

**MINUTES OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY  
TENANT-LANDLORD COMMISSION**

October 19, 2017

Fairfax County Government Center  
12000 Government Center Parkway  
Fairfax, Virginia 22035  
Conference Room 9110  
Chairman Fielding presiding

Attendees:

Commissioners Fielding, Geier-Smith  
Panettieri, Gomez, Harberg

Absentees:

Kocsis, Purnell, Park

Staff Attending:

Michael S. Liberman, Director  
Cable and Consumer Services  
Rebecca L. Makely, Director  
Consumer Services Division  
Susan C. Jones, Branch Chief  
Consumer Affairs Branch  
Henri Stein McCartney, Branch Chief  
Regulations and Licensing Branch  
Vee Johnson, Consumer Specialist  
Consumer Affairs Branch

Guests:

Vincent Rogers, Director  
Fairfax County Redevelopment and  
Housing Authority  
Policy, Reporting & Communications  
Nathan Falu, Fairfax County Resident

The meeting was called to order at 7:30p.m. by Chairman Fielding.

**Minutes**

- A motion was made by Commissioner Panettieri and seconded by Commissioner Geier-Smith to approve the minutes from August 17, 2017. The motion carried unanimously.

**Reports**

- Chairman Fielding discussed proposals for the redevelopment of portions of the Herndon Metro area. The proposals will include retail, office, and residential development such as townhomes.
- Chairman Fielding welcomed resident, Nathan Falu to the Commission meeting and introduced Vincent Rogers, Director of the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA).

**Director's Report**

- Director Liberman had no matters to bring before the Commission.

## **Staff Report**

- A schedule of upcoming classes for Adult Mental Health First Aid were provided. Commissioners interested in attending should email Vee Johnson so arrangements can be made on their behalf.
- Tenant Outreach continues at Katherine Hanley Shelter.
- A summary was provided regarding a tenant who filed a complaint about an increase in the rental rate offered by the landlord after the tenant applied and was approved. The rent increased \$93 dollars from the advertised rate. After CA intervention, the landlord honored the rate initially offered on the landlord's website. Commissioners discussed current practices used by landlords to determine rental rates such as dynamic pricing and the use of revenue management software.

## **Commission Matters**

- The calendar was reviewed. No updates at this time.
- Commissioner Gomez expressed concern about the challenges of finding affordable housing in Fairfax County.
- Commissioner Harberg requested guidance regarding a recent incident of alleged sexual harassment. The allegation involved a tenant and employee of a third party contractor hired by the landlord. Issues were discussed with suggestions offered.
- Commissioner Panettieri will be serving on an arbitration panel on October 23, 2017. She inquired about the increase in requests for hearings. Discussion regarding the cost efficiency and benefits of arbitration versus court.

## **Unimished Business**

- None

## **New Business**

- Vincent Rogers, Director, FCRHA, Policy, Reporting & Communications, provided an overview of the county's strategic plan for housing. He discussed the findings from meetings held with residents throughout the community regarding housing needs based on the fact that housing costs are rising, but incomes are not keeping up. He also provided an update regarding changes in the housing choice voucher program in 2018 due to a shortfall in federal funding and an increase in program expenses.
- The Consumer Affairs' Branch 2018 initiative is to provide the Tenant-Landlord sign to landlords throughout Fairfax County. Branch Chief Jones reviewed the process and provided a copy of the sign that will be distributed as well as available on the Consumer Affairs' website.
- Commissioner Gomez would like to receive an update from the FCRHA about the strategic plan that will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in 2018. Staff will make arrangements for the update.
- Commissioners discussed the upcoming year end review. It was agreed the meeting will start at 7:00p.m. Arrangements will be made by staff.

## **Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Commissioner Geier-Smith and seconded by Commissioner Gomez to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55p.m.