

Minutes of the Fairfax County Consumer Protection Commission

February 16, 2016

7:30 PM Conference 4/5
Government Center
12000 Government Center Pkwy.
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
Chairman Fee, presiding

Attendance:

Commissioners: Belkowitz, Callender, Fee,
Kazmi, Kirk

Absent:

Commissioners: Hargraves, Hines, Nguyen,
Roark, Rosier, Roth

Staff:

Michael S. Liberman, Director
Cable and Consumer Services
John W. Burton, Assistant County Attorney
Susan C. Jones, Branch Chief,
Consumer Affairs
Henri Stein McCartney, Chief
Regulations and Licensing Branch
Carl Newcomb, Consumer Specialist II
Regulations and Licensing Branch
Michael Nickolas, Detective
Fairfax County Police Department

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

Minutes

The minutes of the January 19, 2016, meeting were not approved due to a lack of a quorum.

Report of the Chairman

Chairman Fee mentioned he found a way to address his beeping battery backup pack from Verizon.

Report of the Director

Director Liberman stated the advertised budget for FY 2017 was presented by the county executive for the Board of Supervisors to consider. Ed Long, County Executive, proposed advertising a 4 cent residential tax increase.

Director Liberman mentioned the Mail Services Branch processed over 300,000 tax assessment notices to be sent out county residents.

Director Liberman told the commissioners the department will present the lines of business on March 8, 2106.

Commission Matters

Commissioner Callender had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Kazmi had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Belkowitz had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Kirk had no matters to bring before the commission.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

1. Precious Metal and Gem/Pawn ordinance revision hearing: Henri Stein McCartney, Chief, Regulations and Licensing Branch, discussed how surety bonds work and presented a summary of the state mandate, Fairfax County code provisions, and reasons for the changes.

A discussion ensued on the requirements for a surety bond, if the bond remains in effect after a claim has been paid, increasing the amount of the surety bond to \$100,000, exemptions under 33-1-13, casual purchases, buy versus sell, permit versus non-permit, reporting requirements and authority of law enforcement to seize property, and providing a proper receipt.

Staff will review comments made by the commission in the final version of the ordinance. A public hearing will be advertised at a later date.

A discussion ensued on potential topics for upcoming meetings: high school presentation, legislation overview, cable operators, auto sales and repairs, consumer fraud, taxicab issues, and complaint highlights and trends.

The meeting ended at 8:57 PM.