

# STATE OF WASHINGTON PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION

#### MICHAEL P. SELLARS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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#### **MINUTES**

March 19, 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 R. Busto, Commissioner
Elizabeth Ford, Commissioner
Mike Sellars, Executive Director
Charity Atchison, Appeals Administrator
Emily Whitney, Unfair Labor Practice/Representation Case Administrator
Vanessa Smith, Confidential Secretary

Also present: Jamie Siegel, PERC, Labor Relations Adjudicator/Mediator

### **Minutes of the Previous Meetings**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on February 13, 2024, were adopted as presented.

## **Report of the Executive Director**

- 1. A new Commissioner has yet to be appointed. As soon as Mike hears from the Governor's office, he will notify the Commission.
- 2. Mike reviewed the February 2024 case report, noting that the first two months of the year have been robust for all case types. The number of contract mediation cases filed in February was skewed, and the big influx in that number was attributable to our process in every even-numbered year to preopen mediation cases for state collective bargaining groups. The bottom right corner of the report showed where those cases came from. Additionally, by the end of February, 48% of unfair labor practice complaints had been filed by self-represented individuals. This number was also slightly skewed, as many of those complaints were filed by the same employee. A discussion regarding cases filed by self-represented individuals and PERC's efforts in encouraging mediation followed.
- 3. The legislative session ended recently. Mike provided a brief overview of the bills that had passed: SB 5808 (effective June 5), which will likely result in mediation or unit

clarification work; and SB 6060 (effective June 6), which may necessitate rulemaking to harmonize or clarify PERC processes. SSB 6194, which would create a legislative commission to hear appeals under chapter 44.90 RCW, has yet to be signed.

#### **Court & Commission Docket**

Charity indicated that nothing has changed with regard to the three cases currently pending in court. Lists of pending cases that have been appealed to court or the Commission are available on the agency website.

## **Compliance Docket**

Cases 132082-U-19, 132083-U-19, 132084-U-19, 132085-U-19, and 132086-U-19, *Ben Franklin Transit*. Emily provided an overview of the cases; the Examiner's decision, which had been appealed and cross-appealed to the Commission; the Commission's decision on appeal; and the parties' subsequent compliance actions. Emily recommended that the Commission accept compliance. The Commission accepted compliance, and the cases will be closed.

## Adjournment

There being nothing further to come before the Commission, the public meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

APPROVED at Olympia, Washington, this 9th day of April, 2024.

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION

MARK R. BUSTO, Commissioner

ÉLIZABETH FORD, Commissioner