.

III. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, it was moved by Commissioner Conaway and seconded by Commissioner Marshall to adjourn the meeting at 12:30 p.m. The motion carried unanimously with the exception of the Chair who did not vote.