

# **CRIME VICTIM SERVICES COMMISSION**

**Meeting – September 19, 2016**

## **MINUTES**

Catherine Garcia-Lindstrom, Chairperson, called the Crime Victim Services Commission meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. on September 19, 2016 in Conference Room 14B, Grand Tower Building, 235 South Grand Avenue, Lansing, Michigan.

Present:

Commission Members:

Victor Fitz  
Catherine Garcia-Lindstrom  
Karen Hall  
Brian Mackie

Staff Members:

Jeanie Cox, Secretary  
Christine Lau, Senior Analyst  
James McCurtis, Director (via telephone)  
Janine Washburn, Program Specialist

Katherine Bennett, Assistant Attorney General  
John Lazet, Victim Advocate, Attorney General Office

Public Comment – Mr. Lazet wanted to express appreciation for Ms. Garcia-Lindstrom's devotion to the victims of the State of Michigan. He stated she took into account the needs of victims and put heart in understanding the victims.

Reading and Approval of Minutes – Mr. Mackie made a motion, supported by Mr. Fitz, to waive the reading of the minutes from the August 15, 2016 meeting as written. The motion carried.

Staff Report – Mr. McCurtis also wished to thank Ms. Garcia-Lindstrom. Today is her last meeting as a Crime Victim Services Commissioner. Mr. McCurtis stated he has learned a great deal from Ms. Garcia-Lindstrom including her former days as a Detroit Police Officer, which was huge for the Commission. Her expertise and knowledge of crime and victims of crime helped immensely. Mr. McCurtis stated on behalf of the staff she will be missed.

Mr. McCurtis reported on the Senate status of the bill to use monies from the Crime Victim Rights Fund to assist child advocacy centers. Mr. McCurtis authored a letter, which was approved by all Commissioners. The letter was signed by the Chairperson, Catherine Garcia Lindstrom.

Mr. McCurtis stated a new Chairperson for the Commission was required to be chosen. Ms. Garcia-Lindstrom recommended that Mr. Fitz be the chairperson. Mr. Mackie made a motion, supported by Ms. Garcia-Lindstrom, to request that the Governor appoint Mr. Fitz as chairperson of the Crime Victim Services Commission. Mr. Fitz stated he would accept the position if offered.

Report of the Members – Mr. Fitz stated that Ms. Garcia-Lindstrom has been a fine chairperson. She has been very calm and professional. He will miss her as chairperson.

Ms. Bennett reported that she has checked into if the Commissioners may participate in the meetings via telephone. Ms. Bennett stated commissioners may participate, however, they may not vote. Therefore, a quorum would still be necessary.

Unfinished Items – None.

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New Business –

- A. Appeals – Ms. Bennett reported Vincent Burgess has filed an application for leave to appeal with the Supreme Court. He was not represented by counsel. She stated that the Supreme Court denied leave to appeal. Mr. Burgess has exhausted all apparent appeals.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2016.

The Commission moved into the appeals portion of the meeting.

Mr. Mackie made a motion, supported by Ms. Hall to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Catherine Garcia-Lindstrom, Chairperson

Witnessed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_