



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION**

**MICHAEL P. SELLARS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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**MINUTES**

November 12, 2024

The regular meeting of the Public Employment Relations Commission  
was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

Via Zoom &  
PERC Conference Room  
112 Henry Street NE, Suite 300  
Olympia, Washington 98506

Those present and participating:  
Mark S. Lyon, Chairperson  
Elizabeth Ford, Commissioner  
Mike Sellars, Executive Director  
Charity Atchison, Appeals Administrator  
Vanessa Smith, Confidential Secretary

Also present:

Chad Standifer, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General  
Henry Farber  
Sarah Lee, Seattle Fire Department  
Alyssa Gerchak, PERC, Legal Assistant  
Emily Whitney, PERC, Unfair Labor Practice/Representation Administrator

**Minutes of the Previous Meetings**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on October 8, 2024, were adopted as presented.

**Report of the Executive Director**

1. Mike welcomed PERC's newest legal assistant Alyssa Gerchak and Assistant Attorney General Chad Standifer to the meeting. Vanessa was cross-training Alyssa on Commission meetings, and Chad was invited to the meeting to provide more information about Commission cases pending in court.
2. The October case and decision report was reviewed. PERC is on pace to have the highest or second highest number of cases in a single year since 2012. This month's report featured the volume of Law Enforcement Arbitrator Roster cases filed each year since the statute went into effect. As of October, PERC has received more requests for appointments of arbitrators than in the first two years. Additionally, training cases have rebounded, and this year's volume of such cases will be the highest in any year of PERC's history. With respect to representation cases, we continue to receive a high

volume of requests since *Janus*. The previous high was seen in 2023, when we received 109 representation petitions. This year, we have received 120 petitions so far.

3. The first public rulemaking hearing was occurring simultaneously to this meeting. The second meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2024.
4. After this meeting, the Commission will be provided with the Law Enforcement Arbitrator Roster applicant materials.
5. Late on Friday, we received from the Office of Financial Management instructions to identify potential budget reductions for both the remainder of this fiscal year as well as next biennium. We are currently carrying three vacancies and have significant vacancy savings that we can offer this year. For next biennium, we would likely commit to maintaining vacancies to achieve savings.

### **Court & Commission Docket**

Charity provided updates on the five cases pending in court. The Commission's recent decision in *City of Bellingham* was appealed to Thurston County Superior Court, while the counterpart decision in *King County* was not. Assistant Attorney General Chad Standifer offered more information regarding the appeals and answered Commissioner questions, and there was a discussion regarding the Commission's position in appeals. The Commission currently has 11 cases on its docket. Lists of pending cases that have been appealed to court or the Commission are available on the agency website.

### **Adjournment**

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Commission discussed holding its 2025 meetings on Monday afternoons. Staff will provide a revised proposed meeting schedule.

There being nothing further to come before the Commission, the public meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

APPROVED at Olympia, Washington, this 13th day of January, 2025.

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION

  
MARK S. LYON, Chairperson

  
ELIZABETH FORD, Commissioner