

STATE OF WASHINGTON PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION

MICHAEL P. SELLARS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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MINUTES

April 12, 2022

The regular meeting of the Public Employment Relations Commission was held at 10:02 a.m. via Zoom

Those present and participating:
Marilyn Glenn Sayan, Chairperson
Mark R. Busto, Commissioner
Kenneth J. Pedersen, Commissioner
Mike Sellars, Executive Director
Charity Atchison, Appeals Administrator
Vanessa Smith, Confidential Secretary

Also present:

Dario de la Rosa, PERC, ULP/Representation Administrator Matt Greer, PERC, Labor Relations Adjudicator/Mediator Herb Harris, Washington Federation of State Employees Hannah Hollander, Office of Financial Management Kristin Lamson, Office of the Attorney General Jamie Siegel, PERC, Labor Relations Adjudicator/Mediator Katie Sypher, PERC, Labor Relations Adjudicator/Mediator

Minutes of the Previous Meetings

The minutes of the previous meeting held on March 8, 2022, were adopted as presented.

Report of the Executive Director

- 1. Case filings continued to be strong through March. The first quarter of 2022 was the highest since 2016. In March, the majority of the filings were unfair labor practice complaints, panel requests, and law enforcement arbitrator roster requests. This year, we have received 12 law enforcement arbitrator roster requests so far, most of which stem from the vaccine mandate. Training requests have started to pick up somewhat.
- 2. We reopened the offices on April 4. Masks are still required unless staff members are in their own offices with the door shut. We will continue to watch the COVID case numbers. We are taking a hybrid approach, and not everyone will be in the office at the same time. The Labor Relations Adjudicators/Mediators are expected to come in at least one day per month, and the professional staff will come in at least one day a week to ensure we have coverage. We have not yet resumed in-person events.

- 3. We have finalized and issued the Respectful Work Environment policy.
- 4. The proposed rules have been sent to the Office of the Code Reviser for its formatting. Upon completion of that work, we will file a CR102 and schedule a hearing for public comment before bringing the rules to the Commission for adoption.
- 5. The LERA conference is taking place April 21–22.

Court Docket

Charity noted that there is currently only one case on appeal in court. A list of pending Commission cases that have been appealed to court is available on the agency website.

Other Business

Jamie Siegel requested permission to speak and take an opportunity to praise Mike. She noted that it has been a tough two years, and Mike has demonstrated excellent leadership throughout the pandemic. He has given all staff the resources needed to do their jobs effectively, without missing a beat. The agency's success is a tribute to Mike's tremendous leadership. The Commission thanked Jamie for her sentiments.

Adjournment

There being nothing further to come before the Commission, the public meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

APPROVED this 10th day of May, 2022.

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION

MARILYN GLENN SAYAN, Chairperson

MARK R. BUSTO, Commissioner

KENNETH J. PEDERSEN, Commissioner