

# V. R. E. A. C

Victims' Rights Enforcement Advisory Commission

---

## Minutes

**WEDNESDAY, December 3, 2014**  
**Legislative Office Building, Room 1B**  
**300 Capitol Ave., Hartford**  
**2:00 – 4:00p.m.**

1. Welcome and Introductions --- Call to Order 2:06 pm
  - a. Membership Introductions  
**Members Present:** Hakima Bey-Coon, Esq., Merit Lajoie, Hon. E. Solomon (in place Hon. Patrick L. Carroll III), Linda J. Cimino, Laura Cordes, Karen Martucci (in place for Scott Semple), Carleton J. Giles, Ana Gonzalez, Janice Heggie Margolis, Karen Jarmoc, Kevin T. Kane, Esq., Jillian Knox, Dawn Luddy, Anne Mahoney, Esq., Jessica Pizzano, Bethany Phillips, Esq., James C. Rovella, Dora B. Schriro, Susan Storey, Esq., Andrew Woods  
  
**Members Absent:** Mario T. Gaboury, Esq.
  - b. Approval of the Minutes – November 19, 2014  
There were no changes to the minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Linda J. Cimino, Second by Ana Gonzalez.
  - c. Commission Correspondence  
No Correspondence
  
2. **Public Hearing Summaries**

Hakima Bey-Coon read over summary of victim recommendations.  
Additional Recommendations: Anne Mahoney-discussed whether there is a need for a missing persons' study and missing persons' policy for police departments. She explained that some of the victims at the New Haven public hearing described the problems they encountered with the New Haven police department's handling of their missing persons cases.  
Kevin Kane states that this issue had been taken care of through statutory amendments and that P.O.S.T developed a model policy on missing persons for law enforcement departments.  
Dora Schriro stated that she will inform the advisory commission on this policy as soon as she has this information.  
Merit Lajoie – recalled that P.O.S.T developed a policy concerning the acceptance and reporting of investigations of missing persons and that police departments had to adopt this policy.  
Hakima Bey-Coon added that the issue is then whether the New Haven police department is following the P.O.S.T model policy on missing persons.

Linda J. Cimino asked that the commission wait until the next meeting to finalize this report concerning the victims' recommendations, so she and other committee members have time to review the document, and Hakima Bey-Coon agreed.

### **3. Subcommittee Recommendations**

a. Recommendations from Pre-arrest subcommittee have been submitted.

And nothing in writing from the other 2 subcommittees. At the next V.R.E.A.C. meeting we will discuss the subcommittees' recommendations.

Linda Cimino referenced the tear of card has been translated into Spanish, and is waiting to be translated into Portuguese, and Polish.

### **4. Public Comment**

No public Comments.

### **5. Discussion of Commission's Recommendations:**

#### **a. Extension of the Commission**

Dawn Luddy stated seeing that there is a New Victim Advocate she would like to see what her views and perspectives are.

#### **b. Longevity of the Commission and its work**

Karen Jarmoc recommend a 3 month extension.

Anne Mahoney recommend a 4 month extension, due to February being a short month and possible bad weather conditions.

Susan Story asked when the New Advocate would be starting and she may want to be a part of the commission, and she believes it would be an easier discussion to know how long to extend the commission's work. Hakima Bey-Coon explained that they would be meeting with her tentatively next Thursday, and would know more than. A commission member asked that they wait to vote on this decision next meeting.

#### **c. Composition of the Commission's membership**

Hakima Bey-Coon recommends adding the Police Chief Association.

The Commission had a discussion concerning adding new members. Linda J. Cimino felt that seeing that the commission is in its final stage, she would caution bringing in new members. Karen Martucci added that the Post-Conviction subcommittee finds it beneficial for their subcommittee to have active members of the Probation Department to be a part of their work. Anne Mahoney stated that she thinks it would be a good idea for additional members to be added. Dawn Luddy states victim's additional contact is with the police, and she also thinks it would be a good idea. Hakima Bey-Coon asked whether there is a motion to recommend adding the Police Chief Association to the membership of the Victims' Rights Enforcement Advisory Commission. Anne Mahoney so moved and the motion was seconded by Karen Jarmoc.

Discussion before the vote by members airing their concerns about adding to the full commission. Andrew Woods discussed maybe getting their point of view or maybe having them participate on an ad HOC basis. Kevin Kane brought up about a member of Police Chief Association being able to vote but not having been part of earlier discussions. Vote taken. The motion failed, 4 yes and 12 no's.

Hakima Bey-Coon asked if there is a motion to add a member from Adult Probation. Karen Jarmoc stated seeing that the last motion failed, there is no need for a motion. No motion was made to add adult probation.

**d. Discussion and vote of name change for the OVA**

Delayed discussion on the name change for the OVA due to the incoming of a new Victim Advocate suggested by Janice Heggie Margolis

Hon. E. Solomon (in place Hon. Patrick L. Carroll III) asked about designees not being able to vote, and seeing that Hon. Patrick Carroll III is not able to be there due to his duties to the Judicial Branch, and seeing how he works hand to hand with Hon. Carroll III, he questioned why he could not cast a vote in his place. It was explained that the commission had set voting procedures at their 1<sup>st</sup> meeting not allowing designees to cast a vote. Discussion on if the commission is extended, they could revisit designees voting in place of the commission member.

**e. Discussion and vote concerning the universal definition of crime victim.**

Committee members discussed the universal definition of crime victim. Janice Heggie Margolis asked what the legal representative of the victim means? Hakima Bey-Coon explained it means the victim's attorney. Anne Mahoney is opposed to the universal definition, along with Kevin Kane. Further discussion on where parts of the universal definition came from. Linda Cimino is not comfortable with the language of the universal definition, and does not fit with the complexity of today's family, and the wording reflects the nuclear family, and does not cover someone who raises a child, or aunt, and not enough discussion to adopt a universal definition. Hakima Bey-Coon suggested to the commission how the universal definition could include other family members outside the nuclear family. Dora B. Schriro ask how other states define "Crime Victim". Hakima Bey-Coon referred commission members' to a 24 page document compiling a 50 state survey on the definition of "crime victim". Karen Jarmoc asked if other states have a universal definition, Hakima Bey-Coon could not answer if other States had a universal definition or not. Members further discussed the recommendation on a universal definition. Kevin Kane states seeing that the commission is on a limited time and should the commission devote more time on discussing a universal definition. Susan Storey happens to agree with Kevin Kane for once and without looking in to the legislative history into the definition of a crime victim, there is possible a reason why there is so many definitions for a crime victim. Anne Mahoney moves that the commission not recommend adopting a universal definition of "victim of crime" or "crime victim" and Janice Heggie Margolis seconds the motion. Vote passed 16 votes yes, and 1 no.

**f. Discussion and vote concerning constitutional amendment**

Vote tabled to next meeting 12/17/14. Motion made by Hon. Solomon, Second Anna Gonzalez.

6. Adjournment 4:02 pm

