

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING

21 Grand Street

Hartford, Connecticut

February 29, 2008

H e l d B e f o r e :

ANDREW NORTON, Chairperson

1 A p p e a r a n c e s:

2 For the CHRO:

3 Commissioners:

4 ANDREW NORTON, Chairperson

5 JIMMIE GRIFFIN

6 EDWARD MAMBRUNO, Secretary

7 *CHERYL LYNN CLARKE

8 *LARRY CONAWAY

9 *ALEXIA CRUZ

10 *GEORGE MARSHALL

11 *Present via telephone.

12

13 Staff present:

14 ROBERT J. BROTHERS, JR., ESQ.

15 ROBERT ZAMLOWSKI

16 GARY KRISCENSKI, Auditor of Public
17 Accounts

18

19 For the Office of the Attorney General:

20 OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

21 55 Elm Street

22 P.O. Box 120

23 Hartford, Connecticut 06106

24 By: DAVID M. TEED, ESQ.

25 Assistant Attorney General

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3:15 P.M.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I will convene the meeting as Chairperson of the Connecticut Commission of Human Rights and Opportunities. I will convene this special Commission meeting, which is being held at our main offices at 21 Grand Street, Friday, February 29th. And it was scheduled for three o'clock. It is now 3:15 that we're convening. And that order of business, having been taken care of, Item 2 is new business, discussion of an appointment of assistant director.

And I would like to ask the Commission whether you would like to go into executive session. We, yesterday, obtained permission from the two candidates to discuss their applications in executive session. And, in fact, we have -- they signed papers affirming that. But more particularly, they said they were willing to have us discuss it in executive session, outside of public, with Alexia and Cheryl and I all there to hear them say that. Is that right, Alexia and

1 Cheryl?

2 COMM. CRUZ: Yes.

3 COMM. CLARKE: That is
4 correct.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: So if we do
6 obtain a two-thirds vote of the seven of us
7 here, which would be five of us, we can go
8 into executive session. Is that any
9 Commissioner's pleasure?

10 COMM. GRIFFIN: I move that we
11 go into executive session.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Commissioner
13 Griffin motions for executive session. Is
14 there a second?

15 COMM. MARSHALL: Second.

16 (Off the record discussion.)

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Commissioner
18 Griffin made a motion to go into executive
19 session. Commissioner Marshall seconded the
20 motion. The Chair then called for
21 discussion. Hearing none, he called for a
22 vote. All those in favor of executive
23 session say "aye."

24 COMM. MAMBRUNO: Aye.

25 COMM. CLARKE: Aye.

1 COMM. CONAWAY: Aye. That's
2 Larry Conaway saying aye.

3 COMM. CLARKE: Cheryl Clarke
4 saying aye.

5 COMM. MARSHALL: Commissioner
6 Marshall saying aye.

7 COMM. CRUZ: Alexia Cruz
8 saying aye.

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Is there any
10 opposition to the motion? Are there any
11 abstentions? Two-thirds clearly haven't been
12 arrived at. We are going to go into
13 executive session, preserving the right to
14 invite anyone we might need into that
15 executive session at any point.

16 (Whereupon, an executive
17 session was held.)

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: My name is
19 Norton, and I am declaring that we're back
20 into public session at 3:56. No votes were
21 taken during the executive session, although
22 the record should note that for a portion of
23 the executive session, Attorney David Teed
24 was invited in by the Commission to answer
25 some questions.

1 So we are now out of executive
2 session, and we only -- we are still on our
3 order of business, which is a discussion of
4 appointment of assistant director.

5 Is there any discussion or any
6 motion or anything to be said by any
7 commissioner? Just to let you know, I'm the
8 chair. I guess I don't get to make motions.
9 Is that right?

10 COMM. GRIFFIN: Which one of
11 these people are making motions?

12 COMM. CLARKE: Cheryl Clark.
13 I'd like to make a motion.

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Please
15 proceed, Commissioner Clarke. The chair
16 recognizes you.

17 COMM. CLARKE: Thank you very
18 much. We move that Frederick Isler be
19 appointed to the position of assistant
20 director at CHRO, pending the salary
21 negotiation.

22 THE CHAIRPERSON: So there's a
23 motion on the floor. I should say for the
24 purposes of the record, we are still -- we
25 still have present Commissioner Marshall,

1 Commissioner Conaway, Commissioner Cruz, and
2 Commissioner Clarke on the phone. If you're
3 not here, would you say so?

4 COMM. CONAWAY: This is
5 Commissioner Conaway. I make the second.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: And
7 Commissioner Conaway is seconding
8 Commissioner Clarke's motion. And no one has
9 told me that they're absent, so they're all
10 there.

11 COMM. CONAWAY: Here.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: So is there
13 any discussion of the motion? I will say --
14 and anyone else can follow me -- that we
15 enjoyed a number of very good applications
16 and applicants. There were, I think, about
17 150 applications. And hard work was put into
18 narrowing that group down by the search
19 committee, which was Commissioner Mengual,
20 Commissioner Mambruno, and Commissioner
21 Clarke. And got it down, I think, to
22 something like nine conducted interviews.
23 Got it down to another further stage.

24 Yesterday Commissioner Cruz
25 and Commissioner Clarke and myself

1 interviewed a final two applicants. Both men
2 were -- as it happens, both were men. Both
3 men were impressive. And many of the other
4 applicants in the final nine -- again, if I'm
5 right -- were very impressive. And, in fact,
6 we had some applications from people within
7 our agency who were very impressive, and
8 still do impressive work, day in, day out.

9 But the search committee --
10 those three people I mentioned -- got to a
11 final couple names, and then some other
12 commissioners got to join in on the last
13 round of interviews. And having nothing but
14 good things to say about all of the
15 applicants and about the other finalist, Mr.
16 Isler, I'll say for me, seemed like a very
17 qualified person, with decades of experience,
18 at very high levels in the federal
19 government. And also, both in the interview
20 and as a matter of his resume, displayed a
21 willingness and a talent and an ability to
22 take on so much of what we need here at CHRO.
23 And we expect to be served well, again,
24 pending a successful final round of
25 negotiation with him. So I'm very pleased

1 that that's the motion in front of us.

2 And then the last thing I'll
3 say is that through this process, without
4 taking credit away from anyone else and the
5 time that they put in -- and I thank the
6 people who were involved in the search
7 committee, Ed and Gloria -- Cheryl Clarke has
8 been one heck of a trouper, putting in,
9 literally, countless hours and lots of work.
10 And at times, it got to be, you know,
11 frustrating and difficult, making all of the
12 right maneuvers and decisions and
13 organizations and scheduling and getting
14 people to Hartford and arranging commissioner
15 schedules, and a lot more than what I've just
16 described.

17 So, Cheryl, it's sort of an
18 awkward situation to applaud here, but I do
19 want to applaud your service. You really
20 were great and put a lot of time in. And I
21 don't think everyone even knows, including
22 me, how much time you put in. But I want to
23 say thank you.

24 COMM. CLARKE: Well, you're
25 quite welcome and, I'm blushing. I'm Cheryl,

1 and I'm blushing all over.

2 COMM. CONAWAY: And I'm
3 Commissioner Conaway, and I ditto that.

4 COMM. CLARKE: Thank you both.
5 Thank you all.

6 A VOICE: That's no problem.

7 COMM. CLARKE: I appreciate
8 it. Hopefully, we're at the end of the road.

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: So is there
10 any more discussion?

11 COMM. MAMBRUNO: No.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Then I'll
13 ask all of those in favor of the motion to
14 say aye.

15 A VOICE: Aye.

16 A VOICE: Aye.

17 COMM. MAMBRUNO: Aye.

18 A VOICE: Aye.

19 A VOICE: Aye.

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Is anyone
21 opposed? Does anyone abstain?

22 COMM. GRIFFIN: I abstain.

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: So
24 Commissioner Griffin abstains. I take that
25 to mean that all Commissioners voted aye,

1 with that exception. So the motion carries.
2 We have no further business before us. Our
3 next regular Commission meeting is March --

4 COMM. MAMBRUNO: Thirteenth.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: -- 13th at
6 two o'clock, so I'll see you there. I will
7 keep you apprised of how it develops from
8 this point on. So, Cheryl -- so I will
9 accept any motion to adjourn from any
10 Commissioner.

11 COMM. GRIFFIN: So moved.

12 COMM. CONAWAY: So moved.

13 Commissioner Conaway so moved.

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Commissioner
15 Conaway moved.

16 COMM. MARSHALL: --

17 Commissioner Marshall.

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: Commissioner
19 Marshall seconded. There's no discussion
20 allowed.

21 MR. TEED: Why don't you call
22 the roll to make sure they're all still --
23 because we're still on the record.

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. I'm
25 going to take a roll call vote on adjournment

1 so that it's established it's present.

2 Commissioner Mambruno?

3 COMM. MAMBRUNO: Present.

4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Say "aye."

5 COMM. MAMBRUNO: Aye.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Aye.

7 Commissioner Griffin?

8 COMM. GRIFFIN: Aye.

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Commissioner
10 Clarke?

11 COMM. CLARKE: Aye.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Commissioner
13 Cruz?

14 COMM. CRUZ: Aye.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Commissioner
16 Marshall?

17 COMM. MARSHALL: Aye.

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: Commissioner
19 Conaway?

20 COMM. CONAWAY: Aye.

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Commissioner
22 Mengual?

23 COMM. MENGUAL: Nay.

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: No response
25 except for a husky nay. Commissioner Lobon?

1 No response. And I just realized I did the
2 secretary's job. I apologize.

3 COMM. MAMBRUNO: That's okay.
4 You like to talk, so I don't want to
5 interrupt.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: So that
7 establishes who's been present all along and
8 still is. The motion to adjourn carries.
9 Cheryl, can you stay on the phone?

10 COMM. CLARKE: I can.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you
12 very much. Thank you, everyone, for taking
13 the time.

14 COMM. CLARKE: Thank you.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: I appreciate
16 everyone's work and effort and energy.

17 COMM. CONAWAY: Okay. Good
18 day.

19 THE CHAIRPERSON: Hey enjoy
20 the weekend. Stay out of the snow.

21 (Whereupon, the above
22 proceedings were adjourned at 4:04 p.m.)

23

24

25

1 CERTIFICATE

2 I hereby certify that the foregoing 13
3 pages are a complete and accurate
4 computer-aided transcription of my original
5 stenotype notes taken of the SPECIAL
6 COMMISSION MEETING which was held before
7 ANDREW N. NORTON, Chairperson, at the
8 Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities,
9 21 Grand Street, Hartford, Connecticut, on
10 February 29, 2008.

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15 Jill E. Remillard, R.M.R., C.R.R.,
16 L.S.R.

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