

**PERSONNEL AND COMPENSATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES
(REMOTELY)
FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2021
3:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: John S. Vero, Chairman
Leigh J. Benton, Thomas Faggione, **Kevindaryán Luján**,
Paul Ruszkiewicz, Joel Sierra, Kathy A. Stegenga, Laurie Tautel

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman
Katie Bonelli, Majority Leader
Barry Cheney, Legislator
Peter Tuohy, Legislator
Betsy N. Abraham, Legislative Counsel Candidate
Harold Porr, Deputy County Executive
Sharon Worthy-Spiegl, Deputy County Attorney
Deanna Crawford, Budget Analyst
Gretchen Riordan, Budget Analyst

Mr. Vero called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. All committee members were present with the exception of Mr. Sierra who arrived at 3:38 p.m.

Mr. **Luján** moved the request for confirmation of reappointments to the Orange County Human Rights Commission (N. Climes, P. Claiborne, F. Kimler, D. Hovey) seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Mr. Vero pointed out that these are the current members on the commission. He mentioned that the Human Rights Commission had a meeting on Wednesday, January 13th which was more accommodating to the Legislature's schedule and he was happy they moved the date. He and Ms. Sutherland attended the meeting and it was Fred Cook's last meeting as chairman. The new co-chairs will be Frank Kimler and Doug Hovey and noted that their terms expire in 2023.

Mr. Porr stated that they were all reappointments and the term runs to June 30, 2023. This is a high-quality board, they work hard and are a group to be very proud of.

Mr. Vero thanked Mr. Cook again for being Chairman for so many years. He believed that he was still going to be part of the Human Rights Commission and Mr. Porr confirmed that he would be.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of Mr. Sierra who had not arrived yet.

Mr. Benton moved the request for confirmation of the appointment of Legislative Counsel, seconded by Mr. Faggione.

Mr. Vero stated that they conducted several interviews, he participated in one of them and he believed that Ms. Abraham should be proficient at this job.

Chairman Brescia agreed with Mr. Vero's comment. Everyone should have a copy of Ms. Abraham's resume and they received reference letters. Ms. Abraham has been very articulate, she has fifteen years experience, graduated law school at the age of twenty-three, she is very personable and he feels she will be a perfect fit for the office. Some of the duties may not be her forte, just like it would not with any attorney they hire because nobody is an expert in all these categories. Ms. Abraham has done a lot of research thus far, she has read the Charter and Administrative Code already, she has reviewed SEQRA, she has reviewed minutes from meetings and reviewed Roberts Rules of Order. He wholeheartedly endorsed Ms. Abraham for the appointment as Legislative Counsel. He added that the appointment passed the Rules, Enactments and Intergovernmental Relations Committee meeting unanimously.

Mr. Faggione thanked Ms. Abraham for her honesty at the Rules, Enactments and Intergovernmental meeting. As chair of the committee, sometimes it is difficult to formulate your own questions when you are moderating the meeting, but he was very impressed with Ms. Abraham's demeanor and how she answered the questions that were presented to her. He was involved in an introductory phone call with Ms. Abraham and he found her to be proficient and excited to join the group of twenty-one and he was excited to work with Ms. Abraham.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Abraham addressed the committee by stating that with her fifteen years in practice, the skills that she honed will be a great value to the Legislature. She looked forward to working with everyone and to move forward the mission of the Legislature in helping their constituents. She looked forward to working with each of them.

On the motion of Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Luján, the meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.