

## **Minutes of the Fairfax County Consumer Protection Commission**

April 17, 2018

7:30 PM Conference 8  
Government Center  
12000 Government Center Pkwy.  
Fairfax, Virginia 22035  
Chairman Fee, presiding

Attendance:

Commissioners: Belkowitz, Fee, Gulakowski,  
Hargraves, Hine, Kirk, Omeish, Roark, Rosier

Absent:

Commissioners: Callender, Javed, Kazmi

Staff:

Michael S. Liberman, Director  
Cable and Consumer Services  
Rebecca L. Makely, Director  
Consumer Services Division  
Susan C. Jones, Branch Chief  
Consumer Affairs Branch  
Prescott Barbash, Consumer Specialist  
Consumer Affairs Branch

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM by Chairman Fee.

### **Minutes**

The minutes for the February 20, 2018, meeting were approved.

### **Report of the Chairman**

Chairman Fee introduced the newest member of the Consumer Protection Commission, Abrar Omeish.

### **Report of the Director**

Director Liberman stated on April 10-12, 2018, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) held the FY 2019 Advertised Budget Public Hearings with about 250 people testifying and with four people submitting their testimony via YouTube video. Director Liberman further stated on Friday, April 20, 2018, there will be a BOS Budget Committee meeting to pre-markup the FY 2019 Advertised Budget with Budget Markup at the Tuesday, April 24, 2018 BOS meeting. The BOS will formally adopt the FY 2019 Budget at the BOS meeting on Tuesday, May 1, 2018.

Consumer Services Division Director Makely highlighted the presentations, proclamation, and social media announcements provided by the Consumer Affairs Branch for National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW.) Also, Director Makely announced the upcoming *Operation: Stop Scam* event on Saturday, April 28, 2018, from 9:00 to 1:30 p.m., at the Fairfax County Government Center. During the event discussion, Commissioner Hargraves inquired about document shredding requirements. Staff will provide the Web site for document shredding.

## **Commission Matters**

During Commission Matters, Chairman Fee asked all Commissioners to introduce themselves to new Commissioner Abrar Omeish.

Chairman Fee spoke about his background and gave a brief summary of his service on the Commission since 1997. Chairman Fee talked about getting the shingle vaccination and the recommendation of anyone over 50 to look into getting the vaccination.

Commissioner Rosier spoke about her background and gave a brief summary of her service on the Commission since 2008 and her prior service on the Tenant-Landlord Commission. Commissioner Rosier stated the low-hanging cable wires, she previously reported, had been raised on the telephone poles near her home in Great Falls. Commissioner Rosier spoke about sharing the Commission's items of interest and consumer tips with groups she is involved in. She also passed out the Silver Shield Magnets to the senior citizens in her community group.

Commissioner Kirk spoke about his background and gave a brief summary of his service on the Commission since 1982. Commissioner Kirk mentioned helping his neighbor's children with a power of attorney to protect their mother. Unfortunately, the neighbor was scammed out of \$160,000.

Commissioner Gulakowski spoke about his background and gave a brief summary of his service on the Commission since 2016. Commissioner Gulakowski mentioned attending the presentation by the Communications Policy and Regulation Division (CPRD) during NCPW. Commissioner Gulakowski mentioned the resignation of Commissioner Woodruff.

Commissioner Hargraves spoke about his background and gave a brief summary of his service on the Commission since 2006. Commissioner Hargraves mentioned a large number of solicitors in his neighborhood offering roof repairs after the storms.

Commissioner Hine spoke about his background and gave a brief summary of his service on the Commission since 2007.

Commissioner Belkowitz spoke about his background and gave a brief summary of his service on the Commission since 2008. Commissioner Belkowitz reported an open cable box and cable line across the sidewalk posing a safety hazard. The issues were resolved through CPRD assistance. Commissioner Belkowitz mentioned a news story about Uber and risks to consumers on getting into illegal Uber cars.

Commissioner Roark spoke about his background and gave a brief summary of his service on the Commission since 2008.

Commissioner Omeish spoke about her background prior to being appointed to the Commission.

## **Old Business**

There was no old business before the Commission.

## **New Business**

**1. Automobile Sales and Repairs.** Prescott Barbash, Consumer Specialist, Consumer Affairs Branch, provided a presentation on tips for buying a car, choosing the right repair shop, and the Virginia Automobile Repair Facilities Act (VARFA) requirements.

A discussion ensued on the VARFA sign, leasing versus purchasing a car, knowledgeable assistance when purchasing a car, Carfax reports, and researching interest rates before shopping for a car.

Chairman Fee made the motion to nominate Commissioner Rosier as Secretary. The vote was unanimous by acclamation.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.